



Newsletter November 2018

Happy November! This is the first year that one of our three daughters will not be home for Thanksgiving. She is choosing to stay in Corvallis, Oregon to watch the Oregon State University vs. University of Oregon football game. I understand her choice, but I still wish she was coming home. When my daughters were younger I encouraged them to think for themselves, be confident in their choices, and stick with their commitments. They are now 23, 20, and 18 and it's fun (most of the time) to watch them make their way in the world and discover who they are away from us. At New Horizons Preschool, your children are also discovering who they are away from you. They choose who to play with, what to play with, and how to participate in their preschool activities. The ability to make these choices builds confidence and independence. It is our hope that together we are growing preschoolers who will confidently make their way in the world and that you will have fun watching them grow.

Judith Goodrum
Director

QUOTE: "Play energizes us and enlivens us. It eases our burdens. It renews our natural sense of optimism and opens us up to new possibilities." ~ Stuart Brown, MD

Special Announcement

New Horizons Preschool is required by the Municipality of Anchorage to change our program offerings for the 2019 - 2020 school year. All children enrolled in New Horizons must be three or older by September 1st. We will no longer be able to enroll children who are younger than three. Instead of a Duckling Class, we will have an **Otter Class** - Younger Threes (Children born between 5/01/16 – 8/31/16). The Otter Class will meet Tuesday/Thursday from 9:15 – 11:15 am. We will continue to have a **Teddy Bear Class** – Older Threes (Children born on or before 4/30/16). The Teddy Bear class will meet Tuesday/Thursday from 9:00 – 11:30 am. The only change to our Teddy Bear Class will be that all summer birthdays (May, June, July, August) will be Otters. Our Rainbow and Penguin Classes will remain the same. All students, even the Otters, must be potty trained.

Need To Know

Thanksgiving Outreach Food Drive for Anchorage Rescue Mission: It's that time of year when we can show love and caring as well as help those who are in need. Grocery Bags will be going home in early November and beginning Tuesday, November 13th, you may bring a bag of non-perishable food to school. We will collect the food in the entryway and deliver it to the Anchorage Rescue Mission on Friday, November 16th (at noon). The Rescue Mission not only feeds and

shelters homeless people, it also provides baskets of food for families in desperate need. We are learning to care for others, so please include your child in this activity. Thank you for your generosity.

Penguin Field Trip to Fire Station - The Penguins are going on a field trip to Fire Station 9 on November 8th. We will leave school promptly at 1:00 pm and will return to NHPS before 2:15 pm. Booster seats are **REQUIRED** for all Penguins. Remember to turn in your permission slip.

Helping Calendars: PLEASE CHECK THE CALENDAR. November, December, and January helping calendars were sent home in tubs the beginning of October. Remember to check to see when you are scheduled to help and scheduled for snack. If a conflict arises with your scheduled helping day, please use the class list to switch with someone or find a replacement.

Snack: Some of our children spend a good amount of time deciding what to bring in to share with their class for snack, and some snacks are decided on by parents. If you are bringing in a homemade item, please include the recipe so that we can check all of the ingredients for our children with allergies. Remember that we are **NUT FREE**. **Snacks with nuts cannot be served even to those without allergies. Items that contain peanut oil or say may have tree nuts are automatically out. We have children who are in danger of anaphylaxis when exposed to nuts.** Also please **DO NOT bring in extra birthday treats** for your child to share with her/his class. Regular snack plus special birthday snack equals way too much snack for our preschoolers. We celebrate your child with a paper crown in Teddy Bears, a paper crown and necklace in Rainbows, and a birthday hat in Penguins.

Tuition: Please remember to pay tuition before you head out on vacations. Our monthly tuition is based on your Preschool Program's total amount of days in session for the year, which is then divided into 9 equal payments. **November Tuition is due November 9th.**

Thanksgiving Mini feasts: Teddy Bears (November 20) and Rainbows (November 21) do a mini feast the last 30 minutes of the preschool day and they do not go outside that day. It's fun for families to come and watch but it isn't absolutely necessary that you do so. **Penguins' (November 20) feast** is a little fancier with Native American vests, pilgrim hats the children have made, and food they bring in to share. Families are welcome to come and watch, but again it isn't necessary. **Ducklings (November 20)** are going to be decorating a special Thanksgiving cookie but don't have a feast.

December Christmas Programs: The Christmas programs for Teddy Bears, Rainbows, and Penguins are instagram, snapchat, twitter, facebook events that you may want to make an extra effort to try to attend. The children will be working on songs and programs for their families and the program will take place in the front of the church sanctuary. Invitations and more information will be coming out in the beginning of December – see calendar below for days and times of events. Santa will visit at the end of the program and children leave with their family.

Ducklings Christmas program will be low key with a couple of songs for families that will take place in the big room. Families come at the beginning and stay for the entire time. The Ducklings will share a couple songs, have a visit from Santa's elf, and enjoy some refreshments. At the Duckling age group, we don't expect a high level of participation – just standing up in front of an audience of parents can be a huge step for any of our preschool age children but especially for the Ducklings.

NOTE * Christmas Break: Christmas break for each class **begins with the wrap up of each class's Christmas program.** Teddy Bears and Penguins class break starts Tuesday, December 18th. Rainbows' break starts Wednesday, December 19th. Ducklings' break starts Thursday, December 20st. All classes resume the week of January 7th.

Spring Break, Planning Ahead. As you think about spring and maybe heading someplace warm, I wanted to remind/let families know that New Horizons has a **two week** spring break, Monday, March 4th – Friday, March 15th. This is the week of Anchorage School District spring break and the week **after** ASD spring break.

Mixed Bag Fundraiser: Thank you to all of the families who participated in our Mixed Bag Fundraiser. We were able to raise \$1,100.00 for New Horizons. Our fundraiser has officially been closed, but if you forgot to purchase something, and still want to, we will receive 40% of your online purchase price. You can order online here at [shop online & support New Horizons Preschool](#).

Drop Off Times: Morning Programs - Remember our teachers are dropping children off, driving to school, and preparing for the day. They will be ready to stay with children in the gathering room at 9:00 am (**Teddy Bears/Rainbows**) and 9:15 am in the Big Room (**Ducklings**). If you are early, you are welcome to stay with your child until a teacher is present. **Afternoon Programs** – Our teachers often take lunch between our morning and afternoon programs or are arriving after other commitments and preparing for the day. They will be ready to stay with children at 12:30 pm (**Rainbows**) and 12:45 pm (**Penguins**). If you are early, you are welcome to stay with your child until a teacher is present.

Tote Bags please. Now that we are stuffing preschool projects as well as outdoor gear into bags, it's really helpful to have a tote bag with an open top. Please make sure your child has a tote bag for school.

Label all outdoor clothing. As we work on the children dressing themselves, there are always outdoor clothing explosions. It makes it so much easier to match the child up with their clothing. We have black and silver sharpie markers in the office if you want to stop by and borrow one.

Heard Around School

Student: "Dinosaurs are extinct because they didn't know where to go during the earthquake." – said by a student at the end of the day after we practiced our earthquake drill in the big room

We Couldn't Do It Without You

Thank you for helping prepare the To Do bags, signing up for helping days, and remembering to bring in snacks. A special "thank you" to Tony Freeman, Kim Mork, Jennifer Vaughn, Lisa Brandstetter, Jekka Roder, Victoria Lyou, and Lauren Langley for cutting bats, eggs, bow ties, turkey bags, candy canes, stockings, trees, and green triangles. We appreciate you!

Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to help with take home To Do projects, stop in the office. Frequently we have projects that can be prepped at home for teachers.

In The Community

Penguin Colton Sochacki: Colton's sister Devon underwent surgery to try and remove a tumor from her spinal column at Seattle Children's Hospital. The mass was unable to be removed due to how it is entangled with her nerves. Devon will be undergoing chemotherapy first in Seattle and then here in Anchorage. Please keep Devon, her mom Lena, and her brother Colton in your prayers for hope and healing.

Parents' Night Out: Saint John Youth will once again be providing Parents' Night Out! The next dates will be November 2 and December 7 from 6 to 9 p.m. This is a great opportunity for parents to enjoy a nice dinner out or some quiet time with friends. Activities will include games, art, snack, movie and stories. It will be a very fun night for your child! Suggested donation is \$20/child; \$35/family. All proceeds go into the Youth mission funds. Drop-off will be inside the East door of Saint John. For more information and to register your child, please contact Robbie Brawner at youth.sjumc@gmail.com.

Community Health Fair at St. John United Methodist Church on Saturday, November 17th, 8 am – 12:00 noon. There will be health and wellness information for all ages. Flu shots (Wahlgreens will be on site), vision screenings (adult and child), and over 40 health and wellness resources will be available. For more information contact www.alaskahealthfair.org.

QUOTE: "Play builds the kind of free-and-easy, try-it-out, do-it-yourself character that our future needs." ~ James L. Hymes, Jr.

Calendar

Nov. 8 th	Penguin field trip to Fire Station 9 – leaving promptly at 1:00 pm
Nov. 9 th	Tuition Due
Nov. 12 th	ASD Inservice/ NHPS Off
Nov. 13 th	Food bags for The Rescue Mission may begin being returned
Nov. 16 th	Food bags are delivered to The Rescue Mission at 12:00 noon
Nov. 20 th	Teddy Bears' and Penguins' Thanksgiving Feasts
Nov. 21 st	Rainbows Thanksgiving Feasts
Nov. 22 nd - 23 rd	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 10 th	Tuition Due
Dec. 18 th	Teddy Bear & Penguin Christmas Program
Dec. 19 th	Rainbows Christmas Program (No school for Penguins)
Dec. 20 th	Ducklings Christmas Program (No School for Teddy Bears and Penguins)
Dec. 21 st – Jan. 6	ASD & NHPS Holiday Break
Jan. 7 th	ASD & NHPS classes resume