

MEMO

DATE: January 2016

TO: PARENTS & GUARDIANS

FROM: DIRECTOR

RE: UPDATES and HAPPENINGS – WINTER EDITION

**Letter from the Director**

***2016 – New is the Year; New are the Hopes; New is the Resolution; New are the Spirits; and new are my warm wishes just for you and your loved ones. Have a promising and fulfilling New Year. – Ms. Marie***



**Welcome New Board Members**

WTDC is pleased to report that our Board of Directors has been successfully vigilant in resolving the financial and governance issues that impacted our operation at the start of this academic term. Through dedication, resolve, Board restructuring, Center restructuring, the addition of new Board members and collaboration with our Landlord, our Accounting staff and ACS Early Learn Agency, we are moving forward in a healthy manner that enables us to continue providing quality early learning to this Westchester Tremont community.

Here is a list of our Board Members:

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Title</b>
Paulette Adams	President	Paula Farley	Member
Anthony Evans	Vice-President	Kwasi Koranteng	Member / PAC Pres.
Joseph Myer	Treasurer	Valerie Rowe	Member
Ernest Forrester	Secretary	Sarah Alleyne	New Member
Valerie Rowe	Member/Former President	Daria D Lee	New Member

**WTDC LAUNCHED A TODDLER ROOM**

As part of our initiative to respond to the changing needs of this community, on October 5, 2015, WTDC launched a TODDLER Program at our Center for children 2.0 - 3.0 years of age. There is a strong need in this community to provide Toddler Childcare Service and with over 49 years of presence in this community, WTDC determined it was time to be responsive to this need. The room has been refurnished and redesigned to be age-appropriate and meet the requirements of a quality toddler program. Our Center-based classroom design includes areas for using books, fine motor development, music, art, block-building, furniture for relaxation and comfort, dramatic play, sand and water play, science, mathematics, and technology. Of course we are very proud of our outdoor playground that supports gross motor development and has many play structures to enhance the creativity in Toddlers. Materials in all areas support positive acceptance of diversity in races, ages, abilities, and gender in non-stereotype roles.

## **Community Partnerships Benefit Our Center**

### **SANTA and HOLIDAY DONATIONS FROM FISHER PRICE**

Our Center is extremely grateful to Fisher Price for their generous donation of toys to our Center. On Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Santa "Fred Gregory", a long time, upstanding neighborhood resident, along with his Elf Vivian, visited WTDC. Santa visited all classrooms, met with each child, gave each a candy cane, posed for a photo with each child, and spent time dancing with the children and their teachers. Santa also left a special gift for each child to take home along with a memorable photo of their visit with him. The children continued the festivities with a celebratory holiday luncheon prepared by our cook staff (Ms. Joan and Ms. Sally).

In addition, we raffled off five bikes that were also donated to us by Fisher Price.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following winners: (1) Class 2A, Khademe Gueye; (2) Class 3A, Cameron Santana; (3) Class 3B, Anthony DeLos Santos (4) Class 4A, Gulio Vincenti; Class 4B, Janiah Roberts.

### **VISION SCREENING**

WTDC is pleased to announce that in our concern for early detection of vision problems for all children at the Center, WTDC has formed a partnership with Dr. A J Contento from Eye Care Unlimited located at 1748 Crosby Avenue; Bronx, NY 10461 who has volunteered to assist us in meeting our goal for early detection and better treatment outcomes for children who may have serious eye conditions. WTDC will work in partnership with Eyecare Unlimited to ensure that children (ages 2-5 years old) attending our Center receive a FREE early vision screening to detect possible vision concerns. After screening, letters will be prepared for parents whose children fail the exam, advising them to take their children to an eye doctor. This basic screening is not a substitute for a complete eye examination.

### **EAT WELL, PLAY HARD:**

WTDC has been chosen to participate in the "EAT WELL, PLAY HARD in CHILD CARE SETTINGS" (EWPCCS) Program sponsored by (CACFP) - Child and Adult Food Program. We are excited to offer this Nutrition Education Curriculum to our Daycare Community! This program provides a Certified Nutritionist who visits the Center for 6 weeks to conduct

- ✓ SIX (6) Nutrition Lessons for children ages 3 -5 years old
- ✓ SIX (6) Nutrition Lessons for Parents and Guardians
- ✓ TWO (2) Nutrition Lessons for child care staff

In addition, WTDC will receive a Marketing Session for Parents All food and equipment for child, parent and staff members; Weekly communications regarding children's lessons.

### **TOPICS - every Tuesday in January and February 2016**

1/5/16: Marketing

1/12/16: Food Mood - encourages trying new foods

1/19/16: Vary Your Veggies - conveys the importance of eating a variety of veggies

1/26/16: Flavorful Fruit - Introduces colorful and delicious fruits as part of a healthy diet

2/2/16: Dairylicious - teaches importance of drinking low-fat milk and eating low-fat dairy foods

2/9/16: Smart Snacking - demonstrates how to make delicious snacks

2/23/16: Fitness is Fun- introduces appropriate and fun physical activities

We know keeping your family is very important to you. We hope that these classes will make your job easier by giving you tips on how to serve healthy low-cost foods for the whole family.

As part of this nutrition program, our children will take part in fun activities in their classes.

They will learn about eating more fruits, vegetables, and low-fat dairy. Parent Classes will also be offered by a certified Nutritionist. These classes will help you learn about healthy low-cost foods for the whole family. You will also receive a gift for each session you attend.



### **Apply Now for Kindergarten!**

The kindergarten application deadline has been extended and families can now apply until **January 20**. All applications received by the January 20 deadline are treated the same—our application process is not first-come, first-served. Apply one of three ways: All families, including those of students with disabilities and current pre-K students, must submit an application in order to receive a kindergarten offer. Families can apply:

- Online via our application site
- Over the phone by calling 718-935-2400
- In person at a Family Welcome Center

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Office of Student Enrollment at [ESenrollment@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ESenrollment@schools.nyc.gov).

## **Encouraging Oral Health in Preschool**

Children love to eat sweets, yet unfortunately, tooth decay is the most common childhood disease, and it can begin from the very first tooth. Left untreated, not only can it destroy a child's teeth, but it can affect his or her overall health. Children consume more sugar than ever before. You can help promote good oral health habits by incorporating the following practices:

**Avoid sugary snacks.** Offer children lower-sugar snacks, such as:

- Whole grain crackers with low-fat cheese cubes or sticks
- Low-fat yogurt and fruit
- Hummus and veggies (cucumbers, carrots, and peppers are great options)
- Celery sticks with cream cheese
- Cottage cheese

**Avoid sugary drinks.** Offer low-fat milk and water instead of juice. New York City tap water, which is delicious, contains fluoride that helps to prevent tooth decay. Let children make their own flavored water by adding lemon or lime juice, berries, oranges, mint or cucumber. If offering juice, dilute it with half a glass of water. It will still taste great, but contain only half the sugar! Note: Article 47 regulates that soda, flavored milk, and other sugary drinks are not allowed in child care settings.

**Oral health resources to parents.** Be sure to have your child get regular dental checkups. Parents should assist children two years and older in brushing their teeth, twice a day, using fluoride toothpaste. Visit [www.nyc.gov/health](http://www.nyc.gov/health) and search "child oral health".



## **CHILDREN AND READING: 10 TIPS TO HELP RAISE A READER**

Reading books to children is one of the most important things you can do to promote literacy development. Try these creative strategies to foster your kids' love of reading and boost their imagination.

- 1. Add a little playacting.** Instead of just reciting the same old story, improvise a little. Don't be afraid to deviate from what's on the page. Incorporate different accents for the characters, add drama with theatrical hand gestures, build anticipation by including pauses, and let the emotions of the story register on your face.
- 2. Encourage interaction.** When reading to your preschooler, pause every now and then to ask questions about the story, wonder aloud about alternate endings, or propose new character names.
- 3. Talk about books.** The benefits of reading to children don't have to stop after you've closed the book. After sharing a story together, bring it up in conversation throughout the day. Compare a real-life event to something that happened in the book, or ask how they think a certain character would handle a specific situation. Incorporate key vocabulary that was presented in the book, so your child gets an idea of how the words fit into different contexts.
- 4. Introduce books in new scenarios.** Why wait until bedtime to pull out a book? For babies and toddlers, bath times and mealtimes provide great opportunities for enjoying a story.
- 5. Consider joining a book club for children.** With the overwhelming number of kids' books on the market, it can seem like a daunting task to select the ones that are right for your child. When you join a book club for children, you'll receive hand-picked titles tailored to your kids' ages and interests. Getting shipments of high-quality children's books delivered right to your doorstep is a great way to encourage excitement about reading.
- 6. Explore reading resources for children.** The Internet offers an abundance of children's Web sites with creative ideas for promoting early literacy, fun literacy games, and reading tools for children.
- 7. Encourage reading outside of books.** Throughout a typical day, there are hundreds of opportunities to recognize words and phrases. Challenge your child to find new mediums for reading, whether it's a billboard, newspaper, cereal box, or storefront sign. This will help your child grasp the significance of reading in the real world and give him a chance to apply what he's learned.
- 8. Introduce your own childhood favorites.** Remember those timeless classics you couldn't get enough of as a kid? Bring them back into the limelight by reading them to your own child. Your excitement for those old beloved stories is sure to rub off on your little one.
- 9. Volunteer your reading services.** If your child is of school age (or even in daycare), reading aloud to his class is an excellent way to foster his love of books and to demonstrate your support and commitment to his reading success. Most daycare centers, preschools, and elementary schools welcome parent volunteers.
- 10. Take field trips to the library.** The library is an invaluable reading resource. Acquaint your budding reader with the book loaning process, emphasizing a respect for the facility and the books. Many libraries feature designated story hours, where a librarian reads selections aloud to a targeted age group. Check with your local branch for more activities to promote reading.

## **PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

### **How to Report Child Abuse and Neglect**

Reports of child abuse and neglect can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling the New York State Central Register (SCR) Child Abuse and Maltreatment Hotline. All calls are confidential. The SCR relays calls to ACS to begin an investigation when appropriate. When making a report, you will be asked for the following information:

- ✓ the name and address of the child and family members
- ✓ the child's age, sex, and primary language
- ✓ the nature and extent of the child's injuries
- ✓ the type of abuse or neglect, including evidence of prior history of maltreatment of the child or siblings
- ✓ any additional information that may be helpful.

**Call the NYS Central Register Child Abuse & Maltreatment Hotline to Report Child Abuse and Neglect. General Public: 1-800-342-3720.**

If a child is in immediate danger, call 911.

**Mandated Reporters: 1-800-635-1522** If you are a Mandated Reporter, you are required by law to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect.

Please note that false reporting is a crime.



**Nominate a teacher!** The Big Apple Awards, now in its fourth year, is a citywide recognition program that celebrates the educators of New York City who inspire students, model great teaching, and enrich their school communities. By honoring the success of these teachers, the NYC Department of Education recognizes the countless teachers who go above and beyond to serve our students and families. We are pleased to share that Ms. Peggy, Group Teacher of Room 4A is WTDC's 2016 Big Apple's Award Nominee. Following is the nomination narrative for Ms. Peggy.

*Margaret Swayne (known as Ms. Peggy) is a seasoned professional who has all the requisite skills to qualify her position as a Group Teacher in our Universal Pre-K Program yet her competency, charisma and commitment enable her to effect and impact learning for these early learners in the most noteworthy fashion. The well-being and learning needs of all children are her top priority and she has an excellent rapport with children, parents and staff. Feedback on ECERS and CLASS reviews validate her effectiveness as an early learning educator. Margaret always takes initiative, works well independently, attends Professional Development Workshops and effectively includes others in the planning and implementation of classroom activities to benefit the children. Her impact on student learning, her instructional practices and her contributions to our school community coupled with her own love of real-life learning enable her to create a "magic kingdom" in her classroom. Ms. Peggy rewards positive behavior, inspires and engages her students to be independent and strive to reach their personal best, is relentless in building strong family ties, and is greatly admired by this school community. Her love of travel, theatre, relaxation exercises such as yoga, music and dancing, and good nutrition are incorporated into the rich, quality learning environment she masterfully creates on a day-to-day basis. Children in her room unhesitatingly will tell you "Broccoli is our friend". Margaret is an unsung hero and it is my strong opinion that the "Big Apple" would be a better place with more Ms. Peggy's!*



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

<b>FEBRUARY</b>		<b>THEME: SPECIAL DAYS / DENTAL HEALTH MONTH</b>	
	5 Friday	EarlyLearn NYC Approved STAFF DEVELOPMENT #8	CENTER CLOSED
	15 Monday	PRESIDENT'S DAY - HOLIDAY	CENTER CLOSED
	15-19 Mon-Fri	MID-WINTER RECESS	UPK ONLY – Non-Attendance
	22 Monday	Center Activity #4 Multi-Cultural Celebration including Celebratory Luncheon	10:30AM-11:30AM / Playroom Shadow Box Theatre : “How The Turtle Got Its Shell”
<b>MARCH</b>		<b>THEME: SPRING IS COMING / RECYCLE</b>	
	14 Monday	Center Activity #5 Celebrate Springtime and Easter	10:30AM – ALL CLASSES Anna Kravits Sing-a-Long
	14-18 Mon.-Fri.	Parent/Teacher Conferences #2	ALL CLASSES
	18 Friday	EarlyLearn NYC Approved STAFF DEVELOPMENT #9	CENTER CLOSED
	25 Friday	Good Friday	Early Dismissal at 1:00PM
<b>APRIL</b>		<b>THEME: GROWING AND CHANGING / RECYCLE, con't.</b>	
	21 Thursday	UPK ONLY ACS	Non-Attendance Day Early Dismissal at 1PM
	22 Friday	Center Activity #7 EARTH DAY Celebration	10:30AM-11:30AM / Playroom Shadow Box Theatre Performance of “Little Is Big” - Parents Welcome
	25 Monday	EarlyLearn NYC Approved STAFF DEVELOPMENT #10	CENTER CLOSED
	25-29 Mon-Fri	SPRING RECESS – UPK ONLY	Non-Attendance Days
<b>MAY</b>		<b>THEME: SPRINGTIME / TREES &amp; BUTTERFLIES</b>	
<b>****</b>	6 Friday	School Pictures by Lauren Scott Photographers	9:30AM – 12:00PM PAYMENT / Package Selection
	9 Monday	Center Activity #8 Muffins with Mom Celebrate Mother's Day	Classrooms 8:30-9:15 FREE Breakfast with your child
	12 Thursday	EarlyLearn NYC Approved STAFF DEVELOPMENT #11	CENTER CLOSED
	17 Tuesday	PARENT MEETING w/ DIRECTOR	5:30PM – 6:30PM / Playroom Light refreshments will be served
	30 Monday	MEMORIAL DAY - HOLIDAY	CENTER CLOSED
<b>JUNE</b>		<b>THEME: MOVING-UP &amp; MOVING-ON</b>	
	2 Thursday	EarlyLearn NYC Approved STAFF DEVELOPMENT #12	CENTER CLOSED
	9 Thursday	Chancellor's Day / UPK ONLY	Non-Attendance Day
	10 Friday	Class Activity #9 Hands-On Petting Zoo	WTDC PLAYGROUND ALL CLASSES / 10:30AM
	13 Monday	Center Activity #10 Donuts with Dad Celebrate Father's Day	Classrooms 8:30AM -9:15AM
	13-17 Mon.-Fri.	Parent/Teacher Conferences #3	ALL CLASSES
<b>****</b>	23 Thursday	Moving-Up Ceremony 3A, 3B - Preschool	10:30 – 12:00PM PLAYROOM Light Refreshments following ceremony
<b>****</b>	24 Friday	GRADUATION 4A, 4B, 4C – Universal Pre-K	10:30AM – 12:00 PM PLAYROOM Light Refreshments following ceremony
	28 Tuesday	Last Day for UPK Only Graduates	UPK ONLY – Term ends at 1:00PM

### **CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS**

As you know, WTDCC is a 5013c, not-for-profit organization. Any and all charitable donations are tax-deductible. As you prepare for the upcoming tax-season, if anyone is interested in making a cash donation to our Center, we would welcome your donation and will provide you with a receipt that may be used for a tax write-off to a not-for-profit organization. Please welcome your friends and family to consider a tax-deductible donation to Westchester Tremont Day Care Center.

*Thank-you for choosing Westchester Tremont Day Care Center. It is a privilege to provide quality services that meet the needs of your child's Early Learning Education.*