

JANUARY

The South Hills Child Development Center Inc. Monthly Newsletter

This month:

Important Dates:

- **Monday, Jan 4** Classes resume for Kindergarten & Full day preschool. **Half day classes have Zoom Parent Conferences.**
- **Thursday, Jan 7** Classes resume for Half day Preschool
- **Monday January 25-** Scholastic Book Order Due

Please check Google calendar through the website for complete list of important dates this monthz



SOUTH HILLS
Child Development Center Inc.

Holiday Thank You

The entire staff of South Hills would like to thank all of our parents for your overwhelming generosity to us throughout the December holidays. You cannot imagine what your kind and thoughtful gifts mean to us. We especially appreciate the written notes expressing your appreciation and support of our work with your children! We all love sharing our days with your child, and your recognition of our efforts is appreciated more than you can possibly know. The holiday cards will continue to hang in the hallway a few more weeks—we all love seeing the growth of our students throughout the years! Be sure you have added us to your annual card list for years to come! Some of these cards in the hallways are from students who attended 46 years ago! We wish you all a HEALTHY and prosperous new year!



Registration for Summer and Fall

Based on the scheduling forms completed in November, parents will find their new financial agreements for the summer and fall terms of 2021 in their child's take home folder beginning January 4. South Hills' waiting list for all classes is long, but parents who are currently enrolled will have the first options for openings.

Kindergarten registration was completed in December and the class is now full. If you are on our Kindergarten wait list, know that you are not removed, as openings sometime become available before the Kindergarten year begins. Please return these financial agreements and applicable fees no later than the deadline noted on the packet to ensure that your child has placement for the fall. If your form is not returned by the deadline on the packet, we can only assume you have made other arrangements for your child, and his/her opening will be offered to the next person on the waiting list.

We work on this scheduling in phases, so please tell your friends who are not already enrolled here not to panic if they have not yet received registration notification, which will be sent to their email box. We cannot move to the next phase until the deadline for current enrollment has been reached.

Why do we hold registration so early? Because private and parochial schools also begin their registration in January/February, and we want to be sure you have first choice for any available spots before we move on to our extensive waiting list. We want to be sure those parents who have been waiting also have the opportunity to be offered availability early and still have an opportunity for other schools if we do not have placement available.

If you have any questions regarding your financial agreement or scheduling options, please see Connie or Mary.

Winter Routine

We are aware that no one (except for a few young siblings) likes our blue shoecovers. But we love and appreciate that you take the time to be respectful of our environment for your child and faithfully wear them every time you arrive.

Thank you for your efforts to support us in keeping our classrooms clean and dry for your children!

Every day that the temperature is 40 or above, the children will be outdoors. PLEASE send your child dressed for our outdoor routine; otherwise we are required to provide a coat, hat, mittens, boots, etc, which require laundering each evening. Help us by sending your child fully prepared for daily outdoor play.

Millcreek Police Reminder

Parents: The Millcreek Police send a reminder to parents: Do not leave your children unattended in cars in our parking lot, even with doors locked and ESPECIALLY not with motors running! **Schools are anti-idling zones.** If you have a situation where you cannot bring your infant, child into the school due to illness, etc., please call the office from your cell phone in the parking lot or come to the foyer and ring the bell—someone will assist you as soon as we can. You may have a bit of a wait, but we do our best. (For example, if you have a sick baby in the car, we can assist in getting your older child into the school so you can remain with your baby. It just might mean a bit of a wait.)

Parents often make arrangements with others arriving at the same time to escort children in, which is most kind and helpful!

PLEASE NOTE: The children are required to stop at the stop sign inside the security door. Yet every day we chase children who have left the building without a parent, who has not yet ‘caught up’ to their child when exiting. PLEASE keep your child nearby when exiting the school—none of us would permit our child to run out of Walmart or Wegmans to the car without us! South Hills is no different, and the traffic gets quite busy at dismissal, especially for the morning preschool programs. With the new business opening soon next door, traffic may become heavier. Our children are too precious to take this risk! Also, there have been several near-misses when parents are driving into/out of the parking lot while talking on a cell phone, or when not looking behind them while in reverse. PLEASE! These are our precious children. **Go slow, be patient in our lot and ensure the safety of all...**

South Hills 46th Birthday, from Connie!

January marks the 46th birthday of South Hills! It is hard for me to comprehend that is possible, but I am so proud to be in my 49th year of teaching.! One of the best parts of the holidays for me is receiving cards from alumni. The oldest South Hills alumni is 49 years old now, and I still am in touch with many students from those early years. I also have the privilege of having many current students whose parents were my students! I have been twice blessed (I'm blessed, and I know it!) with the founding of South Hills. I established my dream early in my career, and still love sharing my days with the children, families and teachers of South Hills.

Thank you so much for your support of my work throughout the years; my community has been so good to me, **ESPECIALLY THROUGHOUT THIS CHALLENGING PANDEMIC**, which has definitely been the most stressful time of my life. But with such support from parents and my amazing staff, we are successfully plowing through it!

Tax Information

South Hills' federal tax number for your income tax requirements is located on your invoice and statement: 208087978. Many parents have already receive their year end statement to use for income tax filing; the remainder will be sent shortly. If you have any questions, please contact Dylan at dylanjkvogtshills@gmail.com

South Hills staff members are not able to provide information regarding the deduction of preschool/Kindergarten payments and credits to your tax situation; please refer these questions to your personal accountant. However, please share that Kindergarten is not mandatory in PA, so perhaps tuition can be written off as child care. Also, before and after school care is included in the Kindergarten tuition.

From the Salvation Army

Thank you so much for your donations of toys to the Salvation Army! Nearly 90 families from South Hills provided a bright Christmas for children in our area. South Hills received this letter to share with you:

Dear Friends,

Thank you for participating in the Treasures for Children Program. Because of your kind hearts we have been collecting many toys for children who otherwise would not have a Christmas. We want you to know how much we appreciate what you have done, and are more than thankful. Have a wonderful Holiday and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Clare Holden
The Salvation Army

Your generous spirit is most amazing—South Hills Families are just THE BEST!

LICE PREVENTION TO CONTINUE

Parents, please do not let down your guard! Everyone is focused on Covid but some area schools are experiencing lice infestations, and we do NOT want to have any incidents. If you are following our requests to use lice preventative shampoos, you are helping to keep South Hills lice free.

If not, we are BEGGING: To keep lice from infecting any South Hills' children, WE ALL MUST COMMIT TO USING LICE PREVENTATIVE SHAMPOOS, CONDITIONERS OR SPRAYS or BOTH!. The hair sprays made by Fairy Tales shampoos can be sprayed on the collars of coats, scarves, car seats as well as on

hair. Lice will typically resist people using with these preventive products, which will keep them OUT of South Hills! Fairy Tales is organic, and there are no pesticides used, only rosemary, peppermint, tea tree oil. Isn't this a far better solution than waiting for lice to infest your child, requiring harsh pesticides, cleaning of your upholstered furniture/bedding/towels/car seats, etc AND having to worry it has been brought into South Hills?

These products can be purchased at Studio Hue and Shear Escape at a reasonable price--they are organic, and contain none of the harsh pesticides you will be required to use if your child attracts lice and is excluded from our program while your family, home, and car are treated. A parent recently shared that Walmart and Target started carrying these products as well!

A Roto Zapper is also effective if lice are detected--you can comb this through lice infested hair and it "zaps" lice on contact! It is great alternative to harsh insecticides required to be used on your child's head to eliminate infestations! Please help us to eliminate all potential lice from our school by committing to using lice repelling products. We must all commit to this if it is to work. Thank you for your support...

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From Connie:

Please continue to watch your email, Dropbox, Twitter, our website for emergency notifications. When received, please share with other South Hills families you might know so all stay informed. Of course, we hope for no more Covid related closures, but realize the likelihood is "more to come". I am truly amazed we have only had one closure in 6 months and count my npblessings. I am grateful to all parents for your own diligence in keeping ill children home as a precaution.

Our staff is being tested monthly at minimum, and we also know parents and students are being tested often at the first sign of symptoms. Expect that at any given time, someone here is being tested. We cannot keep you updated on all, but if there is a positive child, parent or staff member who has been at South Hills, we will of course inform you and take the actions as required by the Erie County Department of Health. They are the ones to determine closures and action to take. I report to PDE and DHS as well, as required.

When entering the school, please stay no longer than 15 minutes, and even less is better. We highly value our daily opportunities to greet and speak with you, but remaining 6 feet apart for less than 15 minutes can make a difference.

I am pleased with the success of my decision to permit parents entrance to the building as I firmly believe parents are the “glue” that holds children and teachers together as we work toward the best possible program for your child. Leaving parents “outside” during the summer did not feel right to me, as we worked our way through a new routine. Four months of having our parents return to the classrooms is MUCH better for all of us, and I am grateful for your adherence to our policies and attention to details for the safety of all!

My staff and I wish you and your special children a most blessed new year, filled with abundance, joy, peace, good health, contentment and prosperity!

My staff and I will continue to do all we can to contribute to that..

 Connie