

Pembroke News

December 2013

Miss Andrea

Thank you for your generous support of Pembroke's participation in the Pin Oak Parkway "Food Fight" to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank in Lorain County. The winner and the number of meals collected will be announced the second week of December. I will be sure to share the information as soon as it is available. I am hopeful about meeting the 100,000 meals goal!

December is always a fun month at Pembroke Kids. We will celebrate our popular Holiday Traditions where families sign up to visit their child's class to lead a special holiday activity or read a special story. The children enjoy having their families participate and join in the life of their class. Sign-up sheets are posted outside each classroom door.

As an offshoot of our "Music with Mr. Steve" program this year, we will have our first ever holiday concert. We all have been working on a selection of songs we would like to share with you. You will be receiving a flyer with specific and times and dates. This information will also be posted on the bulletin board and the school calendar.

Pembroke Kids is sponsoring a family for Christmas. They are staying at Family Promise Homeless Shelter for a period of time. In this season of giving, we invite you to help us provide gifts for this family, which we will deliver to Family Promise on December 18th. All gifts should be wrapped and labeled (i.e., Mom, Dad, Son, Daughter, Baby). We are all so fortunate. Thank you for your generosity. (More details on page 3.)

We are preparing 2014-2015 registration materials, which will be sent home on or before December 16th. We will begin accepting registrations immediately. Registration is first come, first served. Returning Pembroke families will have a protected period until January 10th. During this time, you will be assured to receive the schedule you wish. Tuition will remain at 2013-2014 levels.

Miss Sue and Miss Sara

With Halloween and Thanksgiving behind us, our classroom has been a very busy place. We had lots of fun during our two-week theme of forest animals. We learned about nocturnal animals like raccoons, bats, and owls. We also learned a new word "diurnal" which pertains to animals that are awake during the day. Some other new words were talon and owlets. The children enjoyed finding various sticks, leaves, and branches from the garden to help make our new "alphabet" on the wall. Please make sure to check it out!

We incorporated math with a dice game. We rolled a die and made tally marks corresponding to the dots on the die to count forest animals. We also made animal footprint puzzles, fed acorns to squirrels, and sorted various parts of the Goldilocks and the Three Bears story ordering from smallest to biggest.

On our writing center table, we had several activities: cutting exercises and tracing straight and diagonal lines from left to right on laminated sheets with dry erase markers. Students worked with clay adding toothpicks and cut straws to make porcupines. All these activities help strengthen little fingers and hands.

Our art table was busy as well. The children created a forest of trees with a variety of green papers. They also made owl masks, rolled pinecones in a box with paint, painted with evergreen branches, and made porcupines out of clay and toothpicks.

We had a few days prior to Thanksgiving to talk about what we are really thankful for. Sara and I were very impressed by the answers the children gave us. The children were thankful for family, hugs, school, etc. We also talked about foods we like to eat at Thanksgiving and the first Thanksgiving. We had a popcorn treat on the last day before Thanksgiving break, which we learned was one of the foods the Indians helped the pilgrims sow and harvest.

The children have been looking at their "All About Me" books lately and love to share them with friends. If you have not returned yours, please do so since the children love exploring them. If you need a new packet of the pages, please let us know.

We also have a "wall" of family pictures on our classroom door. If you have not supplied us with a family photo yet, your child would love to have yours displayed.

When we come back from Thanksgiving break, we will have a two-week theme on gingerbread. Don't forget to sign up to share a tradition and/or read a holiday story to the class at dismissal time. On Friday, December 20th, we will join the kindergarteners and 1st and 2nd graders as we board the Polar Express. Please have your preschooler wear pajamas to school that day. We may have a surprise visitor!

January will be full of icy themes and science experiments using snow and ice! Brrrrr

We would like to wish all of our families and very happy holiday season!

sue@pembrokekids.com and sara@pembrokekids.com

Miss Theresa and Miss Cecilia

November seemed to zoom by with the anticipation of Thanksgiving. Our month was filled with classroom activities focused on community workers, health and safety. As we talked about community helpers, the children enjoyed sharing their parents' jobs. Did you know that someone's dad only sleeps and eats at work? We won't mention names. We also discovered that many of your children are aspiring doctors!

Two weeks of health and safety included making and eating healthy snacks, moving to stay fit, and talking about ways to keep our bodies safe. At the art table, the children enjoyed many open-ended activities. They used unique painting tools like celery leaves, scallion roots, and cooked spaghetti. Many of our friends made "pizzas" from dough squeezed out of condiment bottles. These types of art experiences are enjoyable and educational. The process of creating art helps all children express feelings and practice fine motor and hand-eye coordination. Open-ended art also encourages problem-solving and decision-making skills. For example, a child might figure out how to make legs stick to their clay creation or decide what object to choose for their collage. Most importantly, the art activities we do in our classroom ensure that your children experience success.

We have been working on cutting with scissors this month. Please let your children practice at home and remind them to "keep 2 thumbs up." They should always be able to see both thumbs when using scissors. With the holiday season fast approaching, it might be nice to let your little elves help cut wrapping paper for you. Just draw a line and let them cut!

theresa@pembrokekids.com

cecilia@pembrokekids.com

Miss Elena and Miss Katie

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! In November, the children really enjoyed learning about all types of transportation and sharing what they were thankful for. We want to thank all the families that collected and brought in Box Tops! Because of your great efforts, our Mixed Age and Young Three's class brought in the most box tops and won a donut and cider party! The children loved the delicious donuts!

We are looking forward to having our families share their traditions and stories in December! The children are practicing hard and are excited to perform at our holiday program. This month is filled with lots of special programs and activities and we are eager to share the holiday festivities with you! As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions.

For Pre-K info check out the Blog at <http://katieandelenaprek.blogspot.com/>

Miss Krista - Kindergarten

Throughout the month of November, the kindergarteners have been learning about food. We began by learning all about the different food groups. We took a field trip to Giant Eagle. Our trip guide took us on a tour through the store and explained all the food groups. She even gave the children samples to try from each area of the store. At school, we filled in our own food plate by drawing and using magazine cutouts. We also read the book Green Eggs and Ham and made a list of foods that we would never want to eat. We shifted our focus closer to Thanksgiving as we talked about people that did not have enough food. The children worked hard to collect money and canned goods for Second Harvest Food Bank. We even took a field trip to Second Harvest. We were able to raise awareness that many people do not have enough food to eat. We are hoping to continue to collect food for Second Harvest throughout the rest of the school year.

In November, we had our first Writer's Celebration! To congratulate the children on their hard work during our daily writer's workshop, we have a celebration at the end of each writing unit. Each child was able to publish one piece of writing by creating a flap book. Then they read their work aloud to all the kindergarten, first and second graders. We had a special snack and they all took their books home. Every child has already made so much progress with their writing! I can't wait to see the interesting stories they write next.

kristaskindergarten.blogspot.com

Miss Clare - 1st and 2nd Grade

December has come very quickly! I cannot believe I have been working with my students for almost four months! We have been working diligently in all subjects — and allowing some time for fun. A big focus has been on writing conventions. The students have a solid understanding of what Writer's Workshop is all about and have developed the skills to stretch out their small moments. We are now working more on editing and using correct punctuation and capitalization.

Our Reader's Workshop is centered on non-fiction texts this month. The students enjoy identifying the non-fiction texts. We will go on to learn more about sub-genres of non-fiction (such as biographies and informational texts). We will also learn about finding information from reading these types of text.

The December theme will be Inventors and Inventions. Miss Krista will be working with the students in creating their own inventions, while I will be teaching them about the people behind the inventions we use. It is sure to be an exciting theme!

There is a noticeable difference in the students' maturity. They are growing in their respect for themselves, others, and the classroom. I am very proud of them for continuing to be responsible role models for the rest of the school.

missclareclassroom.blogspot.com

A Season of Giving

Pembroke is sponsoring a family of four (soon to be five) staying at the Family Promise Homeless Shelter in Elyria. With the holidays approaching, please consider contributing a gift to help this family have a Merry Christmas. Our "adopted" family is in need of the following:

Mother – Toiletries, slacks (size 7/8), shirts (medium)
Father – Shirts (XL), pants (30x30)
Son (age 7) – Clothing (size 7), Lego set (Ninjago)
Daughter (age 6) – Clothing (size 8), Barbie doll
New Born – Pack 'n Play (\$10 donation to purchase)

Please sign up on the poster across from the office.

Box Tops for Education



All the box tops we collected for our fall drive have been turned in and they yielded \$150 for Pembroke! Thank you so much Pembroke Families. Keep those box tops coming in!

Our winter collection drive runs through the end of February. Our Box Tops Coordinator, Heather Eadeh, will soon be setting up a new display in the hallway so we can track each classroom's progress.

The classroom that collects the most box tops for our winter drive will win a hot chocolate and cookie treat.

Holiday Traditions - Dec. 9 - 19

December is a month filled with many types of holiday celebrations and traditions. In our classrooms, we will be talking about different holiday celebrations around the world and in our families.

During this holiday season, we invite you to share one of your family traditions with your child's class. This can be in the form of food (eg., making potato latkes or decorating cookies), making gingerbread houses using graham crackers, singing carols, playing with a dreidel, making holiday decorations, or reading a favorite story.

Sign-up sheets are posted outside your child's classroom if you would like to participate.

Holiday Concert - Dec. 18

Preschool Concert: Wed., Dec. 18th, 11:30 AM

If your child does not attend school on Wednesday, they can still participate. Please bring your child to their regular classroom at 11:20 AM on the 18th.

Kindergarten, Grades 1-2: Wed., Dec. 18th, 2:30 PM

Young 3's: Thurs., Dec. 19th, 11:30 AM

Due to very limited space, we are asking that only parents and younger siblings attend.

Polar Express - Dec. 20th

All Pembroke students who attend school on Friday, Dec. 20th, will be taking part in one of our most popular holiday events: the Polar Express! When the conductor calls "All aboard!" our students will hop on the Polar Express train and ride to the North Pole. Who do you think they will find there?

There is one important thing to remember about this day: It's pajama day! Students and teachers should wear pajamas to school that day.

Early Dismissal - Fri., Dec. 20th

ALL Pembroke students, Preschool – 2nd Grade, will be dismissed at 12:00 noon on Friday, Dec. 20th. THERE ARE NO AFTERNOON CLASSES.

School will resume on Monday, January 6, 2014.

2014 Open House Dates

If you know someone who is interested in learning more about Pembroke Kids, please let them know about our upcoming open houses. This will be an excellent chance to explore our classrooms and learn more about Pembroke's early childhood programs and day school. Our open house dates are:

- Weds., Jan. 8 – 1-7 PM
- Tues., Jan 21 – 1-7 PM
- Thurs., Feb. 6 – 1-7 PM
- Sat., Feb. 22 – 9 AM-12 NOON

Inclement Weather School Closing

Pembroke's school closing policy follows the Avon Lake Public Schools. If Avon Lake Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, Pembroke will also be closed. There are many sources you can use to find out this information. Besides TV and the internet, we will post school closings on our Home Page by 7:00 AM at:

www.pembrokekids.com. You can also call the school office (440-933-3782). We will change our main greeting by 7 AM.

Pembroke Tutoring

Pembroke offers one-to-one and group tutoring for pre-kindergarten through 8th grade. Each student's program is built around his/her personal needs. If you know of a friend or neighbor that could benefit from our services, please tell them about us. We offer tutoring focused on new legislation relating to the "Third Grade Reading Guarantee."

Before and After School Care

Do you have to leave for work before the school day begins or do you need a safe place for your child after school? Consider Pembroke's Before & After Care Program. Designed for students in kindergarten through 6th grade, we provide a safe, supportive environment guided by experienced teachers. Call the office for more information.

School Absences

We appreciate a phone call when your child is absent due to illness or other reasons. Please call the office as soon as you know your child will not be attending school – 440-933-3782.

Dates to Remember

- Dec. 9-19 Holiday Traditions
- Dec. 18 Holiday Concert:
Preschool – 11:30 am
K-2 – 2:30 pm
- Dec. 19 Young 3's Holiday Celebration – 11:30
- Dec. 20 Polar Express – Pajama Day
- Dec. 20 12:00 noon dismissal – NO
AFTERNOON CLASSES
- Dec. 23 Winter break begins
- Jan. 6 School resumes
- Jan. 8 Open House (1-7 PM)

Keep up to date with school activities by checking our school calendar in the Parent section of our website: www.pembrokekids.com.

Like us on Facebook – www.Facebook.com/pembroke.kids