

# Pembroke Kids

December 2009  
Newsletter

Best Wishes for a Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! May your time at home with family be comforting and filled with your favorite traditions!

**Thank you very much for your generous support of the Avon Lake Community Resource Services family** that Pembroke Kids is sponsoring this holiday season. It is absolutely amazing what we can do as a group to support those families in need in our community. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Now that winter and cold, snowy weather has burst upon us, I would like to remind everyone to be **aware of possible school closings**. Pembroke Kids closes school whenever Avon Lake Public Schools close. Schools may even close for severe cold. You can find school closing information in several places. WEWS-TV NewsChannel 5 broadcasts information about school closings and delays, and also posts information on their website, <http://www.weathernet5.com/closings/index.html>. Here you can view closing info and even sign up to receive notices via email or text message. Any closings or delays will also be posted to our website and voicemail. If Avon Lake Schools have a delayed opening, Pembroke Kids will still open at our regular time. We just ask that families use extreme caution driving to school. This is the one time we do not mind if you arrive a little late.



## **Preschool Music Classes with Susan Vance are Back by Popular Demand!**

Beginning on January 7th, join Susan for an 8 week program of music and movement especially designed for preschool children. Susan's program is especially designed for preschool and school age children. Susan has taught elementary music in the Avon Lake Public School system for 29 years. She

is currently the Choir Director for the Avon Middle and High School.

### **Schedule:**

8 Thursday Afternoons  
3:30 - 4:15  
Jan 7-Feb 25

### **Cost: \$72**

8 Friday Mornings  
10:30 - 11:15  
Jan 8-Feb 26

### **Pembroke Kids Open House Dates**

If you know of anyone who might be interested in learning more about our preschool, elementary and after school programs, urge them to attend or call for more information. (And you'll get a referral fee!)

#### **1:00 pm — 7:00 pm**

Wed, January 6  
Thu, January 21

Tue, January 12  
Mon, January 25

**Beginning in January our Newsletter format will change.** Each preschool classroom will publish a newsletter twice a month, on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup>. This new format will enable the teachers to discuss in more detail what has been studied, the activities involved, why these activities are important. You'll also learn how you can extend the activities at home. The newsletters will be available on the Pembroke Kids web site, [www.pembrokekids.com](http://www.pembrokekids.com), as well as in "hard copy". We hope you enjoy the new format and look forward to your feedback.

**Recycling News:** Our bottle cap recycling project has been so successful to date that we have already mailed one gigantic box filled to over-flowing with caps to the Aveda Corporation! A second box is almost ready to go! That's a lot of tops from just 110 families! Keep those clean, plastic tops and lids coming! The program runs through May 2010.

### **Upcoming Events and Important Dates**

As we count down the days to our December winter break, we are already looking forward to events in January and beyond! Pembroke Kids closes for the holiday break at the end of the day December 18, 2009. School will reopen Monday, January 4, 2010. Other important dates in January are Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, and Parent Teacher conferences will be held January 27, 28, and 29<sup>th</sup>. Sign up sheets for conferences will be posted when school resumes in January. There is no school for children on conference days.

### **Miss Jackie & Miss Brooke's Class**

The month of November has been very exciting and busy for the young three's! Thank you to all of our visitors who were able to take time to come in and share a story. We started off the month discovering different types of nocturnal animals that included identifying the sounds that each animal made. We then switched over to jungle animals, and even created our very own classroom elephant! Seeing the differences amongst the various animals gave the children the chance to make connections to animals they have seen outside the classroom.

Transportation week was a success when we were able to come together to look at different kinds of vehicles. Thanks to our fireman and police officer that visited, the children were able to learn about what they need to do in an emergency, and even tried on some of their gear! Our last week, the children did a lot of baking and tasted some of their creations to get us in the holiday spirit. There are still spaces available to share a story or holiday craft for the month of December on our information board! We are looking forward to a lot of holiday activities in the month of December including gingerbread men, decorating ornaments and singing!

As winter approaches, please make sure that you are sending appropriate clothing for your child. This includes a heavy jacket, hats, gloves, boots etc. As the weather permits, we plan on taking the children outside for at least 30 minutes to work on gross motor skills and activities. In addition, leaving a few extra pairs of outdoor clothing to be labeled and placed in your child's school container is recommended. At school we have been striving toward continual self-help strategies. Here is a great self-help strategy to try at home: Having your child put their coat on by themselves ("Tag to the Toes"). Make sure that your child's coat has some type of tag and ask them to place it by their toes on the ground facing outward. Then, have them bend down and put their arms in the coat holes. Lastly, have your child use his/her arms in a circular motion to 'flip' the coat over and around on to their body. This tip will create more independence in having your child dress themselves at home and at school. Note: We are looking for donations of old holiday cards and wrapping paper for our classroom for the month of December!

### **Kim & Chrissy's Class**

We cannot believe how fast time is flying this school year! Here we are in December already. Wow! The last two weeks of November were spent on a grocery store unit, which was a huge hit! This unit focused hit on some important math concepts, such as money and putting things in order by size and shape. Environmental print was also introduced into this unit as children were encouraged to bring in words from home that they could read. Environmental print is a great way to introduce literacy and is great practice for your beginning reader. This unit also encouraged social interaction between the children; they were working on taking turns in the grocery store, sharing, and actually taking on the roll of a worker in a grocery store (cashier, cart person, stock person, and customer). It was great to watch the children play out these roles, and the children really enjoyed the grocery store unit!

The first two weeks of December have focused on an Arctic unit. The children have really enjoyed playing in the pretend snow and Arctic animals in the sensory table. This unit has hit some important math concepts. We have been working on counting and one to one correspondence through games. We have also been introducing simple addition problems through games as well. The children have really enjoyed talking and sharing what they know about the Arctic, and especially about the animals that live there. Many science concepts have been focused on, which the children love. We talked about the fat/blubber that keeps us and animals warm. We passed around "blubber" for the children to feel; the children had great questions, and we had a great discussion! We also talked ice and the cold of the Arctic and played a "pass the ice cube" game; we predict how many times we can pass an ice cube around to each person's hand before it completely melts away. The children really enjoy science activities. We have continued working on reading; we have been continually adding words to our ABC book and talking about the letter/ sound the words start with.

As we get ready for Christmas break, we will end our December with Christmas fun! We will learn songs, play games, and make special gifts for parents! It has been a busy few weeks, but it has been fun! Thank you for the parents who have volunteered to come in and read their favorite

stories! Also, just another reminder to keep in mind that we do go outside almost every day (weather permitting); as it continues to get colder, we will still go outside unless the wind chill does not allow us to (Andrea checks each morning and lets us know then). So please remember hats, mittens, gloves, boots, and snow pants for your child. Snow pants and boots may stay in your child's cubby! Lastly, please remember that we are always available if at any time you have any questions, concerns, or ever need something from us; feel free to let us know at any time!

### **Kelly's Class**

We were so busy having fun, that November just seemed to fly by! We began the month learning about "Things That Go" and all different types of transportation. We made license plate rubbings, drove around in box vehicles, and turned our box building into a car wash. We ended the unit with an all-school paper airplane flying contest. Next we spent a few weeks "Baking with Friends". We made glue and shaving cream cupcake art, played lots of cookie games, and ate rainbow toast. We even sculpted with edible Funfetti playdough and then ate our work! As Thanksgiving drew nearer, we also talked about many of the things and people we are thankful to have in our lives. November was full of new and exciting learning experiences for everyone!

During December, we are looking forward to sharing the holiday season with our families. If you have not done so already, and your schedule allows, you are invited to come in and share a family holiday tradition (art project or craft) and/or your child's favorite story. Look for the sign up sheet outside our classroom. In addition to sharing in family traditions, we will also be learning about "Gingerbread". We will be transforming our box building into a kid-sized gingerbread house and reading many different versions of the gingerbread man story. Finally, we will spend a few weeks learning about the holidays. We will touch on Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa.

Finally, I'd like to pass along a few friendly reminders. As the weather gets colder and snow begins to fall, please start thinking about sending hats, gloves, scarves, boots, and snow pants in with your child. (Please label them with their name.) We will be going outside daily, so please send your

child in appropriate clothing for the weather. Independence in getting dressed for outside is one of our goals. You might try working with your child on zipping coats, putting on gloves, and putting on snow pants at home for practice. Also, we are collecting empty gallon milk jugs for a project in January. Thank you all for donating and please keep them coming. Finally, we are currently collecting holiday wrapping paper scraps and old holiday cards as well. If you have any, we would greatly appreciate it. If not, you might save them from this holiday season and think about donating them in January for next year.

### **Miss Robyn and Miss Sue's Class**

Sharing family traditions has given our classroom a warm, comfortable feeling as we approach the holidays. The children have been eager to learn how each family celebrates the holidays. They light up when a special visitor walks into the room. Thank you to everyone who signed-up to share their own holiday traditions and stories!

Daily journaling has become a favorite part of our morning as the children move from scribbling to representational drawing and begin to add letters and words to tell about their work. Each day a few children share their work with the rest of the class and call on friends to give them comments or ask questions about what they worked on in their journals. They are very proud of their journals and are always eager to share. To encourage creativity, the connection between the written and spoken word, and fine motor practice at home, create a writing center for your child. Add crayons, markers, gel pens, stamps, envelopes, a variety of paper, and little notebooks.

Upcoming Themes: Polar Animals, Winter, and Dinosaurs



Have a wonderful winter break! Don't forget to cuddle up and read a few good books!