

HOOT-N- HOLLER



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THE RICHARD F. BLAKE CHILDREN'S CENTER

65 HORSEHILL ROAD, CEDAR KNOLLS, NJ

Quarterly Newsletter

www.greatermorristownymca.org

A newsletter for enrolled families of the Blake Center

LETTER FROM THE BLAKE CENTER ADMINISTRATION

We are off to a fantastic start to the first half of the school year at The Blake Center! We are in full swing with our Creative Curriculum and have learned about trees and are now learning about buildings. Our teachers have been so creative with our lessons and making it a great learning experience for all.

Fireman Dan came with his fire truck for Fire Safety Month in October. All children had a chance to see the truck! We also had a Scholastic Book Fair in October, which was a great success. We believe strongly in promoting literacy for all children. We thank our parent volunteers for assisting us during the fairs.

The Blake Center also participated in Operation Gratitude. Families and staff members from both the Blake Center and the YMCA donated items on wish lists for troops overseas.

In November, each classroom collected food for those in need. In December, we participated in Adopt a Family, where we continued to give to those in need. Additionally, we will be hosted our Holiday Sing-along.

We are excited for what the new year has in store for our center and are wishing everyone happy and healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

The Blake Center Administration



STAFF WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Jen C. – 5 years July 1st

Jessica G. – 5 years August 20th

Marta L. – 20 years September 7th

KINDERCAMP 2024

(FOR CHILDREN STARTING
KINDERGARTEN IN SEPT. 2024)

Camp runs June 24th to August 16th,
2024.

This full day program is an expanded program at our Richard F. Blake Children's Center that helps prepare your child for Kindergarten, all while they enjoy their first taste of summer camp. The Blake Center is a nut-free environment and is strictly enforced. Kinder Campers Enjoy: Weekly themed activities, arts and crafts, field trips, STEAM, cooking, recreational swim at the YMCA, and swim lessons.

Registration is on-line at:
www.greatermorristownymca.org. You may purchase additional shirts for \$10/each on-line as well. Please call 973.984.2255 for additional information.

Registration is open to those who already attend the Blake Center.

INFANT & WADDLER UPDATE

Infants and Waddlers have had a busy Fall. A few infants transitioned to the Waddler room and a few Waddlers transitioned to Toddler 1 room. They all looked very cute in their costumes as they participated in the Halloween Parade. We enjoyed some summer like weather outside before it gets too cold. We are looking forward to the holidays and continuing to watch our babies grow and become more independent.



TODDLER UPDATE

Over the past few months, the toddlers celebrated Fall by exploring apples, pumpkins and gourds. They talked about the different colors, shapes, sizes and textures as well. Everyone enjoyed our multiple sensory bins and especially our apple and jack-o'-lantern volcanoes. This month, our study is "Being Thankful". We will be learning about gratitude and how to express it. We will also be sending home a feather template for families to decorate with their child. Throughout the rest of the month, the toddlers will be exploring leaves, branches, and acorns. The best part, they will go on nature walks too!



PRESCHOOL UPDATE

This month all our preschool classes are studying about TREES! We are learning how trees help us grow such as keeping our air clean, providing us with food and much more. We are also learning how we can use trees for different things such as paper, books, blocks, etc. Some of our preschool two and three have an opportunity to walk to the YMCA each week for swim classes. The children are under the supervision of instructors that teach them to stay safe in the pool. The children also practice maintaining their personal belongings as well as getting themselves dressed with little or no assistance. In the midst of us learning about trees; we are also learning how to interact with each other. We are learning how to play with each other, take turns, share, talk with each other and figuring out how to problem solve various situations.



STAFF UPDATES

Ms. Megan has returned from Maternity Leave on September 27th. We are thrilled to announce her promotion to Assistant Director.

Mr. Justin has joined our team as the new Office Manager. You might know him from our Summer Camp program! He will be starting out in a part-time capacity and will become full-time in 2024.

Ms. Kayley has joined our team as our preschool floater!

Ms. Catalina who worked Kindercamp this year, has now joined the team as a part-time teaching assistant in the afternoons.

Ms. Manal returned to the Blake Center team in one of the Waddler rooms alongside Ms. Marleen. We are happy to have her back!

Ms. Jaime graduated from Montclair State University with a Bachelor's in family science and human development. This will be her second year teaching. We are happy to have her joining our team.

Ms. Patty has been an early childhood teacher for 26 years and has joined us as a preschool expansion teacher. She is excited to be part of the Blake Center!

Ms. Katie has been an early childhood teacher for a number of years. We are very excited to have Katie working as a preschool expansion teacher at the Blake Center.

Right Images starting from Top Left: Ms. Megan, Mr. Justin, Ms. Kayley, Ms. Catalina, and Ms. Manal





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PAST & UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 13th - We did a Preschool Holiday Singalong. Each Preschool section sang two songs in the gym. At the end, all the sections joined together to sing Feliz Navidad and We Wish You A Merry Christmas.
- December 21st - The district classrooms watched The Polar Express in the gym with hot chocolate.
- January 17th - A nutritionist is coming to speak with the parents.
- February 2nd - Dentist from Kidz World Pediatric Dentistry is coming for National Children's Dental Health Month.
- February 14th - Death by Chocolate staff event.
- March 6th - Chicks are coming!

IMPORTANT CLOSURE TO REMEMBER !

We will be closed on Monday, February 19th
for a Staff Development Day.

WE'RE HIRING!

At the Richard F. Blake Children's Center, we are always looking for qualified individuals who love working with children. We offer a competitive salary, great benefits, free gym memberships and flexible schedules. Please call us at 973.984.2255 with any questions. We also accept volunteers!

