

Wyatt Nursery MACCPF Programs for Families

Keeping you connected to your Centre...always caring to enhance your child's world

January Newsletter

Welcome to 2012! We have a lot of fun activities planned for the New Year! I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome 2 new friends to our classroom. A BIG WELCOME to Alina, Kyla. We look forward to getting to know you and becoming friends very soon.

A reminder that we will do our best to be outside on days when the wind-chill is mild and the sun is shining!

We are planning an indoor beach party on Thursday January 26th. We will set up two small plastic pools and enjoy our own beach in the area by our lockers! The children are encouraged to bring a bathing suit and a labeled towel to have fun in the indoor sun. If your child wants to put their bathing on underneath their clothes that morning that would also work. Because this is not our usual day at school, the children may feel unsure about participating. This is totally normal; just bring your child's clothes in a bag and we will help them change here at school. Please note we will not be playing outside on that day.

Also please note we be switching our February 9th class from the morning to the afternoon for this date only. We are going to have a special classroom visitor; the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra will be visiting our classroom to do a special presentation. I have attached their brochure so you can see what we will be participating in. Class times for that day only will be 12:45-3:00. Please note the presentation starts promptly at 1:00 so please try to be a few minutes early.

I am really excited that we get the chance to participate in this program; I have tried in previous years to book this group, but it fills up really quickly!

We were only here two weeks in December and we were so focused on Christmas that it flew by. The children were very excited to make presents for all their families and even more excited to have as much tape as needed to wrap them. Thank goodness we bought it in bulk because we used a lot of it! All the children made their presents on their own, with no help from us; treasure it for years to come!

January Calendar

- 10 Happy New Year Noise Makers
- 12 New Year's Hats
- 15 Science: Star Gazer
- 17 Drama: Puppet Show with our new Multi-cultural Set
- 19 Kid's Cook: Mini Banana Splits
- 24 Show and Share (please let your child pick something they would like to share with their friends.)
- 26 Indoor Pool Party (please send your child's swim suit and towel (we will be playing in two small wading pools- more details below)
- 31 Outdoor snow painting!

Joshua celebrates his birthday on January 13th!

Recipe of the Month – Mini Banana Splits

[Martha Stewart.com](http://MarthaStewart.com)



Ingredients:

1/2 cup heavy cream
3 bananas, peeled and sliced diagonally into 1/4-inch-thick rounds
1 pint frozen yogurt
Strawberry Sauce to Make 3/4 Cup
Caramel Sauce

Directions:

Whip cream to soft peaks; set aside. Place banana slices around inside edges of six small bowls. Fill with a scoop of frozen yogurt; top with strawberry or caramel sauce, if desired, and whipped cream.

Activities to Beat the Winter Blues

Design Your Own Fun

One of the best ways to pass whole afternoons in a blur of focused fun is a new art project. Many household items can be creatively employed, or stock up on special supplies at art and toy stores. Jan Whitted, owner of ArtBeat in Arlington, MA, has firsthand experience entertaining her own stir crazy kids, so she's got plenty of advice, including a tip for controlling the chaos. "Make sure everything gets put away before you go onto anything else," she says.

Here are some of her tried-and-true favorites:

Let kids redecorate something in your home, such as a wall or their bedroom door. For less commitment, decorate a large poster and use it to change an area's appearance. Or paint a floor cloth, lampshade or placemats.

Kids love collage. Suggest they pick their favorite color, then look through magazines and catalogs, and cut out pictures or words in that color. Glue the images on a piece of poster board, or use collage board, which has a self-adhesive side. After pressing the images onto the sticky side, sprinkle with glitter or sand, which sticks to the bare spots.

Create self-portraits. Whitted recalls her mother tracing her outline on pieces of butcher paper. Kids can decorate their self-portrait with paint, markers or crayons. Yarn makes great hair.

Make stamps by carving designs in potatoes or erasers, and then print using acrylic paint. Or do nature prints with leaves from trees or houseplants.

Make your own bubbles by placing dish detergent and water in an unbreakable bottle. Use pipe cleaners or straw to make bubble wands in unusual shapes.

Create three-dimensional collages by pasting elbow macaroni, spaghetti or oatmeal onto paper and then painting over them with watercolors when they dry.

Drown Out Boredom

When kids go stir crazy, they often need to shake things up and make some noise. Lorraine Lee Hammond, a music teacher, has tips for inexpensive and easy ways to make a joyous sound. Here are some favorites:

Make your own harp by stretching rubber bands over the open mouth of a coffee can. Rubber bands of different sizes will create different tones.

Fashion a simple shaker from a water or soda bottle, filled with rice, dry beans or corn. Lentils will sound different than kidney beans, and adding cornmeal changes the tone, too. Tape the lid down to prevent spilling, then add percussion to your favorite song.

Play some festive music, use a spoon as a baton to conduct the music, and cut loose, dancing and playing along with your harp and shaker. Plan a parade route and march around to the music, or invent your own songs.

Make up your own songs. If you have a simple xylophone or keyboard, pull it out. Parents can suggest a topic, from airplanes to ice cream. Record the songs for years to come. "To hear that voice 20 years later is a wonderful thing," Hammond says.

Artist of the Month

Manal Age 4

