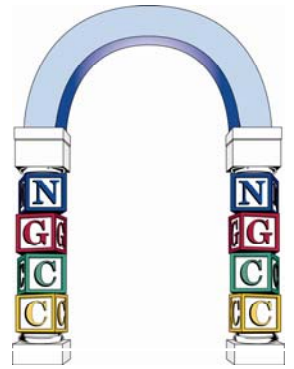




ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Emmett and his mother Nancy from our Natick school review some of his work in Pre-K.

The children have already met some wonderful Letter People and are excited to see who's next to include in their writing and math journals.



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Issue 48

Next Generation Children's Centers *Parent* Communication Connection

CELEBRATIONS - DONNA KELLEHER

It's the time of year where we turn our thoughts to family, celebrating the change of seasons and looking forward to the new year.

After record-breaking weather and continuing uncertainty in 2011, many are looking for 2012 to be a change for the better. Well, I have a special announcement that will help start the new year off in a positive way: Next Generation Children's Centers will **NOT** be increasing our tuition in January.

I want to keep our schools current enrollment strong and to continue to add to our numbers to offset the rising costs of supplies—that's where YOU, our parents, come in. Our strategy is a simple one: Happy parents refer Next Generation to other families, our enrollment grows and costs are off-set. With our "Points for Parents" referral program, parents who have referrals that enroll get a percent off their tuition—and the positive trend continues!

As you have read from me many times, we will still deliver on our promises of engaging curriculum, dedicated educators and services for busy families—including our newly re-vamped menu with our new food vendor US Foods. We are going to be adding to our menu selections and have included more information on the menu (which is also posted on-line under the school page) so parents get a holistic picture of what is delivered to our classrooms daily.

I want to thank you again for your recommendation of NGCC to others looking for childcare and hope that your family enjoys your long holiday weekend!

Up Coming Holiday Closings:

Thurs. & Friday, November 24th & 25th—Thanksgiving
Monday, December 26th—Christmas Holiday Observance
Monday, January 2nd—New Year's Day Observance

PARENT REMINDERS

DCF Gift Drive :

It's that time of year again! NGCC is hosting our **5th Annual Gift Drive** for children who are a part of the Department of Children and Families (formerly DSS).

This drive for children in need over the holiday season has always been extremely successful. To-date, NGCC families and staff have helped make the season brighter for more than 5,000 children! Your generosity is greatly appreciated and we hope to help every child on our list!

Please pick up a name/gift request on our front bulletin board. On **Friday, December 9th**, all gifts are due to our schools for pick-up by the various DCF branches to make sure they are delivered on-time to the children. **Thank you!**



Winter Weather Cubbie Supplies:

Please ensure your child has winter-weather clothes in their cubbies with snow pants, boots, extra socks, gloves and a hat. Weather permitting, we are going outside!

Child Illness Policy:

Please give NGCC a call if your child is going to be staying home due to illness. A child returning after an illness should be fever-free for 24 hours without medication and be able to participate in normal daily activities.

Curriculum Corner – Keeping Home and School Connected

ALPHABET SOUP —CYNTHIA PARKER M. ED.

By Pre-Kindergarten, we begin to formally provide instruction on letter recognition and writing. Our Letter People Program introduces the children to a new Letter Person each week, thus working with the children on a letters' upper and lowercase form and sound. In addition, children are introduced to journaling to practice their writing skills. Un-lined paper is used so that the focus can be on the formation of the letter, regardless of size.

In Kindergarten, we continue this literacy growth by working on reading skills as well as writing skills. Children work on site words and build into reading text. In terms of writing, not only forming letters using lined paper but also being able to put words together and begin to write sentences and short stories.

Prior to this formal instruction, we offer a literacy rich environment that exposes your child to reading and writing to build on some important skills necessary to be a good reader.

You can support your child's reading readiness skills in the following way:

- Rhyming – read books with rhyming text, play name games and sing rhyming songs (Dr. Jean has great songs)
- Book Knowledge – point to words as you read reinforcing the connection between words spoken and text as well that words are read in a left to right direction
- Phonemics – rather than focusing on which letter makes what sound, focus on the sounds that come from the word – the first sound and the last sound heard
- Comprehension- ask questions while reading, make guesses about what might happen next or use the cover to predict what the story may be about. Remember a good reader not only sounds out words properly, but also understands what is being read
- Focus on personally meaningful letters. Once your child shows an interest in letters, begin with letters such as the first letter of his/her name and build from there.
- Recognize letters and words everywhere in your environment – stop signs, exit signs, food labels
- Provide access to writing tools – paper and pencil, magna doodles, chalk and chalkboards
- Build fine motors with play dough, Legos and lacing cards