## CALENDAR REMINDERS

### MSCC Closures:

Closed for Winter Break from December 22, 2012 to January 6, 2013

(While we are closed, we will be seeing family and friends and having general maintenance around the building including rooms painted, and floors and carpets cleaned.)

January 21, 2013 - Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

### Schedule Change Deadline

December 15th is the deadline to change your schedule for Winter term. Please submit your written request to the main office.

### Parent Council Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for January 17th. Watch for flyers and an email for details.

### Pancake Breakfast

Will be held on January 25th more details to follow.

### Coffee with the Director

February 12th, we will be serving coffee in the lobby.

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**Moss Street has a lot to be thankful for……...**

We would like to express our gratitude to Chi Omega who made Moss Street one of the recipient of their fundraiser week in November. Chi Omega gave Moss Street $1,000 from the fundraisers. We are very thankful to them.

Moss Street Staff and Student Staff would like to thank the families for all the goodies that came in during staff appreciation week. They were all so delicious. We all felt very loved and appreciated. Special thanks to the Parent Council and Danielle Perry.

We would like thank the Moss Street families and staff who participated in our Fall Term fundraisers, Makit Plates, eScrip, T-Shirt sales and the Harvest Carnival. Funds raised will be allocated with consideration of recommendations made by the Parent Council and Staff which is another reason why we encourage your attendance at the Parent Council meeting Thursday, January 17th.

Thank you again for all your support!
Moss Streets Meal Program

As we close out the year I would like to spotlight our center wide food program. I am quite proud of our meal at Moss Street because I feel that they provide a valuable service to families and children. At Moss Street we serve breakfast, lunch and snack to each child and staff. Each meets the USDA meal standards and the even higher standards of our kitchen coordinator, Sigrid and the children.

Each month Sigrid plans the meal she will serve. She uses the experience she gained as an early childhood teacher, the 26 years of experience at Moss Street and her well researched vendors and products to make these menus superior. She has been recruited by our USDA auditors to be a mentor for other food programs in the state.

Each day Sigrid and her staff of about 12 student staff prepare about 253 meals, even more on no school days or for special events. Each month those meals add up to about 5,314. The student staff in the classrooms helps with food preparation in assorted ways including, slicing fruit, making French toast, scrambling eggs, making toast, and setting up each table in the classrooms.

In addition to making sure that each child at Moss Street is well fed, the meal program enhances our curriculum. We eat much like a family, in fact; USDA refers to our style as, “family style”. This means that we sit together at the table and pass food around the table for each child and adult to serve themselves. This simple routine gives teachers the opportunity to work on social skills, fine motor, adaptive and help us further our sense of community. It is obvious at even the youngest ages that the ability to serve oneself is empowering and this intern seems to encourage them to try new foods. In each age group, we encourage staff to eat along with the children, the same foods. This helps model for the children the skills, pace and consumptions for the children.

As the children transition to the oldest groups there meal style is, cafeteria style. They take their food items from a buffet line and then join their friends at a table for conversation and food. This most resembles the service style they experience at school. We give the children plenty of time to eat, so that they do not feel that they are choosing eating over their favorite activities. When they are done, they practice the valuable skills of cleaning up after themselves, recycling and being part of a group.

While we are not able to individualize to meet the desires of every family at Moss Street I feel that Sigrid and her staff have found ways to provide fantastic alternatives for children whose diets are restricted for a variety of reasons while still maintaining the cost and integrity of the food program for all the children at Moss Street.

I appreciate the support that families and Moss Street provide us to be able to offer meals to each child who attends.

Sincerely,
Bec
Early Sprouts news…

This past month the classrooms have continued to focus on Fall vegetables and fruits, with recipes including Cranberry Maple Smoothies, Broccoli Sesame Stir-fry, Potato Latkes, Carrot Cookies, and Caramelized Pears. Once again, the success of the “classroom cooking” process is amazing, and the children enjoyed all of the vegetables they tried. The Potato Latkes were especially fun as they tested the kids’ motor skills as they grated potatoes (tough for preschoolers!), and as it led us to learn about Hannukah.

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Officer Adam.....

Officer Adam has been visiting Moss Street for almost a year. Once a month, he reads and talks to the preschoolers and school age children. He will talk about varies subjects related to his work. On his first visit here, he passed out badges and stickers to all the children. On another visit he talked about safety issues, another time he brought his bike and another time he brought his partner to talk about the importance of team work. The children very much look forward to seeing him. They have learned to think of police officers as friendly and helpful instead of scary. Unfortunately, his schedule has changed and he will no longer be able to visit Moss Street. We will miss him. Goodbye, Officer Adam and Thank you!!!