



# Stepping Stones

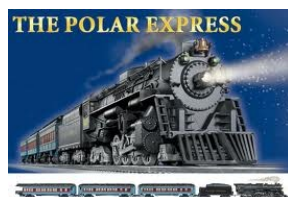


## All Aboard for the Squirrels

*The Squirrels recently took a ride on the Polar Express.*

*After reading the book The Polar Express, they decided to take their own journey. They decorated train cars by counting, cutting, and gluing wheels and windows. Just like the kids in the book, the Squirrels wore their pajamas for their special train ride. Cuddled up with blankets and slippers, the Squirrels watched the*

*movie The Polar Express. Just like magic, they had waitresses bring them hot chocolate and cookies when the snack in the movie was served and a conductor showed up with tickets when they needed them. At the end, every Squirrel heard the bell ring.*



**All TCDN sites and the Administration Office will be closed on Monday February 20th, for the Presidents Day Holiday.**

## Events Calendar

### January

- 1-2 Public Schools Closed- TCDN Closed
- 3 Schools re-open TCDN All Programs OPEN
- 15 Media Theatre -The Sound of Music 3pm
- 16 Public Schools Closed- TCDN Closed- In-service Day
- 24 Board meeting- WASC 7:30p

### February

- 1 ASC STAFF MEETING - SASC - 6:30 to 8:00
- 6-10 Parent Teach Conference Available- Preschool/ Explorer
- 17 Public School Closed - TCDN OPEN - *Special registration needed for Explorers and After School Clubs*
- 20 Public School Closed - *TCDN CLOSED - Holiday*
- 28 Board Meeting -Preschool- 7:30



## TCDN Office Contact Information

301 N. Chester Road, Swarthmore, PA 19081  
Ph: 610-544-4555 Fx: 610-604-9740  
Director- Cindy Murray x224 cindy@tcdn.org  
Finance Manager- Maureen Koch x222 maureen@tcdn.org  
Office Administrator- Michele Corbin x221 michele@tcdn.org

## 2011 Tuition Statements

*2011 tuition payment reports will be included with your February invoice. If you receive your invoice statement via e-mail, you will receive your year-end tuition report in the same format. The invoices and statements will be distributed in mid-January. Contact Maureen Koch, Finance Manager, if you have any questions.*



Finance Corner

Sign Up for TCDN's  
Green Billing

Have tuition bills come directly to you via email. Contact Maureen Koch for more information at [Maureen@tcdn.org](mailto:Maureen@tcdn.org) or 610-544-4555 x222

## Happy Holiday's From the OASC

Happy Holidays from the OASC!! December has not only brought us some chilly weather, but fun visitors too! We did some acting exercises with Creative Theater and learned about Tae Kwon Do.

With the holidays around the corner, there have been lots of fun activities to celebrate different cultures. We also celebrated Bryan's

birthday! The arrival of the cold weather makes for chilly outside play, so the OASC staff would like to remind children and parents that coats must be worn outside.

To the OASC parents: We (OASC staff) would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your very gener-

ous holiday gifts, it was very much appreciated. Hope you had a wonderful holiday season!!



## TCDN's Nutrition Task Force

Cindy Murray, Michele Corbin, Sara Nath, Elizabeth Spivey, and co-chairs Sara Fritz and Charlotte Markey comprise TCDN's Nutrition Task Force. They are working diligently to evaluate the cost and nutritional value of all of the foods provided to children in TCDN's various programs. In the months ahead, look for changes to the preschoolers' lunch and snack menu, a policy about sweets, and education for children about nutrition. If you have suggestions for menu revisions or comments or questions about nutrition at TCDN, email Charlotte at [chmarkey@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:chmarkey@camden.rutgers.edu).

### *Crispy Oven Chicken Fingers*

#### Ingredients

- 2 cup(s) [buttermilk](#)
- 2 clove(s) garlic, crushed
- 1 tablespoon(s) hot-pepper [sauce](#)
- 1 teaspoon(s) [kosher salt](#)
- 1 teaspoon(s) fresh-ground pepper
- 2 pound(s) boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 3- by 1/2-inch strips
- 1 package(s) (7-ounce) sesame crispbread, such as WASA
- 6 tablespoon(s) unsalted [butter](#), melted



#### Directions

Combine the buttermilk, garlic, hot-pepper sauce, [salt](#), and pepper in a large bowl. Add the chicken, cover, and refrigerate for 2 hours or up to 12 hours. Heat the oven to 400 degrees F. Lightly coat 2 [baking](#) pans with oil and set aside.

Crush the crispbread into coarse crumbs and place the crumbs in a large, shallow baking dish, toss in the melted butter, and set aside. Remove the chicken from the marinade and coat with the crumbs. Place on the prepared pans and [bake](#), turning once, until golden and crisp — about 25 minutes.

## December Duckling Gratitude

Every day our little Ducklings inspire gratitude in teachers for our time together. This poem is our expression of gratitude for all our little Ducklings....

We are grateful to...

**Thomas**, for his wide-eyed, ear-to-ear smile that lasts throughout the day and creative use of furniture.

**Asha**, for her charming, rambling, and engaging babbling on occasions which inspire her flow of pre-verbal communication.

**Liam**, as he offers his friendly assistance throughout routine AM and PM teacher jobs. What a wonderful helper he is!

**Claire**, as she directs her focus within the cozy story corner as she explores numerous books and, marvels at Debbie's, "Bubbles!"

**Joya**, for her energetic enthusiasm during musical moments while playing instruments, singing out clearly, and moving rhythmically with friends.

**Teagan**, for her concerted efforts during art activities, showing deep concentration while creating her masterpieces.

**Jonathan**, for his playful experiments with puppets, whom he animates with deep voices.

**Leah**, queen of dress-ups, who utilizes her own hat and gloves while pretending to be 'mom', and who becomes a party-goer as she shakes scarves to Beach Boys' tunes.

**Billy**, as he knowingly drops the toy stethoscope down the front of each "patient's" shirt.

And **Marley**, who cheers with delight upon her completion of the cookie puzzle.

**Three cheers for our Ducklings!**

Jeanne, Joe, and Barbara

## Wishing for Snow!

### The Crickets are wishing for Snow

We are checking the forecast daily. When it finally snows...

Katie- Will make a snow angel

Eugene- Will make a snowman wearing a magician's hat.

Grace Qu- Will jump in the snow

Christina- Will make foot prints

Maeve- will make snowballs and build a snowman

Anwen- Will shovel and go sledding with big sister Lilian

Kaelyn- Will make a snow fort

Nolen- Will build a snow dinosaur and spray it red with snow paint

## Explorers Learning the Value of Money

Happy New Year! Each year we are amazed by the kindness and generosity of our families and thank you all for the many gifts we received. Hopefully everyone had an enjoyable break filled with family and fun. The teachers are looking forward to more fun adventures with the Explorers as our year continues.

The month of December was filled with excitement as the children anticipated the upcoming holidays. The children practiced numbers and learned about money. The Explorers learned the name of each coin and its value, practiced making different

amounts with change, shopped at the site with tickets and went on a real shopping trip with real money! We were so proud to see the children make thoughtful purchases for family members at the Trinity Thrift Shop. The women who run the shop were very helpful. The children also created winter washes, printed snowflakes, made snowman cards and cute snowy owls. The group enjoyed a pizza lunch on the last day before our vacation.

We have been collecting non perishable foods for City Team Ministries in Chester. Any donations would be

greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the site.

The staff spent many days before the holiday preparing for our site to be painted and worked hard on Monday January 2nd, to put everything back in place. It is nice to have our space looking so clean and new.



## Future Engineers at the WASC

WASC wishes everyone a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year. What a surprise WASC saw when we returned from winter break. Our orange seeds on the game cabinet had sprouted in sand, mulch, soil and dirt. We decided the seeds near the window are not growing because of the cold, even though the seeds do receive sunlight.

Inside WASC is developing future engineers by construct-

ing pathways for marbles with ramps, blocks and tubes. We are all amazed at the thought process the children are using to move marbles from place to place. The children are using their computer skills to play Monopoly, Backyard Basketball and Soccer.



Activities are planned for MLK Day. WASC will celebrate Chinese New Year with noodle soup and Fortune cookies. WASC is busy with activities promoting cultural awareness. We will be continuing our community involvement in the upcoming months.



## Cozy Up in the Owl Room

The month of December was full of fun and sharing of family traditions. Naomi's mom came for a visit and talked about Hanukkah. She shared donuts and gave each child a dreidel. Everyone had a great time.



PJ Day was a huge success!! We got out our blankets and sat down on the floor to watch Frosty and Rudolph. The children enjoyed eating cupcakes and drinking hot chocolate. It was a great way to start the winter break.



We hope everyone enjoyed the Winter Concert and the treats the children made for you.

Jackie & Scott  
Owl Room Teachers

## Giving Back to the Community

TCDN is collecting non perishable food and other items of need for City Team ([cityteam.org](http://cityteam.org)), a non profit organization in Chester who provide the following:

- ♦ Hot meals, safe shelter and decent clothing to families in need
- ♦ Diapers, formula and other baby items to families in need
- ♦ Connect with low income families who may not need shelter, but need additional food to help stretch funds

If you are able, please place all donations in the box located at your child's site, and thank you for your support.

City Team has the greatest need for the following, but are grateful for all items.

Can Tuna	Can Chicken	Can Vegetables	Beans	Peanut Butter
Beef Stew	Pasta	Rice	Tomato Sauce	Chef boy ar dee
	Tomato Paste	Canned Fruit		Baby Items

## **TCDN WEATHER EMERGENCY CLOSING INFORMATION**

*In the event of any severe weather conditions (including excessive heat), TCDN will adhere to the schedule determined by the WSSD for each individual school site.*

*If the School District does not open for the day, TCDN will not open.*

*If the School District opens two hours late, TCDN will plan to open the Before School Club and Preschool programs one hour late, at 8:15.*

*Every attempt will be made to provide information by 6:00am (see ways to be notified at the bottom of this section).*

*If the School District dismisses early or closes at 3:30 and cancels their after school activities, the After School Clubs will not open. All Explorers (Kindergarten) will need to be picked up at the same time as the WSSD closing time. The Preschool will close one hour after the WSSD closing time. This will allow time for older children to be picked up at WSSD before picking up the youngest children. If children remain at any of the programs past the closing time, and parents have not been in touch with staff to explain the delay, staff will contact your emergency contacts. If you know that you will not be able to get to TCDN on time, please set up for your emergency contacts to pick up your child (ren) on time. For the safety of the families and staff, every attempt will be made to close TCDN programs as early as possible.*

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**When you hear that a storm is pending and may start during the day, please check for information regularly. WSSD closes before travel conditions become poor. Looking out of the window is not a good indication of what may be happening. Listed below are the best ways to find out what is happening for TCDN:**

1. Watch CBS3 or WPVI TV6
2. Listen to KYW News Radio 1060 (our number is 3215)
3. Go to [www.kyw1060.com](http://www.kyw1060.com)
4. Go to [www.6abc.com](http://www.6abc.com) for closings. **You can also sign up with 6abc for automatic emails and/or phone calls for TCDN and WSSD closing notifications.** As soon as we notify them, they will notify you.
5. On wireless devices, go to [www.6abctogo.com](http://www.6abctogo.com)
6. Go to our website at [www.tcdn.org](http://www.tcdn.org)

*If you are not able to be near a radio, TV, or computer, please notify a family member, co-worker, or friend to call you when the information is made public, or notify your emergency contacts to watch for notification and pick up your child (ren) for you.*

*We have learned that it is ineffective for parents to be notified directly by TCDN. We do not have the capacity to do this in the timely and efficient way to ensure the notification and consequently the safety of the children.*

## A Fresh and Clean SASC

2011 has come and gone and the Swarthmore After School Club is ready for the new year. Be sure to stop by to check out our new paint job. The painters worked hard over the winter break to get all our surfaces and cubbies looking fresh and clean, and the children really like the new look. As we welcome in 2012, many of the children are looking forward to a variety of different activities. Some activities to look forward to are crayon resist paintings, BINGO, marshmallow structures and trivia. The children are also continuing to work on some longer term projects that include writing their own play. All of these activities are here to help the children communicate, have fun together and keep away the wintertime blues. Speaking of wintertime, it is getting colder as we head deeper into winter and the staff is doing their best to help remind children to wear hats, gloves and coats when needed.

A special thanks to Wenzhao Meng, Daniel Jing's mother, for coming in before the holiday break and sharing a family tradition with the children of SASC. Wenzhao helped the children make pork dumplings for project time, and the children had a blast both creating and eating their own authentic Chinese dumplings.



## Friendships at the NPASC

**NPASC kids wrote their answers to the question:  
What do you like about your friends. Here's what they had to say:**

I like my friend because he is funny.

I like my friends because they are helpful.

I like about my friend is that they are nice.

I like my friends because they play with me.

I like that my friend likes sports.

I too like that my friend likes sports.

Sharing

Playing

I like how my friends stand by me.

Best friend

Eric is nice.

They are fun to play with.

I like friends they are nice.

I like my friends because the games are good.

My friends are kind, sharing, and funny.

I like friends.





*Thank You!*



*Thank you to all TCDN families and friends who supported the Cookie Walk this year. Thank you to those families and friends who baked the awesome cookies and thank you to those families and friends who came out to the cookie walk. Fun was had by all. Santa gave out candy canes, children had the opportunity to create a holiday craft, an Explorer family won the gift basket, and everyone went home with delicious baked goods. Hope to see all of our TCDN families and friends at the Cookie Walk next year!*

*Also if you donated cookies as part of your coop contribution, please email Michele and she will remove your name from our list. Thank you!*

TCDN Scrip Gift Card Order Forms are Available All Year Long!

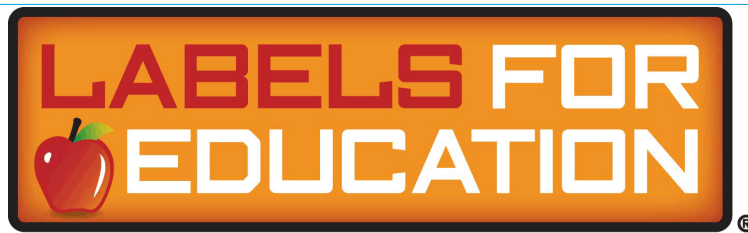
Did you know that Scrip Gift Card orders can be placed all year long? Giving gifts could not be easier. Just fill out an order form with your desired gift cards, return the form to the TCDN office with your payment, and your gift cards will be delivered to your child's site for pick up upon delivery.

**United  
Way**



Remember TCDN when making your pledges to United Way. Our DONOR OPTION numbers are:

SE Delco	#1155
SE PA	#1155
United Way of DE	#3890



ARTS • ATHLETICS • ACADEMICS

TCDN is collecting Labels for Education. Please help to support our programs by clipping the Labels for Education from many participating products. Our programs will accumulate points which will be used to purchase educational resources. This is done in 3 easy steps.

- ◇ Clip and save UPC's and beverage caps from participating Labels for Education products.
- ◇ Drop off the UPC's at the TCDN office or your child's site.

◇ TCDN can redeem points for FREE educational resources.

Here is a list of many parent companies that participate in Labels for Education.

- ◇ BIC Pens
- ◇ Pop- Secret
- ◇ Spaghettios
- ◇ WOLFGANG PUCK
- ◇ Prego

- ◇ Swanson
- ◇ Franco American
- ◇ Campbell's
- ◇ V8 Splash
- ◇ Pepperidge Farm
- ◇ Goldfish Crackers

For more information on the program, please visit [www.LabelsForEducation.com](http://www.LabelsForEducation.com)

## December- The Kangaroo's Favorite Month

December is one of our favorite months in the Kangaroo Room. With the weather changing and the chance of snow – any day – there is a lot of excitement in the air. We love planning our outside time when the snow arrives with sledding, making snow angels, etc. Well no snow yet, but lots of other activities.

Our theme was how other cultures celebrate the holidays. We talked at great length about customs in our countries and in the US. We read lots of books on the differences. We made a Chanukah Menorah and read many books about Chanukah. We talked about Kwanza and of course Santa Lucia.

We had a holiday celebration. We hung stockings on our fireplace, made our homes with paper bags and decorated them with our address and lights, made cookies and cards for everyone. We made pasta

candy canes and reindeer galore. We also went into Swarthmore and did some caroling at each of the merchants' windows. What a turn out!! We drew a crowd of avid listeners. The children loved the audience. We ended our performance in Rinato's for lunch...where we also got rave reviews!!

On December 22 we had our annual "Santa's Store". All year Erin and I collect items that the children may want to 'buy'. We set them up in Parrish Hall and had the children think about to whom they might want to give a gift. Not once do they ever say they want anything for themselves!! It always amazes me. Vincent this year chose something for the mailman; Brooke chose a friend who does not get many gifts...that is what it is all about during the holidays!

Thank you to all of our parents for attending our Recital—it was a

great success. Thanks too for remembering us so generously this holiday season. It certainly makes us feel special to read the wonderful sentiments from our parents.

We are looking forward to lots of exciting things in 2012.

Please send in boots, hats, gloves, etc. to be ready for our playing in the snow.

Happy New Year, Paula, Erin & Bobbie





## Happy New Year to all!

*I greet the New Year with exciting news to share -*

### **The TCDN preschool program has advanced to PA Keystone STAR 3 with EXTREMELY HIGH Environmental Rating Scale scores!**

*I look forward to sharing with preschool families the work that was completed to achieve this advancement, and the value to continuous quality improvement. Kudos to all preschool teachers and especially to the Duckling room team of Jeanne, Joe and Barbara and the Owl room team of Scott and Jackie for the job they did hosting the assessors in their rooms and showcasing the work of TCDN teachers.*

More news...

*The SASC children, families and staff returned to a cleaned and newly painted space. This opportunity was made available through the Keystone STAR 4A Merit Award grant. Special thanks to Beth, Rob, Pat, Carolyn, Betty and Jackie, for giving up a holiday break day to put everything back in place.*

*Turning to the New Year, we begin to plan **TCDN summer programs**. The Summer Club brochure will be prepared in January, advertising fun-filled, exciting, activity, swimming and field trip choices for school age children and a great early bird tuition-saving option for families. Thematic programming will focus on community collaboration, physical activity galore, an exploration into the flavor of international art and sport, creating changes in matter through science, cooking, recycling materials, and of course, we will include those messy, popular activities most in demand - from water slides to car washes to talent shows. Exciting field trips and visiting artists capstone The Summer Club!*

*Preschool families will also soon be encouraged to make their summer plans. We will continue with our one-of-a-kind Cricket Camp experience, combining preparation for public school kindergarten with a camp-like program of thematic exploration, field trips and interesting guests. Preschool classrooms will also enjoy great summer activities, including center trips and abundant water play! **Look for summer registration forms later this month!***

**Families of school age children ... there is a school closing day coming up on Friday, February 17th. We have new deadline policies for registration. Please read the registration form carefully and return it early if you will need care for your child.**

### **Staff Professional Development News**

*Congratulations to Paula, Barbara, Jackie and Betty for excellent grades in their recent degree coursework classes!*

*Congratulations to Rob as he nears completion of his graduate degree coursework!*

*Congratulations to Michele and Bobbie for their progress towards a Child Development Associate and to Eddie and Bryan as they have chosen to begin the School Age Credential coursework online!*

*Congratulations to Kara for combining her work at the OASC with her classwork towards her degree in Education, and Kat as she begins a new Masters Degree course of study this winter!*