

**** Delightful December ****

New Year Updates:

Hello Parents we are in our last month before the New Year!! Please make sure your child's balance is paid in full by December 30th. All tuition accounts will be closed for the year and each account will receive a yearly account ledger for tax credits. Every family will receive the childcare tax credit info by Jan 5th. Please see Mrs. Taren if you have any questions.

Center Updates & Reminders:

Small Steps has recruited 3 afterschool Volunteers from PH to help with the After Schoolers ☺

Please Label your child's coat and winter accessories to help prevent anything being lost or misplaced!

Don't forget to visit the Parents Hints and Tips or the Star Student of the Week located in the hallway!

Welcome to Small Steps!!!!

Ms. Jasmine (Assistant Teacher)
Ms. Mercedes (After-School Teacher)
Children: Isis, Malik Thomas, Daniel
Milana & Jordan!!

Welcome all to the Small Steps Family!!!

****LOST BOYS****

Calling all MEN!! If you are interested in being a mentor to our young boys at Small Steps please join the **LOST BOYS!** This program is new to Small Steps and will be 1 Friday every month for any boy at Small Steps. We will play games; speak with the boys on various topics and most of all... be a positive male role model to our young boys at the center. If you would like for your son to participate he **MUST** be 3 years old. If you are interested in volunteering for the **LOST BOYS** committee please come to the interest meeting on **Thursday Dec 16th at 6:30 PM.**

Inclement Weather Updates

If the center is closed or has a delay in opening due to inclement weather please refer to the following communications for more information.

Television:

Channel 10 WSLS
Channel 7 WDBJ

Center Telephone Answering Machine

540.904.6808

Email Updates

Please send your email to Smallstepslearning@yahoo.com to receive an update via email. Place in subject line "Closing and Delays"

This information will be updated as soon as possible to ensure everyone is up to date on Center openings.

Small Steps Health & Wellness



Cold & Flu Season:

Parents it is that time of season; sneezing, stuffiness, mild temperatures, watery eyes and most of all runny noses! Small Steps will go the extra mile to help with the spread of any germs. However, there are ways that you can help:

1) Keep your child at home when feeling sick

2) Adjust your child's food and beverages. Orange Juice is great because it contains plenty of Vitamin C and children love it!! Or a children's vitamin (Flintstones) to replenish any nourishments your child may be lacking in their diet to fight off sickness.

3) Washing your hands frequently to prevent the spread of germs.

Sickness Policies:

Please be mindful of the Small Steps Center policy. If your child has a temperature or diarrhea he/she cannot return for 24 hours of being fever or diarrhea free. Small Steps will be enforcing this rule to help with keeping all children healthy. DO NOT send your child to school with a temperature or diarrhea. Germs easily spread and cannot be avoided, but with your help we can minimize the spreading of germs.

If you would like to provide the center with medication (e.g. Tylenol, Motrin ECT) it must be age and weight appropriate for your child. See Ms Paula if you have questions concerning the medications your child can have administered while at Small Steps.

Guitar Music & Movement

Small Steps is delighted to share that we will have a Music and Movement session planned with two musical volunteers (Robert & Deon) on December 15th and Jan 19th. Robert & Deon play the bass and electric guitar and are students at Patrick Henry High School. The children will be able to listen and play a guitar. Not to mention enjoying an hour of guitar music!!



"Kids in the Kitchen"

Small Steps is also excited to share that we are going to have a cooking session with Mr. Joel (Seth's step-dad) on various days in December and January. Joel is going to teach the children the fundamentals of cooking and kitchen safety. These sessions will be in the afternoon and will last approximately 1 hour. Our 1st session will be making cookies and eating some too!! Please see Mrs. Taren if you have a trade or if you would like to volunteer.

Calling ALL new and old BIG Steppers!! If you are interested in participating in the BIG Steppers PTA please speak w/ Ms Tina. ☺
The next BIG Stepper Meeting will be January 13th at 6:30PM.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Effective Jan 1st:

Cell Phone usage will not be allowed when picking up and dropping off your child.

All Tuition Assistance families need to apply or reapply before Jan 30th.

Center Closings:

Christmas Eve / December 24th

New Year's Eve / December 31st

Friday Night Sitting Dates

Cost: \$12.00 per child

December 3rd

December 10th

December 17th

Time: 6:30 PM - Midnight

Cost: \$12.00 per child

\$5.00 Toy Gift Exchange

Parents, the Small Steps Staff are asking every child to please provide a small wrapped (\$5.00 limit) toy by December 23rd. Please provide a toy of the same gender as your child to assure every child receives a gift. If you have any questions speak with your child's teacher ☺

THANK-YOVS TO...

*MRS. PAULA'S MOTHER & FAMILY FOR THE MANY DONATIONS TO SMALL STEPS

*ALL THE PARENTS THAT VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME FOR OUR SESAME STREET FIELD TRIP

*JAHEIM'S MOTHER CHANTELL FOR SPONSORING A CHILD TO ATTEND SESAME STREET

*NOAH'S MOM SHELLY FOR DELIVERING US OUR NEW BUNNY "COTTONBALL" ☺

*SETH'S MOM (ELISHA) & STEP DAD (JOEL) FOR DONATING ALL THE BAKERY FOODS AND TOOLS FOR OUR COOKING CLASS

*KIERION & ISSAC'S MOTHER & FAMILY FOR THE THANKSGIVING BASKET WHICH WAS DONATED TO A FAMILY IN NEED ON THANKSGIVING

*AND OF COURSE TO THE WONDERFUL STAFF!

Last Notes,

To all families, thank you so much for allowing Small Steps Learning Academy to care for your child. I hope every family has a blessed and happy holiday. ☺ With the hardships some families are facing, I'm sure holidays are tough and sometimes can seem overwhelming! If your family or you know of a family in need of any holiday assistance please come by my office or give me a call at the center. All children deserve a holiday full of joy and excitement...
Small Steps is here to help.

Have a happy and Safe New Year!

For love of the children,
Mrs. Taren