



## Let it snow, Let it snow, Let it snow

*By Mrs. Kai Petry*

As you know here at Chestnut Grove we try to provide outside play at every opportunity and that means even when there is snow on the ground. Children who have time to play outside are fitter, are more attentive, have better motor skills and are generally healthier. The viruses that cause flu and colds are more common in the winter months. Often these viruses circulate indoors in closed environments. In the fresh outside air, children can escape the indoor germs. Spending time outside boosts their immune systems.

Winter outdoor play provides opportunities for learning and development which are only offered in this weather. Physically, the children are challenged to figure out how to pack snow tightly into building their desired creations. New physical skills are acquired as they learn to maneuver in a slippery, less safe environment. And imagination and creativity are hard at work as the children mold snow into their very own snowmen.

As you venture out with your children on a snow day please realize that besides the usual shoveling, snowman building and sledding, there are other outside snow activities that are also learning experiences for children. Here are just a few ideas to try:

**Rolling and throwing** – Both of these activities help develop coordination skills. Help your child set up a row of plastic bottles to knock over with a snowball or a tire to throw through. Or make a bull’s eye target game.

**Build a snow castle with sand toys.** (A little vegetable oil spray in the bucket will help the snow slide out.)

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## Upcoming Events

**Jan 16 (Mon):** School closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

**Jan 23 - 27 (Mon - Fri):** Parent-Teacher Conferences. Scheduled during the school day while classes are in session. Signup Genius’s coming out this week.

**Jan 30 - Feb 3 (Mon - Fri):** Registration Week for in-house returning families for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Feb 6 (Mon):** Registration opens to new families.

**Feb 10 (Fri):** 4’s Field Trip to Goucher for the Cirque Zuma Zuma Show - chaperones required!

**Feb 20 (Mon):** School closed in observance of Presidents’ Day.

*Below Left: A group of our 3’s friends shown with their hand-made reindeer antlers and red noses.*

*Below Right: One of our CG Moms visited and shared a story and lesson about Hanukkah. The edible dreidels were a big hit!*





# Let It Snow

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**Paint the snow** – Fill an empty spray bottle, empty dish soap bottle or even a water bottle (with a hole poked in the lid) with colored water. (The slower the water empties the better.)

**Build a maze or obstacle course.**

**Track wildlife** – Take a nature walk and look for animal tracks. Try to solve the mystery of who made those tracks.

**Colored ice hunt** – Freeze some colored water in ice cube trays and hide them outside. Once all of the cubes have been found see what the children will do with them next and also what will happen to the cubes.

**Freeze bubbles** – Chill a container of bubble solution in the refrigerator. When the temperature is below freezing take the children outside to blow bubbles and watch as the bubbles crystalize.

When you get cold and it's time to go inside, make that special also. Think hot chocolate, blankets, warm socks and getting cozy. And (because I love to teach science) do one more science experiment. Bring in some snow, put it into a jar to melt and see how much water is in the snow. Just so much to talk about and think about here.

Most of all, have fun as you watch your children learn as they experience these special winter snow days.

***Let it snow, let it snow,  
let it snow!***

*Right: Fun and exploration with friends in our 2's classes.*



*Above: 'Happy New Year' from Mrs. Kaltenbach's 4's class!*





# Annual Spring Fair

Saturday, April 29th

11am - 3pm  
(rain or shine)

Games, food, bake sale,  
entertainment, silent auction  
and more!

Fun for the whole family!

Details coming soon...

## Registration for the 2023-2024 School Year

Registration for our next school year begins at the end of this month, on January 30. We give our currently-attending families one week to register before opening classes to new families. Classes are filled first-come, first-served and we expect full classes this year with waitlists. Please get your registration forms back to the office as quickly as possible on/after Jan 30. Forms will be emailed to you prior to conference week.

Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for the week before registration opens: Jan 23 – 27. Conferences are optional for all families, but encouraged for parents with children in the 3's & 4's classes, and are by request only for 2's. Once you've completed your conference, please feel free to stop in the office or contact any of us in the office with questions regarding registration. We work very hard to try and give all our families their first choice in programs, so the more information we have, the better.

### How to Register:

- Complete your parent/teacher conference if you choose to schedule one.
- Contact office staff with any registration questions
- Complete and sign your registration form – be sure to label 1st and 2nd choices
- Turn in the form with a \$50 registration fee (\$75 for multiple children) between the dates of Jan 30 – Feb 3 to have the best chance of getting your first choice of programs. Remember, registration opens to new families on Feb 6 and classes are filled first-come, first-served.
- Tuition will be due starting April 1.



*Top left: Messy, messy fun in Mrs. Bobo's 4's class.*

*Above and left: Pretend play provides wonderful learning opportunities for a few friends in our 3's classes.*

*Right: Strengthening hand muscles with fine-motor skills while making menorahs in Mrs. Graff's 3's class.*

