

Center Winter Newsletter

A Message from the Executive Director



Yesterday marked the Winter Solstice; the shortest day of the year and the quiet turning point toward longer, brighter days ahead. I've always loved this moment in the season because it reminds us that even in the stillness, growth is already underway.

As we close out this quarter, I want to take a moment to reflect with deep gratitude. This season has been filled with learning, problem-solving, and meaningful connection. Our staff has shown unwavering dedication, our families have continued to place their trust in us, and our children have brought light into our days in the most authentic ways; through curiosity, laughter, and resilience.

This quarter also represented important groundwork being laid for the future of My Place. Much like winter itself, not all growth is visible, but it is happening. Behind the scenes, we are strengthening systems, deepening partnerships, and preparing for what's next, all with the shared goal of supporting children and families in ways that are intentional, equitable, and sustainable.

As the days slowly begin to lengthen, we carry forward the warmth of community, the lessons learned, and a renewed sense of purpose. Thank you for being part of this journey. Your support, care, and commitment are what make My Place the special community it is.

Wishing you peace, rest, and light as we move into the heart of winter.
With gratitude,
Cassandra Ball

A Message from the Program Director



Hello My Place Families,

As we cozy into the winter season, I hope your days are filled with warm cocoa, fuzzy socks, and just the right amount of holiday magic. Thank you for being such an amazing part of the My Place community, we are grateful for each and every one of our families. Here's to a bright and joyful start to 2026!

I have a few important updates to share as we head into the new year.

1. The new 2026 tuition scales were sent home in early November and will take effect January 5th. If you have any questions regarding the new scale or your household documentation, please feel free to reach out.
2. Please note that I will be on vacation from December 23rd-January 5th and will respond to messages when I return. Please let me know if you need anything prior to my departure.
3. We have also updated our Family Handbook. Please take a moment to review it at:

www.myplace-aplc.org

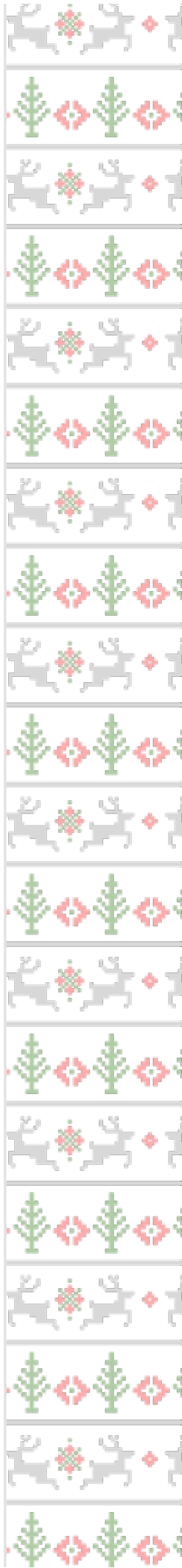
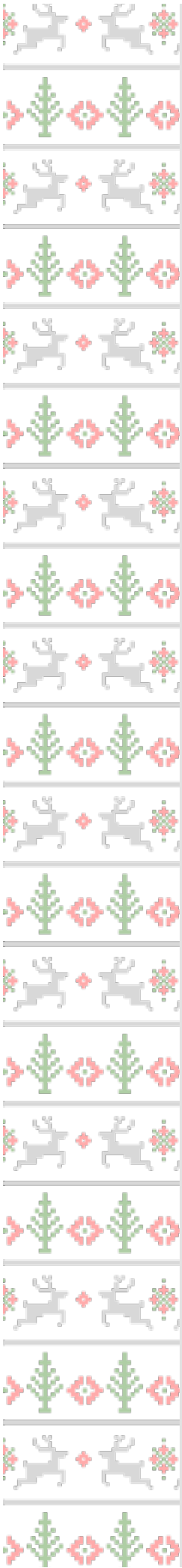
After reviewing, kindly return your Acknowledgement of Agreement Form by January 5th, along with an updated Permission to Photograph Form. These forms will be in your child's cubby.

Stay warm, stay cozy, and may your cocoa always have extra marshmallows!
* Here's to making wonderful memories, embracing all the little moments, and starting the year off with smiles and laughter.

Warmly,

Noel Wheaton

**A message from the School Age Program
Director**



I'm excited to share that I have officially stepped into the role of Program Director! I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to support our children, families, and staff in new ways, and I'm looking forward to helping our programs grow even brighter!

At our SACC program, we've been working on some wonderful things behind the scenes. Between all the winter and holiday magic, we're diving deeper into social-emotional learning and preparing to launch a new curriculum called Character Strong. We're excited for the positive impact it will bring as we help our kids build confidence, kindness, resilience, and strong connections.

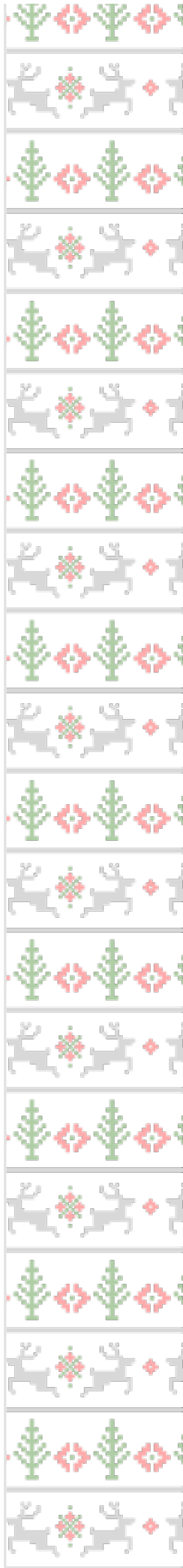
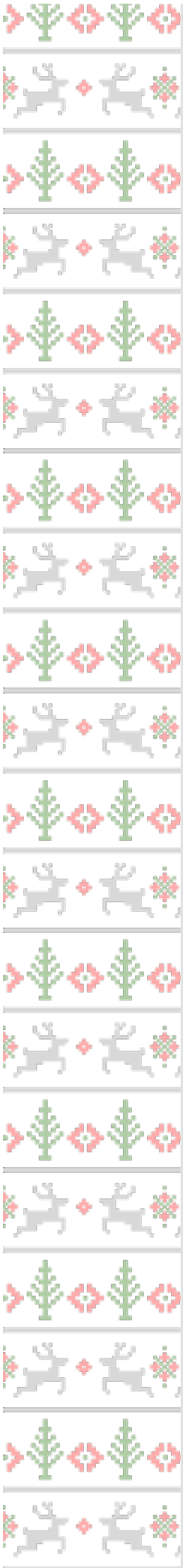
We're also thrilled to announce our Winter Talent Show coming this February! Our students will have the chance to showcase their unique talents; whether it's singing, dancing, comedy, magic tricks, or something totally one-of-a-kind. More information will be coming soon, but we can already tell it's going to be a gray event full of smiles and creativity!

We are grateful for being in such a wonderful community with you all, and for being a small piece of your child's everyday story. We hope your winter season is filled with christmas cookies, cozy days, and plenty of holiday sparkle! Here's to a bright and joyful New Year ahead, may it bring big smiles & new adventures.

Miss. Taylor

A Message from the Infant Room

Interim Lead Teacher - Miss Brea
Teacher Aides - Miss Tammy & Miss Galina



The Infant Room welcomes December with a reminder to dress little ones in layers for changing temperatures. Families are introduced to Ms. Brea, the new teacher passionate about infant and toddler development. The class is celebrating many exciting milestones, from sitting and crawling to new foods and first steps. As cold and flu season begins, families are encouraged to monitor their child's health and keep them home when ill to help maintain a healthy classroom environment.

A Message from the Waddler Team

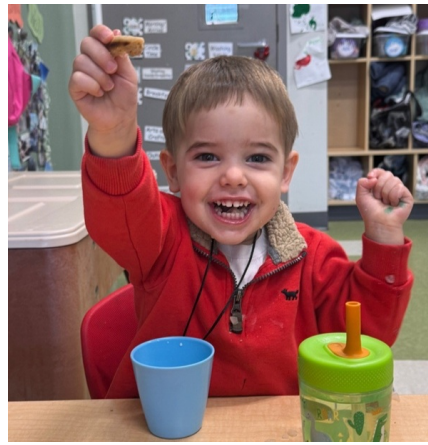
Lead Teacher - Miss Ashley
Assistant Teacher - Miss Mackenzie
Teacher Aide - Miss Rhonda



The Waddlers are so looking forward to the Holiday season! Loving all our winter crafts, they've been working on their fine motor skills while creating them. We have also been having fun in the snow when the weather allows. Testing our sensory play with nature in the cold has been a new favorite. We look forward to doing way more as the new year rolls in! The waddlers would like to wish everyone a happy holiday and a fun filled winter season! Here's to new beginnings and new milestones for our kiddos.

A Message from the Tiny Tots Team

Lead Teacher - Miss Bria
Teacher Aide - Miss Angela



Happy Holidays from the Tiny Tots! 2025 has Brought us the most special friends, learning, and growing! We hope you enjoy some special holiday magic with your loved ones!

A Message from the Toddler Team

Lead Teacher - Miss Bre
Teacher Aides - Miss Sam & Miss Destiny



Hello everyone!

Our classroom has been very busy enjoying lots of play and a wide variety of enriching activities. Our toddlers have been engaged in hands-on learning, including crafts that get messy and spark our creativity, sensory play that encourages exploration, science experiments that build our curiosity, and music and movement that helps us get our sillies out, move our bodies, and have fun! Outdoor time on the playground or walks through town remain a favorite in the toddler room as we enjoy the winter weather, giving our kiddos fresh air and lots of opportunities for active play! It is always an exciting, engaging and wonderful time in the toddler room! Happy holidays to all!

A Message from the Preschool Team

Lead Teachers - Miss Tee & Miss Mikayla
Assistant Teacher - Miss Maddy



Our preschoolers have been busy learning, growing, and discovering together! Through hands-on activities, and plenty of opportunities to work with friends, we're building important early learning skills—like problem-solving, communication, and independence. We've also been focusing on understanding and expressing our emotions. Using stories, pictures, and daily routines, children are practicing how to identify feelings, use calm-down strategies, work through challenges, and show kindness toward others. In addition to strengthening social-emotional skills, we're giving children plenty of ways to build their fine and gross motor abilities. From drawing, cutting, and sensory table play to dancing, and engaging in movement games, our classroom supports active bodies and busy hands. We are so proud of the wonderful progress the kiddos are making as they explore their world with curiosity, confidence, and happiness!

Pyramid Model Tip

Supporting children's social-emotional growth starts with consistent, positive interactions. One simple strategy is "Catch Them Being Good." Take a moment each day to notice and comment on your child's positive behaviors, like sharing, using words to express feelings, or helping a friend. This reinforcement encourages children to repeat these behaviors, helping them feel confident, capable, and valued.

Tip: Be specific with your praise! Instead of just saying "Good job," try, "I really like how you asked your friend to play nicely. That was very kind!"

A Message from the Wellness Team

As part of our Wellness Team initiative, we want to recognize that December is Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) Awareness Month. This time of year, can be challenging for many, as shorter days and limited sunlight can impact mood, energy levels, and overall well-being.

What is SAD?

Seasonal Affective Disorder is a form of depression that follows a seasonal pattern, most commonly beginning in late fall or early winter and improving in spring. Common symptoms include low energy, changes in sleep, difficulty concentrating, and feeling down or withdrawn.

We encourage everyone to be mindful of your mental health during the darker winter months. Please remember to take care of yourselves, reach out if you're struggling, and support one another whenever possible.

For more information, you can visit:

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/seasonal-affective-disorder/symptoms-causes/syc-2036...>

If you would like additional resources or support, feel free to reach out to the Wellness Team.

Take care of yourselves — you matter! ☐

— **The Wellness Team**

Noel, Bria, Tee & Mikayla

Thank You for Supporting Our Fundraising Efforts!

We are so grateful to everyone who helped us raise funds through our wreath fundraiser—together we raised \$375! And what a success FLXGives was again this year! Thanks to your generosity, we surpassed our goal, raising just over \$10,500. As a nonprofit early childhood center, we rely on these fundraising efforts to support our programs, enrich our classrooms, and provide the best experiences for the children in our care.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events planned:

- **Annual Appeal:** After the first of the year, you'll have the chance to donate and have your name featured on a butterfly in our lobby.
- **Second Annual Purse Bingo:** April 19th
- **Spring Flower Sales:** May
- **Month of the Child:** July

More details on all upcoming events will be shared soon!

We're also looking to expand our mailing list for the annual appeal. If you know grandparents, family members, friends, community members, or businesses who might like to receive our report, make a donation, or sponsor an area of our building, please send their information to Noel at

Noel.Wheaton@myplace-aplc.org.

Thank you again for your continued support—your generosity helps make My Place a wonderful community for our children to learn, grow, and thrive!

-The Fund Development Committee