



# December 2020 Newsletter

## Greetings ISP Families,

I would like to thank those families who helped make our annual service project "ISP Gives" such a success! This year our pre-school students collected nonperishable food items for the St. Francis Food Pantry. Our classes have been sharing examples of what it means to give to one another. On November 17th, five students and I loaded up the cart with your many donations, wheeled them to the church office, and were greeted by the grateful Saint Francis Staff!

Again, a big thanks to Spruce Up Day Coordinator Sharon Liebeskind and our volunteers Fadi Iskander, Jim Liebeskind, Super Power Washer Nathan Novak, Eve and Tianna Liebeskind, Angelo Fausti, Cathy DeMers, and Nathan Thompson-Avelino and to James Scott for donating supplies!

International School for Peace is excited to welcome Tiffany Vander Woude to our ISP community. She will be working with Ms. Natalie in Room 10.

A warm thanks to our families who have taken time to share their family traditions or cultural with our classes. Children enjoy these experiences and learn so much about the different cultures of the International School for Peace community. It's not too late, so please contact your teacher to ar-

range a sharing time.

I appreciate you staying informed with our school procedures and health/safety policies! Current articles and information are being regularly added to our Covid19 binders found outside the preschool office. All health/safety updates to our policies are included in our Covid19 Action Plan, our newsletter, and posted to our website. If any issues arise over the break, please do not hesitate to contact me via email. The preschool office will be closed Dec. 21 - 25 and Dec. 31 - Jan 1.

International School for Peace will be closed December 21 - January 1<sup>st</sup> for Winter Break.

Registration for the 2021/2022 school year will begin in February followed by Summer Care registration in early March. More information will be posted to our website in January.

I hope your winter holidays are filled with good health, happiness, and hope for the New Year.

Please stay well,

*Cathy*

*"The beginning is the most important part of the work" -Plato*

## Mission Statement

International School for Peace promotes peace within the individual, the community, and the world by immersing children in languages and multicultural experiences through play-based, anti-bias curriculum that celebrates diversity.

## Would you like to learn more about the benefits of language immersion?

The University of Minnesota has published an article answering the top 10 questions parents have about immersion. For example: Will immersion effect your child's language development? Research shows that learning an additional language will not effect lan-

guage development negatively at all. Check out the article:

[http://carla.umn.edu/immersion/documents/ImmersionResearch\\_TaraFortune.html](http://carla.umn.edu/immersion/documents/ImmersionResearch_TaraFortune.html)

*ISP is so grateful for our families and friends! We want to give a big thanks to:*



- Patricia Pizarro and Isabel James for bringing in donuts for the staff.
- Fadi Iskandar for Costco shopping for the preschool.
- The Scott family for bringing in treats for the staff.
- George Daranyi for his monetary gift to the preschool.
- Jodi Gottlieb for bringing in treats for the staff.
- Tamara Khachatryan for picking up supplies from Pima County for the preschool.

- Pima County Health Department for donating sanitizer and PPE to the preschool.
- Zach Sahlberg for making various repairs around our campus including scraping up our ground markers, repairing Ms. Paola's Class garden box, and filling in the holes in our mud kitchens.
- Talulah & Family for donating tape and water bottles for Spruce-Up day!
- Isabel James & Patricia Pizarro for donating donuts for the staff.
- Steve Barclay for his tremendous help with moving our filing cabinets.

- St. Francis for allowing the preschool to use their filing cabinet.
- Khylia for organizing our school library.
- Laura & Curt Aldag for their monetary donation to the preschool.
- Cathy DeMers, Khylia Marshall, and Paola Sagar for bringing in treats for the staff.
- St. Francis staff for cleaning out Room 30/31 in preparation for our use.



## Welcome to International School for Peace!

Please add these students to your ISP Directory.

Ms. Lydia &  
Ms. Nooshin's Class

**Fleeta Thompson  
Avelino**

Ms. Damaris's Class  
**Kingston Cenicerros**



### Welcome Tiffany Vander-Woude

Our new Teacher's Assistant in Room 10! Please see our website for her full biography.

### Wish List:

- Wall shelving
- 2 matching chairs for the preschool office.
- Hungry folks to buy cookie dough!

# Cookie Dough for Sale!

ISP still has 35 boxes of  
cookie dough to sell.



**Support your preschool!**

**Request cookies in the office!**

Discounted  
to \$15 a  
box!

## **Thank you...**

To everyone who  
donated  
non-perishables to  
the St. Francis Food  
Pantry—what a  
meaningful way to  
contribute to our  
community.



**THANK YOU!**

## Credit Card Payments:

International School for Peace has been fortunate enough to absorb all credit card fees associated with online payments. **However, beginning January 1, ISP will be charging a convenience fee of \$10.00 for all online payments.** We will continue to accept your cash and check payments at the office door.

## Planning to Travel over Winter Break?

Please reference our Covid 19 Health and Safety Action Plan for important information on returning to school!



## Catholic Community Services Scholarships

are being offered to families who have been impacted by Covid-19. The program runs through December 31. Visit [ccs-soaz.org/childcare-scholarships](https://ccs-soaz.org/childcare-scholarships) for more information.

## Covid Refund Policy:

In the event of a school closure due to a Covid-19 outbreak, a credit of 50% of your remaining month's tuition will be applied to the following month's tuition.

## Cultural Holidays:

**World AIDS Day:** December 1

**Bodhi Day:** December 8

**Chanukah:** December 11- 18

**Winter Solstice:**

December 21

**Christmas:** October 11

**Kwanzaa:** Dec. 26 - Jan. 1



**There will be  
No School  
12/21 - 1/1**



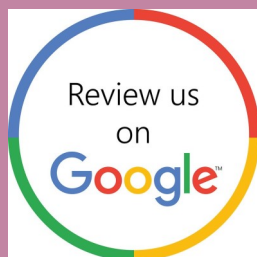
**Winter Break!!**

School will resume for students on January 4th!



# Do you love your preschool?

Please consider ...



**writing a  
Google Review  
for us,**



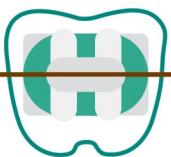
**liking us on  
Facebook,**



**and rating us on  
Great Schools!**

## ISP Recommends:

GET IT STRAIGHT  
ORTHODONTICS



PEDIATRIC  
DENTISTRY



**Kinder Virtual Open House**

**Tuesday, December 1 @ 5:30pm**

**Davis Bilingual Elementary School**

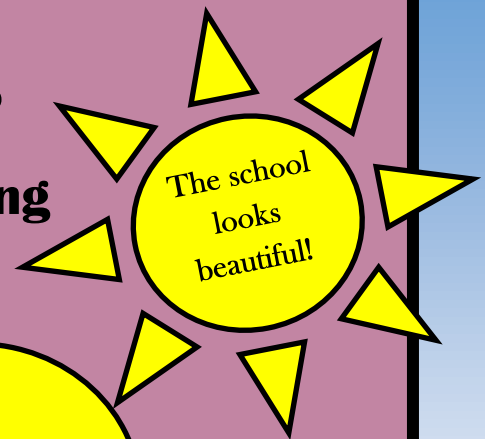
**RSVP to**

**Catherine.ArnquistBurke@tusd.org**



# **A Huge Thank You...**

**... to the following people for volunteering  
their time on Spruce-Up Day!**



**Jim  
Liebeskind**

**Nathan  
Novak**

**Fadi  
Iskandar**

**Nathan  
Thompson-  
Avelino**

**Eve  
Liebeskind**

**Tianna  
Liebeskind**

**Sharon  
Liebeskind**

**Angelo  
Fausti**

**Thank you to the Scott  
family for donating  
supplies and water!**

**Cathy  
DeMers**

**And a special thank you to Spruce-Up  
day coordinator, Sharon Liebeskind!**

# Precare with Ms. Damaris



Precare supports our parents who need an early drop off starting at 7:30am. This program is held Monday through Friday in Room 22. Upon arrival, we will continue to check all students' temperatures and they will wash their hands as indicated in our COVID-19 Health and Safety precautions.



During the month of October, we will continue to learn routines and learn about each other. Our precare lesson plan and class schedule is located on the window of our precare classroom. Precare offers the great opportunity to make new friends and have fun in a room full of different experiences. At 8:55am, your child's teacher will pick up their students and walk them to their classroom. Students may enroll in the program or drop in. Please contact the office for more information.

Thank you for your trust and support!

Happy fall!

Kindly, Ms. Damaris



# Aftercare with Ms. Nooshin & Ms. Natalie

Happy December!

As we move into the month of December we will be reading books about some winter holidays celebrated during this time of year such as Hanukkah and Christmas. . If you have a tradition and you would like to share with our students, we would love to hear from you.

We love to play outside every day and we do so. It is nice to go outside to play and now that most of our students are bringing sweaters and pullovers to school, it is a perfect opportunity to further develop our self dressing skills. This activity requires the use of many fine motor skills such as buttons, zippers, snaps, buckles and many more. Practice makes perfect, so please encourage this at home when possible.

We would like to remind families to make sure the sweaters and jackets that are brought to school have your child's name clearly labeled so that they are not misplaced.

## Reminders!

- We play outdoors a lot! Please be sure your child has a light sweater or jacket for the cooler, late afternoon temperatures.
- Please remember to pack and label enough food for an afternoon snack. Pack a utensil, if needed. We will help your child to wash and refill their water bottles, if needed.

It is also a great idea to leave extra warm clothes in your child's cubby in case they need to change clothes during the day.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Finally, we would like to welcome back Fleeta to our program.

Looking forward to a beautiful December! Happy Holidays!

Love, Nooshin and Natalie



# 2's & 3's Partial Spanish Immersion with Ms. Natalie

Happy December Familias!

I'd like to thank all of you for kindly donating goods for St. Francis Food Pantry and helping the children understand the meaning of giving. I am very thankful to be working closely with a great group of parents who are dedicated in their child's success.



Jingle Bells! Jingle Bells! December is here! We have made it halfway through the school year. Every day the children continue to show progress in their growth and understanding. For this month we will continue to explore our theme of **Holidays and Traditions** along with **Trees** and our **5 Senses**.

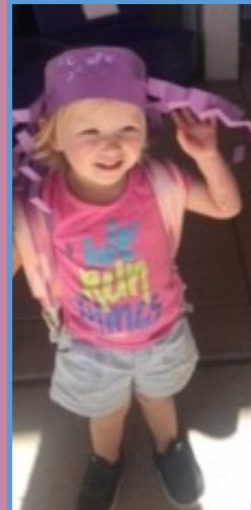
## Spanish Vocabulary

Campana – Bell  
Navidad – Christmas  
Sentidos – Senses  
Ojos – Eyes  
Nariz – Nose  
Estrella – Star

Some of the holidays we will be observing include Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanzaa and many others. Our themes will be reinforced through songs, books, arts & crafts, and other learning experiences. Our music enrichment instrument of the month will be **bells** (in all shapes and sounds).

Our dramatic area will be transformed into a toy shop for half of the month and for the other half it will be a cookie shop where the children will pretend to bake their own cookies and also decorate them.

Our 5 senses will be heightened and explored through a series of experiments. Through a taste test, we will identify what is salty, sour, sweet and bitter. What's that smell? The kids will be given the task to match the smelling bottles to their item. We will be doing lots of other fun projects; see what we are up to for the day by looking at the lesson plan posted on our class window.



The leaves on the trees have begun to fall and the change will be more noticeable in the cooler months. We will discuss different shapes and sizes of trees in some parts of the world. The children will also learn the parts of a tree and the many benefits we receive from those green giants.

The wind is blowing a little bit colder and our bodies are adjusting. Please remember to keep any sick children home. One runny nose at home can prevent many runny noses at school.



With love, Ms. Natalie





# 3's Full Spanish Immersion

## with Ms. Damaris

### Kind Reminders:

The temperature is getting colder, so please remove the warm weather clothing in your child's cubby and replace it with colder weather clothing.

Please label morning and aftercare snacks, lunch and water bottles.

Pack utensils, if needed.

### October Spanish Vocabulary:

**Sentidos - Senses**  
**Escuchar - Hearing**  
**Oler - Smell**  
**Tocar - Touch**  
**Ver - Sight**  
**Probar - Taste**  
**Navidad - Christmas**  
**Piñata - Piñata**  
**Árbol de Navidad - Christmas tree**

### Winter Break:

December 21—January 3  
We return to classes on  
January 4, 2021

¡Hola Familias!

Thank you for supporting our November service project and all of your donations to the Saint Francis Food Bank.

During the month of December our themes will be: 5 senses, holiday traditions and trees.

Some of the activities planned for the month of December include exploring our senses. We will have a tasting activity to experience the different flavors our sense of taste can identify. We will learn about the different holidays and celebrations around the world, and the life cycle of trees. We will also introduce the winter/invierno season, and learn the traditional spanish songs: "Feliz Navidad" and "El Burrito Sabanero".

We would like to give a shout-out to Mrs. Thakkar for sharing her cultural tradition of Diwali during the month of November. We highly appreciate it!

I will be sending a permission slip for our tasting activity to make sure our different flavors are allowed for your child. (Kind reminder: We are a Nut Free school).

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and our sincere thanks for your support during the past months. Felices Fiestas!

- Ms. Damaris



# 3's / 4's Language Enrichment with Ms. Lydia & Ms. Nooshin

Hello Dear Families

Queridos Padres y Familia

سلام بر خانواده های عزیز



Thank you to those who supported our November service project and donated to the Saint Francis Food Bank.

We love this season full of holidays and look forward to sharing these moments with the children in our classroom. Our themes for December will be winter, trees, senses and cultural holidays and traditions.

This month we will learn about some winter holidays celebrated during this time of year such as Hanukkah and Christmas. We will learn about Yalda night, which is the Iranian celebration of the arrival of winter. Yalda is celebrated on the longest night of the year, which is the eve of the day before Winter Solstice. The children will taste pomegranate, one of the traditional fruits of Yalda night.



In Spanish, children will learn new words: Navidad, Pinata, Arbol and Invierno. We will learn two new Spanish songs: "Feliz Navidad" and "Mi Burrito Sabanero. We will also explore the Mexican tradition of posadas and the piñata activity.



We will have a sensory bin with fresh pine tree branches and jingle bells to explore the season with our senses.

During circle time we will read books, sing songs, finger play, dance to music, and learn the

importance of good dental hygiene during this season of sweet treats.

We welcome our families to share their culture and holiday traditions with us!!! This can be as simple as a special book you read, traditional clothing to wear, or special foods you eat. Please schedule a time with us to discuss further and set a date. Our children look forward to learning about other cultures and holidays!

Once again, thank you to all our wonderful families for supporting our positive and creative learning environment.

We would like to welcome Fleeta to our classroom. And also say goodbye to Isla. We wish the best for her. Ms. Lydia would also like to give thanks to our classroom parent, Paige, Harper's mom: thanks for all your support and effort to make my B-day a very special day. Thank you to Leif's dad, Josh for sharing his passion for music with our class!

We are very happy and excited about moving to our new and bigger classroom.

Wishing you and your family a very happy holiday season!

Love,

Ms. Lydia, Ms. Nooshin





# 4's & 5's Full Spanish Immersion with Ms. Paola

Dear Parents and Families,

We welcome a very fun, exciting and colorful December! During this month we will have plenty of experiences that are going to allow the children to explore, play, and be curious. Talking about Kindness, Giving, and Gratitude caused a big impact in our children and we will continue practicing them on daily basis.



We will keep learning about Holidays and Traditions around the world. We will read books, listen to music, and play games from other cultures. We'll learn about the Jewish Holiday, Hanukkah, and how it is celebrated. Hanukkah this year starts Dec 10 and ends Dec 18. Children will explore different art techniques and use a variety of materials to create holidays decorations. We will display them in our classroom for a few days and children will take them home for you to enjoy them.



Senses is another theme we'll be working on during this month and we'll work on this theme using Mindfulness. We will take a "Rainbow Walk" around the school (inside the campus) and we will look for the colors of the rainbow. We will do an "Outdoor Sound Hunt," we will make art using spices, we will taste chocolate caliente and we will share how it feels in our tummies!

During this month we will learn about trees and the importance of trees in our lives and environment. We will explore the changes that a tree goes through during the seasons, we will learn the tree parts in Spanish, and the life

cycle of a tree. We will read books like The Lorax and of course Chicka Chicka Boom Boom! If you would like to read one of these books to my class, please let me know!



December is a short month, so I will review the contents we studied during the last few months. I said it in my last newsletter and I just want to do a friendly reminder that is normal to see some challenging or unwanted behaviors during this time of the year. So, let's all be mindful and kind to ourselves and to our children. Make sure you and your family get good rest, drink plenty of water, eat healthy food, spend some time in nature, practice self care, and breathe (my class knows a few good breathing techniques, just ask your child).

I'd like to thank all our kind and generous families and friends who helped fill our box for the Food Bank.

Last, but not least, I wish you Happy Holidays and a well deserved restful winter break. And again, I appreciate the opportunity and the privilege to be part of your child's young life. Thank you for all your help and support during this time.

*"Piglet noticed that even though he had a very small heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude" - A.A. Milne*

Sending Love and Kindness,

Ms. Paola



# Covid-19 Health and Safety

At International School for Peace, we understand that families are entrusting us with not only the education and socialization of their children, but also with their health, safety, and well-being. Our administration, teachers, and staff are doing our part to ensure the safety of everyone who enters our campus. Below is a list of what we are doing in the best interest of the community as a whole. International School for Peace will continue to monitor the current pandemic situation and make updates to our policies as deemed appropriate or mandated.

What Administration is Doing:	What Teachers are Doing:	What Families are Doing:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine cleaning of high traffic surfaces, including toys, throughout the school day. Documentation of routine cleanings is available in the preschool office.</li> <li>• Administer daily temperature checks before permitting students/teachers/staff onto campus. Persons with a fever of 100.4F or above, or who exhibit other signs of illness, will not be admitted to the facility.</li> <li>• Purchase and use non-contact temporal thermometers for checking temperatures.</li> <li>• Staff will wear gloves while taking student temperatures.</li> <li>• Verbal health checks upon arrival for all staff, students, and families.</li> <li>• Administrators will wash their hands hourly.</li> <li>• Establish separate entry and exit points to the school to encourage directional traffic and decrease crowding.</li> <li>• Reduce our class sizes.</li> <li>• Ensure substitute teachers are ready and available to support the program.</li> <li>• Educate our community:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Post signs to demonstrate proper handwashing.</li> <li>◆ Post signs to remind our community members to social distance.</li> <li>◆ Share community resources for suspected and confirmed cases of Covid-19.</li> <li>◆ Make available current parent resources for helping children understand this pandemic.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ground markers have been placed to aid in physical distancing.</li> <li>• Purchase and use sneeze guards when taking temperatures and in the preschool office.</li> <li>• Continue to implement regular changing of air filters in all campus buildings.</li> <li>• Hand sanitizer stations are set up around the ISP campus for use by students, families, and staff.</li> <li>• Only staff and essential maintenance persons will be permitted in our classrooms at this time.</li> <li>• *Should the school need to close, ISP will grant a credit of 50% of the remaining month's tuition to be applied to the following month's tuition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote, demonstrate, and teach regular handwashing and hygiene behaviors.</li> <li>• Design activities in the classroom environment that support physical distancing in respect to a play-based philosophy.</li> <li>• Offer an adequate number of material and supplies which are changed out frequently.</li> <li>• Discontinue the use of soft toys.</li> <li>• Post lesson plans and class happenings in the windows for family viewing.</li> <li>• Teachers will sign children in and out each day to promote physical distancing among adults.</li> <li>• Enforce and model handwashing with soap and water for each child upon entry to the classroom, before eating, after using the bathroom, and at other times throughout the school day or as necessary.</li> <li>• Teachers will wash their hands hourly.</li> <li>• Following recommendations from the CDC and PCHD, all teachers shall wear face masks. Masks have clear windows to allow for social, emotional, and linguistic communication.</li> <li>• *All teachers will have a spare set of clothing on campus for use if needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediately disclose to ISP director possible contact with or exposure to COVID-19 (PCHD recommends all household members exposed to or diagnosed with Covid 19 stay home to isolate for 14 days). Thereafter, ISP will formulate a plan for your child returning to school.</li> <li>• Ideally, the same adult will pick up and drop off your child every day.</li> <li>• Contact the office if your child or household members travel by air, or travel outside the state and have physical contact with out of state family/friends. We will require you to keep your child away from school for 7 days and recommend you isolate at home.</li> <li>• When anyone in your household returns from international travel, we require you to keep your child at home for 14 days and recommend that you isolate at home.</li> <li>• Limit your time on the campus to pick up and drop off. Please arrive no later than 9:15 to drop off your child. If you anticipate arriving later than 9:15, please call the preschool office.</li> <li>• Adhere to established entry and exit points.</li> <li>• Leave home toys at home.</li> <li>• If it is necessary for your child to bring a backpack to school, it should be left outside the classroom.</li> <li>• Ensure that your child has two spare sets of clothing (appropriate for the season) in their cubby at all times.</li> <li>• Please be sure that we have a current copy of your child's emergency information and immunization / exemption forms.</li> <li>• Have a backup childcare plan in place should ISP need to temporarily close the campus, a classroom, or extended day program.</li> <li>• Monitor your child for the safe use of hand sanitizer</li> </ul>



# Covid-19 Health and Safety, Continued...

What Administration is Doing:	What Teachers are Doing:	What Families are Doing:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During school hours, students or staff exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 will undergo a health check. Those determined to be ill will immediately be isolated from others. An isolation room or area is available to isolate the child or staff from the group.</li> <li>Jan Pro, our long-time professional cleaning service will clean our campus each evening M-F. They may utilize Med-Metrix, a hospital grade method of disinfecting, and Enviro shield, a spray method of application. A binder of their cleaning protocol and cleaners used is available upon request. Their same employee will clean our campus each evening while wearing coveralls, gloves, and a mask while on our campus.</li> <li>Ensure sufficient supplies of disinfectant, tissues, masks, hand sanitizer, working thermometers, and gloves available at all times.</li> <li>Establish a plan to address should a staff member or student display Covid-like symptoms during school hours.</li> <li>Director will contact PCHD to report suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19. Director will notify the ISP community of the possibility of exposure to the virus while maintaining the confidentiality of the individual and their family.</li> <li>Although we are utilizing staggered drop off time measures, director will be closely monitoring and may implement a more scheduled staggered pick-up and drop-off time.</li> <li>Pens for sign-in and sign-out are sanitized between uses.</li> <li>In person staff meetings are limited to no more than 10 people and physical distancing requirements are maintained.</li> <li>Reserve the right to make decisions at our own discretion for the health and safety of everyone which may include temporarily closing of the school, a classroom, or extended day program. Length of closure to be determined by ISP Advisory Board and the recommendations of the CDC, federal and local governments, and the Arizona Department of Health, Division of Child Care Licensing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classes will remain together and will not mix during our full and half day programs to include outdoor play, with the exception of nap and extended day programs.</li> <li>Immediately separate toys that have been placed in a child's mouth. Toys will be cleaned and disinfected before available for play.</li> <li>During nap time, mats will be spaced as much as possible and students will be positioned head to toe. Children's bedding will be stored in individually labelled bins. Sheets will be laundered once a week or more often, if needed.</li> <li>Promote small groups by discontinuing family class visits and volunteers to the classroom for the time being.</li> <li>Present curriculum utilizing outdoor space as much as possible.</li> <li>Teachers will check their temperatures daily before entering the campus.</li> <li>Teachers will wash their hands first thing upon entering the campus.</li> <li>Wear gloves to help children with toileting and while changing diapers, as well as during meal times.</li> <li>Offer virtual Family-Teacher Conferences and back to school nights to limit the number of visitors on campus.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Following recommendations from the CDC and mandated by Pima County Health Department and Tucson Mayor Regina Romero, all adults and children over the age of 6 admitted to the campus shall wear a mask or face covering to cover their mouth and nose.</b></li> <li>Please keep your child home if they are feeling ill, have a temperature, or are exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 which may include but are not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fever or chills</li> <li>Cough</li> <li>Fatigue</li> <li>Headache</li> <li>Sore throat</li> <li>Diarrhea</li> <li>Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li> <li>Muscle or body aches</li> <li>New loss of taste or smell</li> <li>Congestion or runny nose</li> <li>Nausea or vomiting</li> </ul> </li> <li>Students who stay home or are sent home from school due to illness will remain home from school until they are fever free without the use of a fever reducer and symptom free for 72 hours. A doctor's note may be required.</li> <li>Practice physical distancing by remaining 6 feet apart outside classrooms and adhere to ground markers.</li> <li>ISP discourages the use of personal bedding for nap time.</li> <li>Personal items that support a child's sense of security, ability to transition, self-regulate, or calm down are considered essential. Please speak with the director to establish a protocol for the use of these items.</li> <li>Ensure that your emergency contact information is always current.</li> <li>Please call the preschool if your child is sick or if she/he is not coming to school for any reason.</li> <li>Make use of resources available to you on the preschool campus; we are here to support you in helping your child understand coronavirus.</li> <li>Please have your own pen on hand to use if needed.</li> </ul>

\*Updated 11/16/20. Covid-19 Health and Safety Procedures and Protocols are updated regularly and as necessary. Please be diligent about keeping abreast of new information.