

# JANUARY

**Welcome back and Happy New Year! We are so excited to kick-off 2021 with your child!**

**Congrats & Thanks:** Wow! We were so impressed by the winter programs! Thank you all for attending virtually! Also, thank you for all the holiday cards and gifts! We always appreciate the thoughtfulness of our preschool families.

**School Closed:** We will be closed January 18<sup>th</sup> in honor of MLK, Jr. Day.

**Masks:** Upon further examination of the ND Mask Mandate, it appears all children age 5 and up need to be wearing a mask, even in our school group with 15 or less people in the room. We apologize for not realizing this sooner. Preschools and child care providers received the following information on December 23<sup>rd</sup>: "The state mask mandate states children that are 5 years or older need to wear a mask. Do I need to require a 5-year-old in my program to wear a mask even if the younger children, ages 2-4 years, are not required to wear a mask? Yes. You need to follow the state mask mandate which requires anyone age 5 and over to wear a mask when not able to maintain physical distancing and you are in a group of people beyond your household. You do NOT need to require children younger than age 5 to mask." **Going forward, if your child has turned five please have him/her come to school with a mask on. If you do not have masks for your child, we will supply them. If your child is three or four, masks remain optional. Thank you for helping us follow guidelines!**

**Winter Weather** We have been lucky with the weather and temperatures so far this winter . . . mother nature must have known that we'd be having pick-up time outside instead of in the hallway this year! 😊 However, if/when the weather gets worse, please be careful in the parking lot as it can get icy. Also, it is ok to wait in your car a couple of minutes at pick up time. With hats, sunglasses, masks, and other winter gear, it is hard to match a large group of parents. Also, we don't want anyone to get too cold waiting so please feel free to wait in your car until some of the crowd has moved on. Thanks!

**What's new this month:** The rotation center in each classroom had winter décor during the month of December. This month, we will be transitioning Shaun's area into a Home Office Center. Sara's rotation center will be come a Camp Site/Beach! We have been filling our sensory tables with easy to clean items such as game chips and building straws. We are looking forward to another month of fun at preschool as we continue with the alphabet! The children are always excited for the day's letter and for the activities we pack into the day. They are amazing little learners!

**2021-2022:** We plan to open registration for the 2021-2022 school year in February. As an already enrolled family, you do not need to worry about getting on our contact list or about getting a spot for next year. If decide to register for next year, we will provide you a time to enroll before we open up registration to anyone else. If you know anyone who may be interested in our school, please have them sign-up to be on our 21-22 contact list at <https://minotpreschool.com/2021-2022-registration>. Thank you!

Happy New Year 2021

We wish you all a great January! Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you!  
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