



## Dottie, The Cat

There are many things that make Parkside Playschool a special place to be, and there are many special people that make up our school family including a variety of very loved animals. One of the most beloved, though, is Dottie, the cat!

Over the years Dottie has endured many, many pets, hugs, and tugs. She is the most gentle and docile kitty cat even with our smallest kiddos. From checking out her teeth to hugging just a little too much to trying to resist that fun looking tail, Dottie can handle it all!

While we get the chance to love on her everyday, we also get to provide learning opportunities for our kiddos. We teach all of our kiddos at Parkside how to gently love and care for animals. We talk about things like animals don't have voices so we have to watch their body language to tell us if they like or don't like our actions towards them, and that we use gentle hands to pet, and Dottie running away from us means she doesn't want to be chased. It's a great opportunity to introduce empathy at an early age.

Our older kiddos also take part in caring for our animals. For Dottie, they take turns in the three older classes getting food and fresh water each day. They really do take pride in taking care of her, and what a fun way to encourage a sense of responsibility!

Dottie proudly takes on her duties with ease and grace. She has been one of the best additions to the Parkside family. We sure do love her, and she seems to love us back!

## Happy Birthday!

Dec 3 - Julian  
Dec 4 - Shepherd  
Dec 12 - Mrs. Ashley  
Dec 14 - Callum  
Dec 14 - Emmett  
Dec 14 - Miss Adarah  
Dec 15 - Miss Stephanie  
Dec 22 - Miss Kaylee  
Dec 22 - Miss Madison



## \*Dates to Remember\*

Dec 10 - Mrs Ana's 3-Year Work-aversary  
Dec 12 - Mrs Tamara's 5-Year Work-aversary  
Dec 13 - Early Out CLOSE at 5pm  
Dec 14 - Parents' Night Out 3-7pm  
Dec 23-Jan 1 - CLOSED for Winter Break



# Insider's Scoop



What are we doing at Parkside?



The Farm & Garden Program has focused on growing mushrooms the last month! Each of the three older classrooms had at least 1 type of mushroom to grow together. Toddlers had pink oysters; Juniors and Pre-K had blue oysters and lions mane. Everyone did such a great job keeping their mushrooms watered that each of the classes had multiple harvests! The kiddos have been mesmerized by this process, and it has been rewarding watching them learn and rediscover a love of participating in the garden portion of our program! We plan to continue watering and growing these mushrooms as long as they yield healthy mushrooms. 🍄🍄

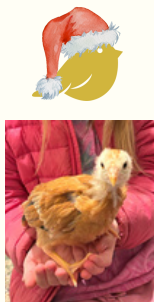
Over the next month, we're starting our winter garden activities! There will be a few farm but mostly garden activities for our friends to complete, starting with mini greenhouses to keep inside. The hope is that some of these seedlings will become part of our herb garden in the spring as well as used for later projects in the winter! ❄️🌱

You might have noticed we've gotten 6 new chicks! 🐣 They are downstairs in the Toddler and Juniors hallway if you ever want to stop by and take a peek. The goal is for us to hopefully keep a couple, maybe Mrs Sydney takes a couple, and to rehome the roosters. So far we think we have two roosters!

Even though winter is upon us, the Farm & Garden Program is truckin' along. Hopefully by next month we'll have some seedlings to show off!

## MUSHROOM PROGRESS!

<3 Kaylee



Woah, how is it December already? It feels like just yesterday we were talking about our exciting January 2024 menu.

This December we are trying to stay warm with baked apples, Gouda Mac-n-Cheese and our international meal- Borscht! Borscht is a sour soup made with pickled stems. It originated in Eastern Europe and Northern Asia; however, most Americans associate the word "Borscht" with the Ukraine variation. We will be serving the Ukraine version, which has a base of pickled beet roots!

I am looking forward to all the new meals our 2025 year has in store for us! Hope you all have a beautiful winter break! ❤️

-Chef Cameo 🍌🌈❤️