



## Building Blocks Learning Center 2018

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Happy New Year to all of our Building Blocks Families! We hope your holidays were filled with lots of fun and family time! We are grateful to you for all of the thoughtful and generous gestures and comments that you extended to us this holiday season. We also appreciate all of the delicious goodies that were donated for our holiday programs.



With the hectic days of the holiday behind us, we look forward to getting the children back into their school routine. January provides us with many interesting topics to explore! We'll kick off the New Year with the wonders of winter - weather exploration, frozen fun and arctic animals. We will also take a look at animals that live in zoo habitats. Naturally, that leads to a study of hibernation and of those animals that sleep away their winter days. Wow! That's just in time to meet Punxatawney Phil on Groundhog Day at the beginning of February!



It is with a heavy heart that I share news of a loss to those of us in the Building Blocks organization. Over the holidays, Paul McDonnell, husband of former owner, Joan McDonnell, lost his four year battle with illness. Almost thirty years ago, Paul and Joan took over Building Blocks in Doylestown, where it grew with great reputation. Thirteen years ago, through Paul's foresight, our little Hilltown school was able to open its doors. Thanks to his unrelenting tenacity, we were able to comply with the EPA regulations that make it difficult for little schools like ours to remain open. He continued to watch over us until two years ago when the McDonnells retired. Although you didn't know him, we ask for prayers for Joan and his family in remembrance of all he made possible for us. Rest in peace, Paul.



*Registration* for the 2018-19 school year is under way.

Thank you to those who have already sent in their forms. Any checks for fees or tuition deposits sent in December will be deposited this month. If you haven't sent in your registration form and plan to join us next year, please let me know as soon as possible. ***This month our available seats for next year open up to the public.*** If you know of anyone who might be interested in BBLC, please have them give us a call to schedule a visit. We'd love to introduce our school to them!



**Tax I.D.**

Tax season is not far away. If you need it, please note that our Tax I.D. number is located on the bottom right of your tuition envelope.



**Vision Screening**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of this month we will be visited by a representative from the Bucks Co. Association of the Blind for our annual vision screening. Each year this valuable screening identifies a few children that need further eye examinations. While participation is optional we always encourage parents to take advantage of this tool. Children take part in an activity that they think of as a game, but alerts the screener to possible vision issues. A form will be sent home shortly for your permission to include your child.



**No School.** . .School will be closed on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> to observe the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Enjoy a nice long winter weekend!



**SNOW.** . .It's that time of year! It's probably a given that we'll experience some snowy days in the coming months. Just a reminder, if Pennridge School district is closed, we are also closed. If there is a one hour delay, BBLC will be delayed one hour. If there is a two hour delay, BBLC morning class will be delayed only one hour, opening at 10:00 a.m. (with morning extended to 12:00) and afternoon Pre K will begin on time. If we come to school and the weather turns

stormy, consult the computer/radio/TV for early dismissal announcements. In this case we will also try to contact you.



**Dressing for Weather.** . . While we are on the subject, now is the time to dig into those backpacks and put a "winter" change of clothing into the bags we use for emergencies. Also, if the weather is sunny and not "too wet" out, we try to get the children outside for fresh air. Please send your child to school with hats, mittens and warm jackets, even if you keep an extra set stashed in the backpack - just in case. Labeled with names is helpful since everyone claims the Frozen or Spiderman hats as their own. (Even if they don't own one!!)



## **DONATION OF THE MONTH**

The time of year dictates our needs to prevent the spread of cold and flu germs. So if you are able to help, our needs this month are:

**Step 1** -Magic Erasers      **Step 2** - paper towels      **Pre K** -Lysol spray

Just for your information, St. Peter's has a large donation box at the main entrance for any **coats, hats, gloves, boots** that families have outgrown. So if you are looking to make space in closets and have usable articles like these, your donations would be appreciated. These items are sent to a local shelter for those in need.

### **DECEMBER DONATION WINNERS:**

**Step 1** - Tyler Minio      **Step 2** - Talia Verbit      **Pre K** - Emma Park

We are most grateful for your generous donations!

### *Dates to Remember:*

- Jan. 8 - 9    Vision Screening
- 10-11    Scholastic Book orders due
- 15        MLT Day - no school

