



# PRESCHOOL NEWS

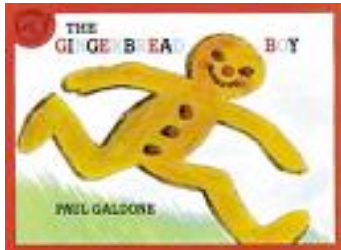
December  
2010

## Mrs. Houldsworth's Class

### IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> Tues-Thurs Class Snack Party  
Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> Mon, Weds, Fri Class Snack Party  
December 23<sup>rd</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup> - School Vacation

*Thank you to all the parents who visited during parent-teacher conference day. It was so nice to meet with you and share information about your child at school.*



### Themes This Month

In December we will focus on the story The Gingerbread Baby by Jan Brett and read several versions of The Gingerbread Boy. Our color this month is yellow and our shape is a square. We will be making a special surprise for you. At the end of the month we will also have a holiday snack party. We wish you all a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season. Thank you all for your continued support of the Preschool Program. **See you in 2011!**

### Mitten Weather

Please try to send your child to school with mittens. They are much easier than gloves for pre-school children to put on. This will help us to get ready for outdoor play quickly! Thank you.

### REMINDERS

- Please label all winter clothing your child wears to school.
- We are looking for preschoolers for our waiting list. Please call the office and let Betsy know.

### Minimizing Power Struggles

No matter how compliant a child, there will be times when he does not want to put on his socks or when she refuses to pick up her toys. Occasionally they will make a power play at an inconvenient time. Often this is frustrating for the adult but it is a healthy part of a child's social emotional development.

In many instances, forcing a child to do what he has said he will not escalates the situation. Several suggestions would be to:

- Be clear and consistent with simple rules and follow through with consequences.
- Try to offer assistance (You can put on your socks by yourself or I can help you.)
- Offer two choices of acceptable alternatives (Would you rather wear the blue socks or the yellow ones?)
- Ignore certain behaviors (stomping, screaming).

Power struggles are simply a part of growing up. When handled by adults in a calm manner they offer opportunities for children to develop self-esteem and self-control.

### Vocabulary Words

We will be working on the following new vocabulary words this month to go along with our gingerbread theme. Please take some time to talk about and use the following words at home.

First, second, third, last, beginning, middle, and end. We will learn holiday songs, poems rhymes and 'power verbs' such as changing the action run to sprint.