

# From Director's Desk

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**Holiday Traditions and Customs**--It is hard to believe that next week begins our holiday break. The beginning of our school year has passed by quickly. It has been a good beginning but I know that we are all ready for rest and relaxation with our families. For the three weeks prior to our holiday break, the children learn about holiday customs from around the world. We encourage parents, grandparents, and other family members to come into school to share their holiday traditions with the children. It is important that our children understand that people of different cultures celebrate different special days in many different ways. In this way they learn to appreciate all people, to be understanding of them, and embrace the differences.

In our family we have many different Christmas traditions that we adhere to from year to year. Each member of the family seems to be attached to one that we can't possibly do without. For my husband it is decorating a large Christmas tree--the larger the better. One year the tree was 15 feet tall and cost us a fortune buying a new stand, more lights, more ornaments and a larger ladder to reach the top. My husband's favorite holiday story is telling about the preparations for that tree and the ordeal of removing it from the house and cleaning up after it. Since he is recovering from the flu this year, I suggested putting up a small tree. He wouldn't hear of it. So our sons and daughter got together to help me make Dad happy. Whatever your holiday traditions are, I hope you share them with your children and enjoy every minute of it!

**Whole School Meeting**--Please mark your 2010 calendars with the date for our whole school meeting. It will be on Thursday, Jan. 14th at 7PM at the school. One adult member of each family is required to attend. It is an important meeting at which we discuss next year's school programs and tuitions. You will have an opportunity to ask questions of the administration and re-enrollment packets are given out at this time. Re-enrollment starts on the 15th and continues until the 30th at which time we have an Open House and open enrollment to the general community. Please make arrangements to attend. You will receive a reminder flyer when we return from the holiday break.

**PM Staff**--This year we have a relatively new staff who oversee our afternoon program from 2:30 to 6:00. Michele Francisco works with Mrs. Blasdel in the multi-aged classroom and then takes over at 4:30. She has been a member of our staff since late last school year. Deborah Morelli and Mary Anelli supervise the toddlers after 2:30 and are brand new to the staff this year. All three ladies work together as a team and do a wonderful job working with the children at a difficult time of day. In the late afternoon the children are tired and often find it difficult to cooperate with each other and keep their bodies under control. Mrs. Francisco, Mrs. Morelli, and Mrs. Anelli deal with them in a loving and patient manner. We are very fortunate to have them as part of our staff. The most difficult position to fill with qualified staff is in this late time period. Thank you ladies for all that you do to make the extended hours program work.

**Thanksgiving Feast**--Our Thanksgiving feast was a great success thanks to the co-operation of the teachers under the supervision of Deborah Blasdel and the help of some wonderful moms who set up on the day and then stayed to clean up. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the treats they made. Traditionally, before the blessing and enjoyment of the food, I talk to the children about the meaning of Thanksgiving and ask what they are thankful for. Their answers are great! This year I asked if someone knew what I am thankful for and without hesitation one of the kindergartners, Peter, raised his hand and replied, Deer Path. He was right! I am thankful for the beautiful children who I have the pleasure getting to know, the dedicated and loving staff and the devoted parents. I hope you all enjoy a blessed holiday season.



***FROM ALL OF US AT DEER PATH, WE WISH YOU A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!***