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November 2, 2015

Dear Families,

The holidays are upon us! We'd like to start this newsletter making sure you are aware of how the holidays affect us here at Outer Limits.

First, please join us for our Thanksgiving Meal on Tuesday, November 24th. Your child's teacher will give you the specifics, but we ask families to arrive around 11:00 for activities and a turkey meal. We typically get a great turnout for this meal - please expect to eat well, sit on little chairs, and include children whose parents may not be able to come in your conversations.

Second, we will close and close early on a few days over the next 2 months.

Thursday, November 26 th	Closed for Thanksgiving
Thursday, December 24 th	Close at 5:00 PM for Christmas Eve
Friday, December 25 th	Closed for Christmas
Thursday, December 31 st	Close at 5:00 PM for New Year's Eve
Friday, January 1 st	Closed for New Year's Day

Third, we will be open the day after Thanksgiving (November 27th). We ask that you tell us in the office if your child will attend. We can then ensure we have enough teachers for the day while at the same time providing time off to other teachers for the holiday. Please let us know in the office what your plans are.

Picture Day Picture day is Thursday, November 12th. All children (not school age) will have their pictures taken between 8 and 11:30. You will receive picture proofs Wednesday, November 18th. Orders must be turned in by December 2nd. Packages start at \$30 and go up from there. You will have the pictures back by the holidays.

Wild Emotions Does your child have wild emotions? If you answered "yes" you are not alone! Author Karen Shumaker (It's OK NOT to Share!) will be in Tucson Saturday, November 14th to speak about parenting and offer ideas and suggestions on working with young children. We are coordinating her visit and would like to invite you to join us from 2:00 to 3:30. You can attend at no cost. Please ask us for details – it will be well worth your time.

We often laugh this time of year because the heat will be on in the morning and the air conditioning will be on in the afternoon. That's Arizona for you! This does mean children will take jackets and sweaters off as the day progresses. *Please be sure to LABEL your child's jackets and sweaters so we can easily return them to the right child.*

Is your child entering Kindergarten in the Fall? It is now time to begin researching the right program for him/her. Applications for TUSD's magnet programs will be available by the middle of November and open houses will begin soon after the New Year. Please ask us for more information in the office – we hope you will start early and find the right fit for your family.

Thank you to those of you who came in for a parent-teacher conference. While conferences are always available, Fall and Spring are great times to meet and learn all about your child's strengths.

We are helping (once again) to host a community forum on children's welfare on December 3rd. The forum will begin at 6:00 PM and is being held at the YWCA on Bonita. We hope you will come and speak to your legislators or simply show your concern/support by attending and listening to what others in the community say. Please let us know if you are interested in attending and need a ride.

Here's something we never thought we would write. Do you have a gun in your home? Would you like a gun lock? We have several gun locks that were given to us to pass out. If you have a gun in the home without a lock, please ask us – first come, first serve.

A quick plug about tax preparation. United Way volunteers will be available starting at the end of January to prepare your taxes FOR FREE. We will provide more information as it becomes available, but we hope that instead of paying high fees for preparation and refund anticipation loans you are able to wait until January when you can have certified tax preparers help you at no cost!

As the holidays approach we also hope you are able to enjoy whatever holiday you celebrate in personal and meaningful ways. It is often easy to get caught up in the material aspects (and stress) of the holidays. When that happens, grab your children and go to the park, read a book or play a board game – you'll be glad you did.

Thank you, as always, for entrusting your children's care and education to us. Let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Minnie, Blanca, Debbie and Bill