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Dear Families,

**Welcome to 2016!** In addition to bringing so much to look forward to, the New Year also gives us the chance to look back and be thankful for the great parts of 2015. For instance, did you know the creator of our “Weekend Food Backpack” program also organized holiday gifts for 20 of our children this year? The amazing Karin Elliott had some help from others this year and we appreciate Karly Fields, Amy Chavez, R & A CPA’s, Kat and Jarred Sola, Cintas, the Mier/Wilkinson family and the TMC Nursing Staff for providing funding, gift and food donations to make this happen. It was truly a remarkable event, made even better with help from Blanca, Tricia, Maggie and Starr. To top everything off, a representative from Ben’s Bells came during the party and “belled” Karin. Amazing. You can learn more about Karin’s program at her blog <http://karin-backpacks.blogspot.com>.

Do you need a little extra food for your children on the weekend? Please let us know in the office and we will let you know when space opens up in Karin’s program.

Please ask us if you need a statement for your taxes. We can quickly print out a statement showing what you paid last year. Do you want to pay your tuition automatically? Ask us for a Tuition Express form and we will charge your card or debit your bank account each Wednesday.

You may have noticed some new faces in the classroom. Please join us in welcoming the teachers who joined us recently. You will find Tiffany Alvarez and Stefany Paredes teaching in the Mountain Lion room. In addition to working with us Tiffany also works as an environmental technician. Stefany recently moved to Tucson and will continue with her studies towards an ECE degree while working at Outer Limits. Lori Scales (Geckos) and Helen Johnson (Roadrunners) both joined us weeks ago, but after the last newsletter. Helen moved to Tucson from Vermont where she taught at the same preschool for 20 years. We hope she repeats that feat here at Outer Limits! Lori has taught at several preschools here in Tucson and is thrilled to be working with us. Elsa Bonilla also joined the Gecko team last week. She has her AA degree in Early Childhood Education and previously worked with Head Start for over a decade. Lastly, Tiffany Johnson, a long time Outer Limits parent, joined us and has been preparing snack and dinner for the school since late November. We’re really excited about our new teachers and we hope you make them all feel welcome.

Many of you attended the free parent classes we offered from September through November. Those of you who attended provided excellent feedback and left asking for more. Your request has

been granted! Our next series of parent education classes will begin January 20th and last for 4 weeks. The instructor will use the 123 Magic Parenting curriculum and is excited to bring this to Outer Limits. We will provide child care for children during the class. Parents of infants – you are welcome to bring your child to class with you as we are unable to provide care for infants during class. The class will run from 6 to 8 each evening – please sign up in the office.

**Are you interested in FREE tax preparation?** Last year the Volunteer Income Tax Preparation (VITA) task force in Southern Arizona processed over 14,000 tax returns and helped Southern Arizonans receive over \$20 million in federal refunds. While VITA volunteers will not come to Outer Limits this year, we strongly encourage you to go to one of the many VITA sites throughout Tucson for free tax preparation. Please ask us for a schedule if you are interested. You can also prepare your taxes yourself *using free HR Block or Turbo Tax software available at the United Way website. [www.unitedwaytucson.org](http://www.unitedwaytucson.org)*

Thank you to those of you who send in extra clothing and jackets with your children. While we keep spare clothes at Outer Limits, it is helpful to have families bring in extras. If we do send clothing that is not yours home on your child, please wash and bring back at your first convenience. As always, any donations of clothing (especially underwear) are appreciated. An extra thank you to those of you who do not send in food and toys to school. As you know, we provide 3 meals and a snack each day and have many items to keep your children happy and busy throughout the day. Please leave all toys and food at home!

Please join us for our annual Love of Reading Celebration on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Last year our theme was “If You Give a Pig a Pancake” - in a previous year the Cat in the Hat joined us. You will need to come to find out what happens this year! Specific details will follow but we hope you will reserve the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Love of Reading with us.

We hope you will help us. Please be sure to.....

- Sign the book and use the computer EVERY TIME you drop off and/or pick up.
- Walk your child all the way to class or to the playground your child's class is playing on.
- Say hello to the teacher when you arrive to drop off or pick up.
- Sign the book after 5:15 if your child eats dinner here. We can receive reimbursement for dinner only if your child is signed out after 5:15.
- Bring us updated immunization records after your child visits the doctor.

Now that the holidays are over we look forward to getting back on regular routines; we imagine you are excited about this as well. Please bring your children on a regular schedule. This helps them successfully predict what is coming next both at home and at school.

Thank you for being part of our community. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2016. Let us know if you have any questions.

Take care,

*Minnie, Blanca, Debbie and Bill*