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October 4, 2016

Dear Families,

We heard from many of you last week that you can't believe it's October. Guess what? It's heeeeeere! October starts to bring the fun of the holidays. Of course, it also brings the stress of the holidays so we encourage you to plan ahead and minimize passing on that stress to your kids. A few suggestions...

- Halloween is a Monday night this year. Consider asking off of work a little early so you can enjoy the night without rushing too much.
- Wait until each holiday gets closer to talk to your young children. The concepts of time and calendar are hard to grasp for young children. When you say Halloween is in 2 weeks to a toddler that means tomorrow.
- Don't use holidays as threats. Threats are not ever effective parenting techniques and that gets magnified around the holidays. Telling your children that Santa is not going to come if..... just isn't helpful.

At Outer Limits we try to minimize the disruption of the holidays. In fact, many years ago we made a decision as staff to refrain from celebrating religious (or somewhat religious) holidays at Outer Limits. We do this for several reasons including allowing you to celebrate, or not celebrate, as makes the most sense for your family. We found some families would not attend on days holiday celebrations occur and this seems a bit unfair for us to impose. **As such, we ask that children do not come to school wearing Halloween costumes. Please save them for after school.**

This does not mean children can't talk about holidays at school. We strongly believe children should lead the learning in the classroom. As such, children telling stories about their family traditions are welcome; we simply promise that the holiday discussion will not dominate the conversations or the lesson plans.

Picture day is coming November 10<sup>th</sup>. We will pass out information about pictures in a couple weeks. You can choose to purchase pictures after you see how they turn out. Pictures will be taken of children who do not attend elementary school.

Some you know a very generous community member provides backpacks filled with food each Friday for families who need a little extra food on the weekend. She has the ability to help a few more children. First come, first serve – please ask in the office.

School age families – do you know your children have vacation starting this Friday for TUSD and Academy Adventures Midtown and next Wednesday for Presidio? Our Mountain Lion teachers will be here all day for those of you who need child care. We look forward to seeing your children here bright and early as needed!

We want to give you advanced notice about when we will close over the holidays. **We will be closed....**

- Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving
- Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> for Christmas
- Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> for New Year's

We will be open Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, the day after Thanksgiving. We know only some of you will need child care on this day and will ask you to tell us of your needs so that we can staff accordingly.

Are your child's immunizations up to date? We will soon provide notices to those of you with children who are not fully immunized. You will then have 10 days to obtain the missing immunization and provide proof. Children who do not receive the required immunization(s) within 10 days of an official notice will need to stay home from Outer Limits until the requirements are met.

We have a few favors to ask of you. First, when parking, please **park facing either North or South**. This will provide the most space for others in our, admittedly, small front parking lot. Second, please be sure to **sign your child in and out in both the book and the computer each time you sign in or out**. Third, if, when picking up your children's items from an already empty classroom your child decides to pull out toys to play with, please put them away before leaving. This will help our custodians work efficiently each night.

Would you like to schedule a parent conference? We will hold parent conferences towards the end of October and early November. Please let us know if you are interested and we will work to schedule a convenient time. Thank you!

Lastly, please join us for our family meal in honor of Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Look for more info from your child's teacher but we hope you will join us for lunch. Thank you for being a part of our Outer Limits family - we love being with your children each day.

Thank you,

*Blanca, Minnie, Debbie & Bill*