

*North Wind, North Wind
You're still my fellow creature
Blow your worst
I fear you not at all
For I am free!*

Dear Parents,

Jan. 4, 2006

We greet you from a meticulously cleaned setting. Over the break, Darla, Marcia Wefel-Rima and her husband Neal, and Kristin Shields took on the interior with rags, a Kirby carpet cleaner, elbow grease, washing machine, and intentionality. According to the article in your recent *Renewal* journal, "Cleaning, especially with water, creates air molecules with a negative or 'friendly' charge and results in, literally, an atmosphere that promotes learning." It felt lovely to recreate the space anew.

Schedule:

We will be shifting the daily schedule to allow children on other days to experience some routines:

Mondays---bread making

Tuesday---painting

Wednesday---baking, seasonal crafting

Thursday---vegetable cutting, seasonal crafting

Fridays---cleaning, seasonal (Arboretum day—tell me if you can join us)

The activities tend to overlap into other days at times depending on need. Bread-making and painting will be switched every now and then so the children can keep experiencing those.

Snacks:

Our continued gratitude to Wheatsfield for providing the ingredients at cost!!!

Mondays---bread! I have long known of the nutritional value and digestibility of spelt- the ancient European wheat grain- and Marcia Wefel-Rima has re-activated my interest in it as an ingredient to use for their bread.

Tuesdays---Porridge with millet, oats served with "sweet milk" and various condiments

Wednesdays---high-protein cornbread

Thursdays---"Stone Soup" with barley or rice and rye crackers. Bring a vegetable for your child to add.

Fridays---noodle kugle. Oh oh! I have to follow Lisa's expertise.

Heads up about **birthdays**. Sophie's celebration will be Jan 27th and three more in Feb.

Open Houses---the center will be open on every third Tuesday during the mornings and in the evenings 6:30- 7:30 so new families can visit with or without their child. Tell your friends!

The circle time will bring in more fondness for our season and hibernating bears and gnomes doing their good work tending the vitality of plants during the cold. The children will be dipping beeswax candles, dyeing wool felt with the elderberries they harvested at the Arboretum during the fall, sewing gnomes and gnome pouches, felting. Outside we'll continue to feed the birds with seed and suet that Kristin found on sale and give the resident squirrel nuts. Snow-capped

Mountain has gone. I want to get out to the Arboretum again soon with them and look for animal tracks.

The **story** now is a Chippewa Indian tale that the children always love about a little brown duck, Shingebis, who can take what Big Chief North Wind can dish out with aplomb. His non-flustered composure is a model for us all.

The Collegiate Methodist Church is considering razing this building for expansion...or not. Who knows. They don't yet. Anybody have ideas for another location in case?! Keep your eyes and imagination open.

Warmly, Delphine