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## Growing Highlights

December 2024



Hello families!

Happy December! As Ms. Jane continues to recover from knee surgery, we will do our best to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

We are looking forward to our *Annual Parents Night Out* on **December 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 7:30 pm**. If you are interested in signing up, please do not hesitate. We try our best to accommodate all our families. It's always a fun-filled night for everyone!

The Giving Wreath is back. If you would like to help a family in need, please take a tag, wrap

the gift and secure the tag onto the gift. Gifts can be left in Ms. Jane's office by **Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**.

As the weather is getting colder outside, please bring labeled appropriate winter gear every day for your child(ren). We go outside twice daily, weather permitting.

Just a reminder as the cold and flu season is upon us. Please keep in mind, if your child is unable to participate in the day's activities, please keep them at home. We do our best to keep the center running as smoothly as possible and illness free.

We kindly ask that if you are bringing breakfast dishes that go home, please bring it in a plastic/metal container (no glass) and label your child's name on them. It is easier to return when we know whose they are.

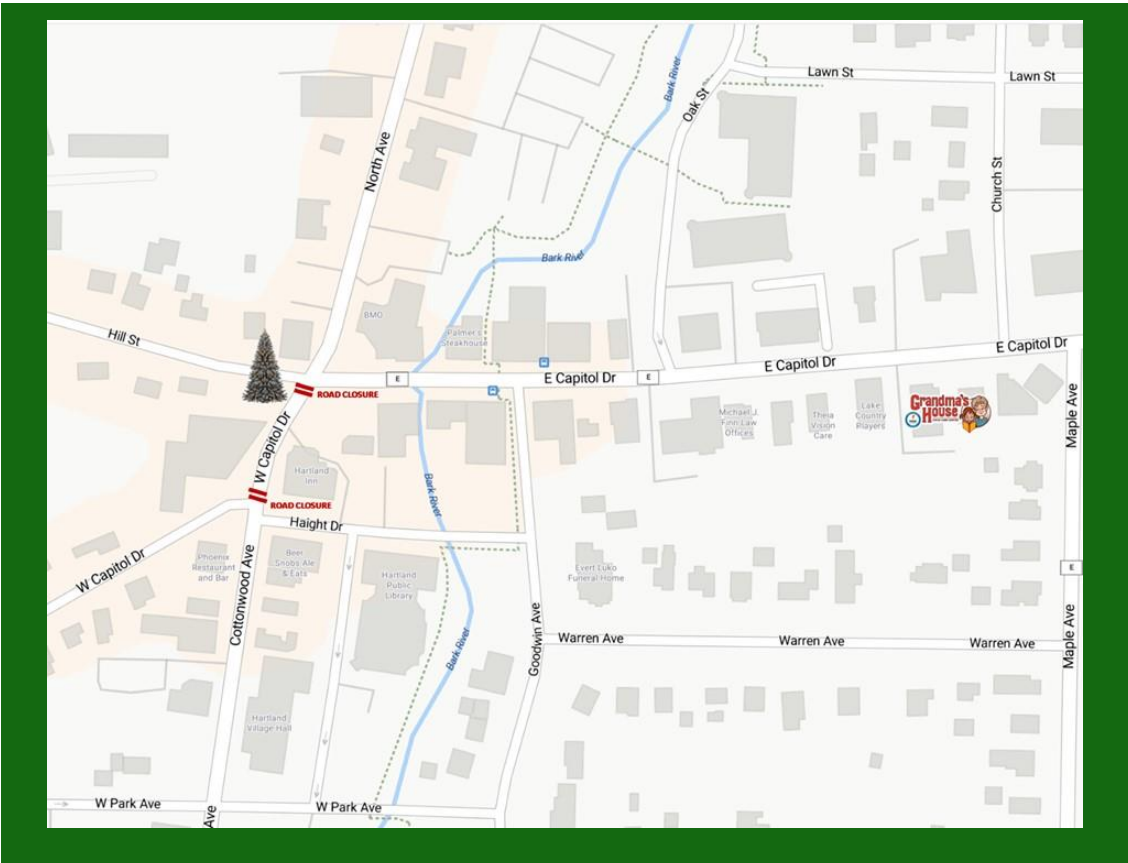
I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season with families and friends.

*Thanks,*  
*Ruth Perez & Shannon Olson*  
Assistant Directors  
[jsweet@grandmashouse.org](mailto:jsweet@grandmashouse.org)

## Hartland Tree Lighting

*Friday, December 6th*  
*5:30 - 9:00 pm*

Road Closure starting at 5:30 pm



**Holiday Train**  
*Sunday, December 8th*  
 Cottonwood & Pawling Crossing  
 Arrival 5:30 pm  
 Show 5:45 - 6:15 pm



- 3 Olivia B.
- 4 Mallory B.
- 18 Abigail N.
- 18 Persephone K.
- 19 Charlotte R.
- 21 Maria A.
- 22 Annie C.
- 23 Chloe R.

27 Aubrey W.  
30 Charlie K.

**Annual Giving Wreath**

Benefiting children in need this holiday season.  
*Wreath located in our back entryway.*

To participate in our Giving Wreath:

- \*Take a tag (or two!)
- \*Purchase the item(s)
- \*Return **WRAPPED** items with **tag attached** to Ms. Jane's office by **Wednesday, 12/18/24**

## Look What We Did!

### *Busy Town, Infants*

In Janet Lansbury's article "Baby Talk – Don't Miss the Magic," she discusses the

### *Magical Moons, 2's*

Wow! How has another month come and gone already? Even with the chilly weather

role that caretakers and parents can play in providing “enriching and educational experiences possible by providing safe, emotionally nurturing environments and regular opportunities to engage in baby-led play.” The ideas discussed in this article are many of the same principles we utilize here at Grandma's House in the infant room. We would like to share two ideas that Lansbury discusses in her article. Believe Babies Capable. According to Lansbury, babies are fully capable of initiating play and engaging in their environment. As parents and caretakers, it is our role to allow them to utilize independent play time. In our infant room, our little friends are allowed ample amounts of independent play and free movement in our classroom daily. Hence why you can't see our floor at times or are wondering if you are stepping over a toy or a child as you move through the room. It is amazing the activities these little ones find interesting and the creative ways they find to use our materials in our classroom when left to their own will. Toys and environmental changes are also made to the classroom every two weeks (or as needed) to match the lesson plan theme and to peak the children's interest in play. Outside time opens a new environment and experiences when children crawl across the playground to explore a pile of leaves or try to climb the incline of the bridge, another example of independent play and free movement within a baby's environment.

Familiarity and Predictability are Important. According to Lansbury, familiarity and predictability breed

that has been coming, the children continue to enjoy playing outside. Whether it is riding bikes, being in the sandbox, coloring with chalk, or running around; being outside is everyone's favorite! Many of the children are doing an excellent job of putting on their jackets and now trying to put on their hats. In November, we enjoyed learning and exploring our shapes and colors; from painting with cookie cutters, cutting and gluing shapes from colored paper, to many fun activities using Fruit Loops. The children had fun exploring their imaginations with our classroom kitchen and grocery store. We got to enjoy many of their yummy creations. The classroom continues to love listening to stories and songs. This month we experienced stories through a CD player. We think most of them have all the stories memorized so they could tell them to us without a CD playing! The children have enjoyed making their own snacks for the afternoon, including snack mixes and cupcakes. We continually work on evaluation goals throughout the week by incorporating them into fun activities and play. Hope you have a fun and safe rest of your year. We will see you in 2025.

*Ms. Shannon and Ms. Savannah*

### ***Pinkalicious, 2.5's***

I can't believe we are already heading into the holiday season. We just went through our lesson plan all about Leaves. We learned why leaves change color during

confidence. In our infant classroom, the children benefit from interacting with the same teachers and classmates on a daily basis. This predictability makes the environment comfortable for our infant friends and allows them more confidence to explore the room freely. This is seen daily when the children are dropped off in the morning and they have a huge smile on their face because they see the friend that they play with each day. This is also true when a child easily hands off from parent to teacher during drop off or wants to be comforted with a hug by the teacher. Reassuring words and a calm voice are used throughout our day to tell the children what is happening and that everything will be okay. They may be little, but they know what is going on, understand routines in our classroom, and sense when a change is happening. We see this when Ms. Taylor drops off food for snack or lunch and the children begin to whine at the counter where the food is or climb towards the table waiting to be picked up and put in the table. Verbalization may not happen with words, but body language and facial expressions tell it all.

[Janet Lansbury's website](#) is a wonderful resource with articles, books, and podcasts for everyone; Parent, grandparent, or anyone who is a caregiver to children. We hope you will have a moment to explore her website.

*Ms. Kristine and Ms. Mo*

***Very Hungry Caterpillars, Older Infants***

the Fall months. We also talked a little bit about the life cycle of a tree. We did fun art painting with pinecones, using our small motor skills by gluing tissue paper onto paper along with leaves we found outside. Our next lesson plan is going to focus on Friendship, Working Together, and Being Kind. We are also going to learn a lot about Holiday Fun with lots of fun activities. We also have been celebrating lots of birthdays! Thank you parents, for bringing in a special treat on their special day and indulging all of us to celebrate. We enjoyed taking walks and exploring the outdoors with Ms. Emily and Ms. Natalie's friends. We have been learning about affirmations. During group time, we kick start our day on a positive note. Just a few reminders, please bring in weather appropriate gear for your child to go outside. Please make sure to label all jackets, hats, boots, and mittens. Also, please check your child's cubby each week to make sure they are fully stocked. As always if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. Happy Holidays!

*Ms. Bry*

***Woodland Animals, 3's***

We hope that everyone is enjoying their holiday season. Even with the craziness of the holidays please remember to bring warm clothes and appropriate outside clothing for your child so we can all be bundled up when we go outside. We did so many fun activities in November in the classroom. We learned about our different

Happy December! Thank you to everyone that brought in their family turkey feather for our bulletin board! That is something we enjoy seeing every November. We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family. For the month of December, we will embrace all things holiday fun. We will add in fun Christmas dramatic play items and make a special project. We also plan on experiencing cookie making, and of course, eating. Everyone gets involved when we bake! We have the children stir and pour ingredients in a bowl and it's usually a hit. Remember we go outside twice per day so please make sure to have a winter coat, hat and mittens in your child's cubby. We might even get to play with a little snow this December! We shall see! On those inside days, we try to bring in little bikes and cars to help our friends get some energy out. This year really has flown by so fast; we can't believe it. We hope all of our families have a memorable holiday and all of our classroom friends get everything they want on their Christmas list!

*Ms. Ruth and Ms. Kelly*

### ***Duck and Goose, Toddlers***

The Duck and Goose crew are just quacking up with the year coming to an end. We have learned so much this year. We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoyed time with family. Bree and I are so thankful for all our fantastic families. We love what we do and love being a part of your child's

emotions while playing a guessing game on how our friends were feeling. We talked about different ways that you can fill someone's bucket to make them happy and we created stress balls to help calm down our bodies. We also learned about turkeys and painted with feathers, played a guessing game on whether objects float or sink and we made a cranberry Oobleck and got our hands nice and messy. We are so proud of how far the children have come with spelling their names and recognizing their letters. We are continuing to practice that and will begin trying to write our names. As always, we are working on the children's independence to gear them up for 4K!!!! We hope everyone has a great rest of their 2024.

*Ms. Emily and Ms. Natalie*

### ***Mushrooms, 4's***

Hi families, this year is flying by! We've been doing so much in our classroom. An activity we have started recently that the kiddos are enjoying is doing a calendar daily. We're working on the days of the week which helps us understand before/after, counting, and how a week works. We also explored the insides of a pumpkin. After we cleaned the pumpkin out, we carved it and took it outside for it to "explode" (using baking soda and vinegar). We also went on a leaf hunt and made art using the leaves we found. Next, we will be going into our Friendship and Winter units.

growth. It is truly an honor. The class has been learning so much and gaining independence. They are learning to use their sign language and/or words to communicate on a daily basis. They can open their own water bottles and use their utensils for meals. We are working on sharing with friends and gentle touches. They had fun making bread and are learning so much about leaves. We painted leaves, we stamped with leaves, we threw leaves up, and we even carried them around in baskets. Through our Leaf theme we learned about colors, shapes, counting, using fine motor and gross motor by picking up leaves or even by crushing them up in their hands. As winter gets closer, we want to encourage you to practice snow gear with your child. Bulky clothing and boots are new to them and need patience and practice. It is very helpful when families try on and practice at home before bringing the new clothing in. Sometimes a child might need a hat with a clasp or tie and mittens that are longer, so the child doesn't take them off. We will still go out daily, weather permitting. Please have items labeled so we can keep track of snow items as we go in and out often. As you can imagine, it gets pretty chaotic dressing and undressing eight toddlers to go outside and your help with your child's items are much appreciated. Please let us know if you are aware of any days your child will be gone during the holiday season, too. Thanks again for all your help. Bree and I want to wish you all a very magical holiday season full of memories

As the weather gets colder outside, please be sure your child has a coat, hat and mittens here every day; all labeled with your child's name. As always reach out with any questions.

*Ms. Chantel*

### ***Backyard Fairies, SA***

Hello families! It is time to say goodbye to sweater-weather and hello to hats, mittens and snowpants. Our afternoon walks have been getting colder and longer. But, it's been so much fun for them to try and get back to Grandma's House before the South friends return on the bus. When our South friends beat us back, they enjoy hiding from the North friends. It is such a fun and silly way to get all of the children excited after a long day at school. With the little amount of time the children are here after school, we've been learning about Space, and Friendship and Kindness. During our Space lesson, the children made their own planets with balloons and paint. The children chose the colors for their planet and we used balloons to stamp the paint on paper. It was awesome! I have introduced a "filler-up" jar where our friends can write down kind things they have done and fill the jar with them. Once the jar is full, we will get a special reward. We also made a friendship tree with all of our friend's fingerprints. A fun way to continue learning and teaching kindness at home is a "ripple affect" experiment. All you need is a pan, water, and small/medium/large



and joy with your family.  
*Ms. Andrea & Ms. Bree*

### ***Chicka Chicka Boom Booms, 2's***

November sure flew by! We have been busy on the playground playing games such as "Ready, Set, Go" and "Ring Around the Rosie". We have also enjoyed doodling with chalk on the ground, raking up leaves to jump in, and building with our outdoor blocks making balance beams and cars. In our classroom, we enjoy reading books by Eric Carle. Our favorite book is "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". We even practiced rolling up like a cocoon and "popping up" to be a butterfly. Some other things we enjoy in our classroom are dressing up and dancing. It's that time of year to bring in coats, snow pants, hats and mittens all labeled with your child's name. Also, please be sure to have extra warm clothes in their cubby.

*Ms. Tricia and Ms. Lindsey*

heavy objects. Once you have water in your pan, you can have your child drop different sized objects in the water which will create a ripple. This teaches them the impact kindness has on others, regardless of how big or small the act of kindness is. We will be jumping into our Winter lesson this month where we will be using pom poms to paint with, creating a snowstorm in a jar, making snowflakes with beads and pipe cleaners, and so much more! We check the MyKidzDay app daily, it is a very helpful and important tool for us to know of any change in your child's pick up or drop off schedule. Enjoy the holiday season everyone!

*Ms. Desi*

## Grandma's House Price Listing Effective January 6, 2025

Daily Rates		Under 2	2 Year Olds	3-4 Year Olds	5+
<b>Full Day</b>	Youngest/Single Child	88	79	71	62
	Older Child(ren)	75	67	60	53
<b>Half Day</b> (5 hours or less)	Youngest/Single Child	--	60	57	54
	Older Child(ren)	--	53	51	48

Full and Half day rates include lunch and snacks.

### School Age Rates Full-Day 5K through Fifth Grade

Full Time-Weekly	Before	After	Before & After
Youngest/Single Child	85	110	135
Older Child(ren)	75	95	120

Students attending full-time do not pay extra for single school-off days, with the exception of Winter and Spring breaks during which the Full Day Daily Rate is paid (see above).

Part Time-Daily	Before	After	Before & After
Youngest/Single Child	19	24	29
Older Child(ren)	17	21	26

Part time fees are based on a permanent or submitted schedule. School days off are charged at the Full Day Daily Rate (see above).

Please see Center Director for additional School Age Policies.

### Miscellaneous Fees

One Time Non-Refundable Family Registration Fee: <small>Families may only register at one Grandma's House Center</small>	\$150
Returned Check Fee: (Checks presented once to our bank)	\$20
Late Fee for every 15 minutes past 6:00 p.m.:	\$20 / child
No phone call for transportation needs or school age absence:	\$10
Holding Fee: <small>Grandma's House offers families the option of holding their child's spot at our centers for a short-term, temporary leave of absence by paying a holding fee. Parents must submit a Return Date with their holding fee. If children do not return to Grandma's House on the agreed-upon Return Date, parents have two options:</small>	\$50 / child
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pay tuition equivalent to 4 days of attendance for each child beginning on the Return Date for each week until they return to the center.</li> <li>2. Children are placed on our Inactive List. Parents may re-enroll their child(ren) at a future date based on availability at the center. Availability is not guaranteed.</li> </ol>	

**Corporate Office**  
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