



Katie's Kids News & Events



December 2011

This Article was taken from Exchange Every Day...

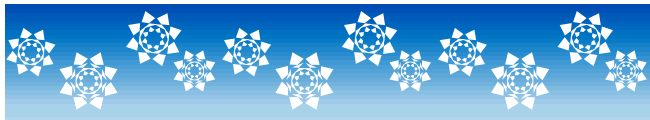
Geeks Prefer Books and Chalk

Schools nationwide have rushed to supply their classrooms with computers, and many policy makers say it is foolish to do otherwise. But the contrarian point of view can be found at the epicenter of the tech economy, where some parents and educators have a message: computers and schools don't mix." This surprising assertion appeared in an October 22 **New York Times** article, "[A Silicon Valley School That Doesn't Compute.](#)"

The school, which enrolls children of parents from Google, Apple, Yahoo, ebay, and Hewlett-Packard, is "the Waldorf School of the Peninsula, one of around 160 Waldorf schools in the country that subscribe to a teaching philosophy focused on physical activity and learning through creative, hands-on tasks. Those who endorse this approach say computers inhibit creative thinking, movement, human interaction, and attention spans.... The school's chief teaching tools are anything but high-tech: pens and paper, knitting needles and, occasionally, mud. Not a computer to be found. No screens at all. They are not allowed in the classroom, and the school even frowns on their use at home."

Here is the viewpoint of a typical parent, Alan Eagle, an executive at Google:

"I fundamentally reject the notion you need technology aids in grammar school.... The idea that an app on an iPad can better teach my kids to read or do arithmetic, that's ridiculous." And asking, "What's the rush to learn technology in schools," Eagle observes, "It's super easy. It's like learning to use toothpaste. At Google and all these places, we make technology as brain-dead easy to use as possible. There's no reason why kids can't figure it out when they get older."



Katie's Kids will be closed the following dates for winter break:

**Friday, December 23rd
Monday, December 26th
Monday, January 2nd**

Katie's Kids Staff would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!



December Birthdays

<u>Children</u>	<u>Staff</u>
12/2 Alicia G.	12/12 Jen M.
12/4 Thomas M.	12/12 Jackie S.
12/7 Alexandra S.	12/16 Jill V.
12/8 Izabella A.	
12/9 Oliver H.	
12/10 Sophia G.	
12/10 Hannah K.	
12/10 Carter L.	
12/16 Avah T.	
12/17 Jackson T.	
12/20 Hunter M.	
12/26 Mason H.	
12/28 Sydney B.	
12/30 Aarti S.	

Up-Coming Events:

School-age Days:

**December 21 & 22
December 27-30th
January 3rd, 16th, & 17th**
Please sign up at the front desk.

Saturday Night Live

**December 3rd from 5-10pm
December 18th from 12-4pm**

The Mitten Tree

We are asking families to help fill our tree with warm mittens, gloves and hats for both children and adults. We will be donating these items to a local charity.



Room 1

We hope everyone had a fantastic Thanksgiving with family and friends. In November, we enjoyed tracing our hands to create our turkey, Talula. We also enjoyed sensory activities like playing with feathers and tasting pumpkin spice pudding. We are looking forward to all of our winter wonderland activities in December. We will be creating a winter scene, singing holiday songs and hopefully playing with snow on our sensory table. Room 1 wishes everyone a safe and joyous holiday season!

Ms. Lindsay and Ms. Emily

Room 2

Room 2 had a very fun and fruitful fall! We played with leaves and corn cobs in the sensory table and made cute scarecrows for our pumpkin patch. We painted with corn cobs and ended our fall activities with some cute turkey hand prints and some yummy pumpkin pudding tasting.

The month of December will find us enjoying the scents and sounds of the holiday season. We will be using our sense of smell to enjoy the scents of vanilla, peppermint, lemon, and cinnamon. We will also be playing and listening to all different kinds of bells. We will also be making a little surprise for you wonderful parents at the end of the month. Wishing you a happy and joyous holiday season with your little ones!

Ms. Cathy, Ms. Tanisha and Ms. Melinda

Room 3

We are excited to welcome Lucas, Aubrey, Mahi, Josie and Ella. Scarlett has moved up to Room 2. The babies just loved our bubble blowing activity. It is challenging to try and catch the bubbles as they float past! They are intrigued as they followed the progress of the bubbles. We enjoyed exploring a kooshball. The babies' reactions were fun to observe as they touched the ball that moves by itself. It's wonderful to have Ms. Cari back, along with her sweet baby, Ella.

Ms. Margi, Ms. Bridget, Ms. Chasney and Ms. Jill

Room 4

Our class has continued with our fall-themed activities. We stamped with apples and fall cookie cutters. We also filled our sensory table with fall objects such as mini pumpkins, gourds, and pine cones. This last month we had two friends, Kye and Alex, move up to the preschool rooms, and we welcomed a new friend, Kiley, to our classroom. In December, we will be saying goodbye to Jackson who is moving to Wisconsin. We will miss you!

Ms. Heather, Ms. Emily and Ms. Lisa

Room 5

The holiday season is approaching. This month we will be participating in many holiday activities and continue learning about ourselves. Music and singing are wonderful ways to communicate our feelings and we often have many feelings this time of year! Room 5's Holiday Program will be held on December 16th at 10:15a.m. Mark your calendar and keep your eyes open for a special invitation! Thank you for your continuing support and involvement. Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Ms. Elena and Ms. Samantha

Room 6

We hope you had a good Thanksgiving. We enjoyed our feast and we're glad to see all of you who were able to come! It's hard to believe it's already December. We will be doing winter activities while we observe the children to determine what our next project will be. We will be talking about hibernation and animals for the next week. Then we will see where the children's interests will take us.

Ms. Erin, Ms. Kathy and Mr. Ramone

Room 7

Happy Holidays from all of us in Room 7! This month we learned about a variety of trucks, construction vehicles, boats and ships, submarines, hot air balloons, and talked about what we are thankful for. Next month, we will learn about air transportation including airplanes, rockets and helicopters. The ice cream truck visited this month (Mr. Ramone) and brought all of us an ice cream treat! Also, please check out our "Thankful Turkey" in the hallway which displays all of the things we are thankful for in Room 7! Our transportation culminating event will be on Friday, December 16th. Details will be coming home soon! Have a wonderful holiday!

Ms. Taylor and Ms. Sharon

Room 8

This past month the toddler 8 children have truly "soaked up" all kinds of concepts and information pertaining to transportation! They were introduced to a various amount of experienced and ideas dealing with cars, boats and planes. While driving cars in shaving cream, creating a train out of chairs, flying paper airplanes or playing with water the children had FUN!

In December, we will continue on with transportation project and we will be thinking of new ideas for the year to come.

Ms. Lindsay, Ms. Gail, Ms. Laya