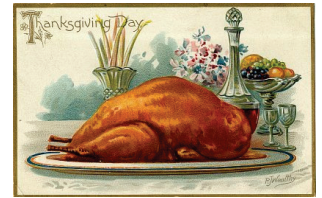




# LILLIPUT NEWSLETTER

November 2011



Dear Parents,

Lilliput opens in-house registration on: November 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 for fall of 2012.

This registration is only for the people who have attended Lilliput and have a registration ticket. We have registration now because we want present Lilliputians to have first choice of programs for the next school year before outside people register on December 5.

We cannot guarantee who the teacher will be as changes can happen. We do guarantee the same level of quality care and early education by the best teachers around - handpicked and trained by us since 1985.

Please remember that your registration fee is **NOT refundable**. So if you are not sure what your plans are you may want to check your options before registering, or take your chances that you will get a spot when you are sure. Registration will be on-going all year after Dec 5<sup>th</sup>. We usually have afternoon openings well into the spring for 3 and 4 year olds.

The registration fee is \$150.00 for preschool and \$300.00 for Kindergarten and upper grades. There is one Registration fee per family - the greater. I tried my best to keep the tuition as low as possible with just a few increases. This is a tough economy for everyone.

To be fair Lilliput's registration is by lottery. Your ticket and information packet including the tuition rates for next year and a schedule of class times will be sent home in the backpacks the week of November 7<sup>th</sup> with your child. If you do not get one or you have any questions, please call the office.

Thank you,

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11-1.....Parent teacher Conferences
- 11-6.....Day Light Savings
- 11-11.....No School Veterans Day
- 14-18.....Lilliput's week of in-house registration
- 11-23, 24, 25 **CLOSED**....Thanksgiving Vacation
- 12-5.....Registration 2012 opens to the public

## TUITION REMINDER

### 4 Installment Payments Option

The second of 4 payments is due on or before November 1<sup>st</sup>

### 9 Installment Payments Option

Another of the 9 installment payments is due on or before November 1<sup>st</sup>



*80% of tuitions have been arriving late! Please remember there is a standard \$15 late fee for payments made after the 5th of the month.*

## COLD WEATHER REMINDERS

Lilliput goes outside every day if the temperature is above 32 degrees and it is not raining.

Please dress your child appropriately for cold weather. If you are sending your daughter in a dress, a pair of long pants underneath is a must. Shoes or boots that can stand the cold are also important as well as hats and mittens.

Please LABEL everything that comes off. Many times we have three children with the same coat. Labeling really helps!



## "Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage."



Amulya Mahal, the parent of a Lilliput Graduate who we trust and know well is a real estate agent working at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, of Shrewsbury.

If you are in the market to buy a new home or sell your existing home please contact Amulya. She will work with you to make the home buying and selling process both profitable and satisfying and tailored to your individual needs. You may contact her via email or cell. She is looking forward to helping Lilliput families and meeting your real estate goals.

### Amulya Mahal

2 Maple Ave, Shrewsbury, MA

Cell: 508-523-7275

E-mail: [amulya.mahal@nemoves.com](mailto:amulya.mahal@nemoves.com)

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### ALLERGY FREE FOODS

One of our moms shared a web site where you can get peanut, tree nut, milk and egg free foods!!

Go to: [www.divvies.com](http://www.divvies.com)

### NO SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

Listen to:

- ▶ WSRS 96.1 FM
- ▶ WTAG 580 AM Radio



Log on to:

- ▶ WSRS.Com and go to school cancellations WHDH.com
- ▶ **Channel 7 is the only TV station that will post our closings**

You can be notified on your cell phone as soon as we announce school closings or delays.

Go to: [www.whdh.com](http://www.whdh.com) click on "Closing Bell on your Cell".

The information to register is available in more detail on our web site at [www.Lilliputschool.com](http://www.Lilliputschool.com)



## SCHOOL CANCELATIONS POLICY

- ▶ If there is bad weather, check the listings above to see if we cancel, delay, or dismiss early.
  - ▶ Do not go by what the public schools do.
- If you do not see or hear our name, we are open at our regular times.**

\*Please do not call the school if you decide not to send your child due to the weather conditions.\* Lilliput cannot handle the amount of calls and it ties up the phone lines for possible emergencies. Go to "Lilliput Programs" on face book. We will always announce it there as well.

Thank you!



### BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Lilliput will continue to collect "Boxtops for Education." all year. This program is easy to do and we get 10 cents for every *box top* which we can spend as we wish. This money will be used towards upgrading our playground equipment. Please continue to save and send in your *box tops* and win fun prizes!

The winner of September's boxtop prize was Ellie Heald The prize was a family pass to the EcoTarium in Worcester.

October's winner will be announced at a later date. Continue saving!

Who will win the prize for November?



## **SHREWSBURY CHILD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The SCDC is dedicated to the enrichment of children from birth to age five and their families. They provide a wide variety of resources for families including music classes, children's events and story times, play group link-ups and publications.

The SCDC is a volunteer organization. All of their programs, publications and events are produced entirely by the efforts of their wonderful volunteers. Please visit the website or contact SCDC to see how you can get involved. You don't have to be a Shrewsbury resident.

**Website:** [www.scdc.org](http://www.scdc.org)  
**E-mail:** [scdckids@scdc.org](mailto:scdckids@scdc.org)  
**Phone:** 508-841-8300 x 1477

The Shrewsbury Child Development Committee (SCDC) is planning several activities for the coming months but we need your help. This is a volunteer organization and we need more help to provide enriching activities to children in Shrewsbury and surrounding areas. Please contact Jennifer Luke at [jluke88@gmail.com](mailto:jluke88@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping. You do not need to be a Shrewsbury resident to participate or help.

## **SCHOOL LUNCHES**

Please remember we are a nut free school and items containing nuts are not allowed and cannot be served for safety reasons.

\*If you send a soy sandwich which looks like peanut butter please also send us a note letting us know- saying it's a soy sandwich so we know it's safe and we don't need to call you to check.\*



**What children eat at lunch**, the battle to ensure the children eat their food in a certain order is not a battle we want our teachers participating in. The teacher's job is to see that the children are safe, happy, having fun and eating what their parents have packed for them. Please pack a balanced lunch. We recommend packing no more than one snack.



## **Lunch and Learn**

For children in morning Kindergarten at the public schools, Lilliput has a program for the other half of the day called **Lunch and Learn**. Children are brought to Lilliput ( either by bus or by parent) after pick up at morning Kindergarten. They eat lunch here and then have an afternoon of beginning to read and early math activities. We also include social studies and science as well as outdoor play time. Call for more information.

## **Rest Time at Lilliput**

At rest time children need to have something on their feet in case of a fire drill, so unfortunately they need to keep their shoes on. If the children are uncomfortable with their shoes on, parents can send in slippers with a soft sole that can be worn outside.



## **TUITION POLICIES**

Lilliput **cannot defer payments** to families who take vacations during the time we are in session. The tuition is a yearly fee divided into installment payments for your convenience. We count on that fee when planning our budget for we still have to pay our staff and our bills even when you are not here. Please plan your vacations to coincide with our vacations and holidays. If you must take time away, your payments are still due as part of your tuition contract with Lilliput.



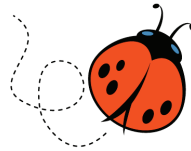
**ONCE AGAIN KIDS**

One of our past Lilliput moms, Linda Stockhouse, has opened a high quality children's resale clothing store here in Shrewsbury.

She will offer a discount to Lilliput parents who use our secret password "**LADYBUG**". Purchase high quality children's clothing and or sell your items and help to save our planet for the future generations!

Visit them online at: [www.onceagainkids.biz](http://www.onceagainkids.biz) or <http://www.facebook.com.onceagainkids>

**THE RESULTS OF OUR SURVEY:**



Many thanks to all the parents who filled out our survey. 48 survey's were turned in. Many parents answered some but not all of the questions. Here are the results:

1. Fewer teachers but lower tuition:  
yes.....4                      no.....43

2. Should we keep some 2&1/2 hour classes :  
yes for 3's only.....12    no.....32

3. Should morning and afternoon classes be three hours long?  
yes.....40                      no.....1

***I have been working on this all week and because we have so many classes it is impossible to do without starting before 8:15 or going after 3:15, which you will see below is not preferred. The lunch time for teachers is already too short so I can't make up the time there. But I was able to make more classes 3 hours long, leave some 3 year old classes 2 and 1/2, and make some 4 year old classes 2 and 3/4 hours long...so better***

4. Is 3:15 too late to end classes?  
yes.....28                      no.....18

5. Is 8:15 to early:  
yes.....31                      no.....9

***These times start to be difficult for families once they have older siblings in the***

***elementary schools that start at 9:00 and end at 3:15.***

6. Do you want more full day classes?  
yes.....16                      no.....15

7. Would you be interested in a toddler program?  
yes.....11                      no.....14

8. Should we serve only water?  
yes.....29  
Keep as is..choice water or juice.....17  
serve diluted juice.....2

Serve milk.....2 (***this is not an option due to milk allergies***) ***With these thoughts in mind, for now we will have juice as an option but offer water first...and see how that goes.***

9. Thoughts about snacks;  
• fine as is.....12  
• add more variety .....11  
• add fruits and veggies.....21  
• no oreos.....5  
• children bring their own snacks.....1  
***this is a problem due to allergies and children wanting to eat what their friends have.***

***This week Lilliput has tried serving apples and bananas. We are seeing how that goes. We will plan on Fruit at least twice a week to start. Next week we will try veggies too.***

What would parents like to see more of?

- field trips
- special programs
- exercise programs
- cheaper stay and play
- communication
- enrichment programs
- parent involvement opportunities
- 7:30 early drop off ( we have that)
- Chinese instruction
- dance ++
- Gymnastics
- science
- foreign language instruction
- 3 hour classes
- 3 days for 3 year olds
- half day program for after Beal Kindergarten ( We have that! Lunch and learn )
- events for parents (last year we had a behavior workshop, this year

another workshop is coming soon.  
more info to follow)

- longer conference time ( you may request this any time- ask your child's teacher)
- accelerated learning programs
- same no school days as public school
- workbooks in kindergarten ( we have that...our Letterbooks)
- a gym space ( we have it ... I am working on making it handicap accessible....)
- reading and writing earlier
- longer classes for 4 and four year olds with a stronger education focus.
- longer classes
- More songs and rhymes

***I will take all these suggestions into consideration when planning programs. Right now we have Spanish instruction in grades Kindergarten and First. Many of my colleagues who tried Spanish at the preschool level dropped it because the children did not have the attention span to do well and of course it was costly for the program. We can consider special programs after school, held here at Lilliput, once our Gym is accessible. When that happens we will give it a try. Perhaps dance, violin instruction, exercise classes, yoga etc.***

10. What would you like to see less of?

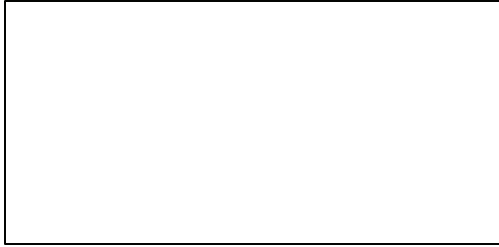
- Parents and teachers chatting in the car line
- classes on the porch early
- papers coming home
- teacher turn over \* ***teachers who leave do so at their own will, or are not hire back for the good of the school We do our best to keep our quality staff. All staff from last year returned except one who retired and one who left for personal reasons. I am very***

***pleased with the staff we now have.***

***I wrote every comment here -good or bad.***

Comments:

- ❖ We chose Lilliput because of the 1:6 ratio
- ❖ Keep your standards high
- ❖ I love you guys and am very happy
- ❖ Have your school schedule match the public school schedule
- ❖ I am completely happy
- ❖ Have parents send in fruit on a rotation schedule ( Allergy issue)
- ❖ My son loves enrichment
- ❖ Both of my sons attended Lilliput and I feel they both got an amazing start to their education
- ❖ LOVE the teachers! They are the best!
- ❖ We couldn't be happier with Lilliput. Our daughter love going to preschool and her teachers are absolutely wonderful! We especially like the teacher-child ration and we plan to keep our daughter at Lilliput if it remains the same.
- ❖ I am so happy with this school. My son loves it and looks forward to his school days.
- ❖ I have heard great things about Lilliput and am very excited to have my son attend this preschool
- ❖ Each set of teachers related to my son in a different way which I think is great. He loves going to school which is a credit to Lilliput and its staff. He began his school journey in the right place!
- ❖ I would like to see class pictures taken earlier so that parents can have an idea who their child's peers are.
- ❖ I am pretty happy and satisfied with the way things are going at school
- ❖ I love the program. I have seen my son get so excited for school and watched him develop such confidence in himself since beginning last year at Lilliput. I highly recommend Lilliput to parents I know with young children.
- ❖ Lilliput is an excellent school and we would love to see it grow and prosper.



# *Middle of the Month News*

I just wanted to let you know that October was a successful Box Tops month. We collected 630 Box Tops! That equals \$63! The winner of the contest was Christopher Bruschi from Mrs. Chartier's class. He won a year's subscription to "High Five" magazine.

## Pre-k VS 4 year old program:

There seems to be some confusion as to the purpose of our pre-k class and our 4-year-old classes. I would like to explain the differences.



Our pre-k class was developed for children attending Lilliput for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. These children have already completed the 3-year-old curriculum and the 4-

year-old curriculum with success.

We did not want the third year to be the same so with this class we get into more writing of letters and numbers, a more intensive introduction to the alphabet and beginning sounds, and an introduction to numbers 11 through 20. We also work more in large groups rather than small groups and due to their age and longer attention span they are able to handle this. Most of these children already know their numbers through 10, and their upper and lower case letters of the alphabet. Their fine motor skills are well developed and they enjoy paper and pencil tasks. They are learning to write their last name.

Our regular four-year-old class is preparing children for Kindergarten. We review the

colors, shapes and numbers to 5 that were taught in the 3 year old classes and get into introducing upper and lower case letters of the alphabet, patterning, sequencing stories, ordering things from large to



small, finding same and different in objects, sorting and categorizing, number

recognition to 12, learning to write their first name and introducing the writing of letters and numbers as well as many other skills in the social area and the fine motor area. Children leaving this class are well prepared for Kindergarten both socially and academically.

If you want your child to skip the four year old program, then your child will be missing the opportunity to work at a relaxed pace on materials that are appropriate to his/her development. Your child will also miss out on the many wonderful hands on

experiences in the four-year-old classes that develop fine motor skills and build a basic understanding of things. They would be skipping all these developmentally appropriate activities and would be going right into more paper and pencil oriented tasks by going to the pre-k class.

If your child is registered for the pre-k class and they are not turning 4 in the fall, or they have skipped the 4 year old class, I may be calling you to change your child's placement on our fall registration list to a more appropriate class. As always, teachers of the 3-year-old classes may recommend the pre-k placement and we honor that, but if they do not, then you would be doing your child a disservice by skipping the 4-year-old program.

### Lilliput Kindergarten Programs:

Many parents have asked me to give them more information about our Kindergarten programs. I started



Kindergarten at Lilliput after being a Kindergarten teacher for three years in the Shrewsbury public schools and then being a first grade teacher for 8 years. What I found was we were not challenging the children in Kindergarten and then we were killing them in First Grade with the curriculum.

Children who come to first grade already reading, get reading instruction right away. Those who come not yet starting to read, have to learn all the pre-reading skills first and may not read in a basal reader until October or November. They end up being months behind the others.

Therefore, Lilliput introduces a beginning to read program that is phonics based. We introduce beginning consonant sounds, ending and middle consonant sounds, short vowels, digraphs (ch, th, sh, wh, qu ) and blends ( fl, gl sk, etc).

We start journaling and learning to write words and sentences.

Children also begin adding, subtracting, telling time, using measurement etc.

Lilliput has three classes with great student to teacher ratios. Two with 11 children and two teachers and one with 16 children and two teachers. We also have specialist for Music, Art, Gym and Spanish instruction. Our Kindergartens do 4-6 field trips each year.

For more information, stop by the office for a handbook, or call Linda for a tour and a chance to see the children at work.

