



November 2022 Newsletter for Families

Colorado Gives - By the Numbers

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| # of nonprofits that participate in Colorado | 3, 151 (in 2021) |
| Amount of money raised in the state for these nonprofits | \$55 million |
| Most common amount donated | \$102 |
| Amount Riverhouse would like to raise in November & December through Colorado Gives | \$22,000. |
| If 100 people donate \$ 100 each & 10 businesses donate \$100 per month ... | \$22,000 |

Join in on Colorado's statewide movement! On the first Tuesday of December since 2010, Coloradans have come together to support the nonprofits that make a difference in our lives. Colorado Gives Day has grown to be Colorado's largest 24-hour giving event, raising more than \$362 million for nonprofits across the state since it began. ColoradoGives.org is home to Colorado Gives Day, and your one-stop shop for making good happen for our community.

How to participate: Go to Coloradogives.org between now and December 16th. Type in "Riverhouse" and choose your donation. It's easy and so very helpful to Riverhouse!

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- Halloween Parade - Mon Oct 31st at 3:30 pm
- Daylight Saving Time Ends - Sunday Nov 6th (extra hour of sleep!)
- Election Day (voting until 7 pm) - Tuesday November 8th
- November Board Meeting - Thursday Nov 17th 4:30 pm. Anyone may attend.
- Thanksgiving Meal - Friday Nov 18th at 11:30 am
- Thanksgiving Break ----- November 21st - 25th (Mon-Fri)
- Holiday Bazaar -----December 4th (Sunday)
- Colorado Gives Day ----- December 6th (Tuesday)
 - Christmas Break ----- December 19th - 30th

(Children return Tuesday Jan. 3rd due to New Year's Day holiday)



See inside for more details on most of these things!

It's Flu, RSV, Cold, Covid, & Any-Of'-Virus Season!

Beware- the viruses are out there, trying to infiltrate us. RSV (Respiratory Virus) can be like a cold, or it can be much more serious, especially in children under a year old. It can lead to more serious infections such as bronchiolitis, an inflammation of the small airways in the lungs, and pneumonia. San Juan Public Health has confirmed that RSV is in Durango. We have not seen it here at Riverhouse, and we hope it stays that way. We'll send out a Brightwheel message if there are more than 2 cases in your child's room - of anything more serious than a cold.

A reminder to be sure your toddler or preschooler washes his or her hands upon entering Riverhouse!

Fall Festival - a "WonderFall" Success!

Thanks to the staff and parents who helped plan and orchestrate the festival - especially...

- * Mic (Falcon's Lead) for planning the whole thing.
- * Parents Kelly, Barrie & Heather for helping walk the older kids over to Folsom Park.
- * Kathy (Chickadees) for doing the cake walk
- * Jemma (as Snow White!) for her awesome face painting!
- * And all the staff who helped set-up, work, or clean-up including Callie Moss, Jemma, Brooke, Rebecca, Lexi, Chloe, & Lauren

Riverhouse Thanksgiving Meal!

All parents are invited! Our 2-woman kitchen staff (Margaret & Bailey) will prepare turkey, gravy & bread - parents bring a side dish or a dessert.

When: Friday the 18th at 11:30 am
Don't know what to bring? Sign up in your classroom (form on the door!)

Can't make it? Grandparents, aunts, or uncles are free to fill in for a parent!



Classroom News - our Older kids!

Eagles with Ms. Rebecca - (and Mikhaela & Ameena.....)

In October the Eagles learned about spiders (& did amazing spider art), learned to hammer "nails" (golf tees!), and had their very own pumpkin patch! Now they're learning about the 3 Little Pigs. Did you know the class has adopted a cow, and has a traveling bear? And the kids just helped rearrange their classroom!

Falcons with Ms. Mic (+ Callie, Ace, & Mikhaela) ***The Falcons are learning about numbers and letters and having a great time doing it. They've been studying bears in October, and joined the Eagles for a big prek Halloween celebration on Oct 29th including having a pumpkin patch. These kids love their visits from Denise Little, the ukulele lady!***

Blue Jays with Ms Rie, Makayla, & Autumn. ***The Blue Jays have done some wonderful turtle art & they also love their music and movement time. They are doing better in centers all the time (reading, art, playing with building materials).***

Classroom News - the Youngest!

Sparrows with Ms. Brooke + Jess and Callie D. and Acelyn

The Sparrows are a joyful group! They often do amazing art, and this month that included painting pumpkins and making spiders. Some have started potty training, all of them are talking more, and the teachers say that they're making real progress with learning to share!

Hummingbirds (12-18 months)

This group is always learning.... using sign language to talk, using utensils at breakfast and lunch, and now they're learning to wash their hands. They are much happier now that they've settled into a routine, and can enjoy their days knowing mom or dad will return!

Chickadees ***-our baby room is a lot quieter these days, compared to September! They are settling into a routine, and are trusting the care they receive from Jeana (Lead teacher), Darcy, Kathy, Jemma, and Jayda. These ladies do an amazing job of loving and calming these babies.***

Enrichment in the House !

Local musician Denise Leslie is providing music lessons with her ukelele and other musical gifts... This is happening every Monday & Thursday until the end of 2022. **Melanie Milburn** is a local singer, songwriter, and author. She specializes in kids' concerts with songs and dance. Melanie is visiting Riverhouse every Wednesday afternoon!

Yoga instructor Erin Williamson is a certified kids yoga instructor (Business: Kidding Around!) and an experienced Montessori teacher as well. She's doing yoga with the children in all four toddler and pre k classrooms every other Friday (Nov 4th and 18th this month).

We feel so lucky to have these 3 teachers - they radiate joy when they're working with the children!

THANK YOU to LPEA for the grant that has made this possible! And for the teachers who are so generous with their time! And... **if you'd like to volunteer** to come in to do an art class, sing a song, do a dance or read a book - please do! Just ask the Lead teacher of the class you'd like to visit.



Safety Report - October Fire Drill Different Than the Usual

On Monday Oct 17th we had the best kind of fire drill ever - one that we thought was real, but it turned out not to be. There was an odor downstairs, off the mechanical room, that smelled very much like a gas leak... a strong odor, so we called the fire department and immediately evacuated to the church parking lot. We are happy to report that with ZERO prior notice, everyone was out of the building in under three minutes. This is amazing when you consider that includes babies and slightly older infants. Most of our Lead Teachers have been practicing in their own rooms, independently, and it really paid off! The kids knew just what to do - from the Eagles down to the Sparrows!

The fire department couldn't find the source, but assured us there was no gas leak. They suspected it was a sewage odor. We called a plumber. He walked in the room and immediately told us it was a dead animal.

A simple mouse caught in a trap... that fooled all of us and four firemen. It REALLY smelled like gas. It's that time of year when mice try to get inside... so we're strengthening our defenses!



Staff Update

Our staff of 35 are amazing. Our Lead Teachers are committed professionals who are always adding to their education and knowledge through online trainings, consultation with the Early Childhood Council, college courses, training in First Aid and CPR, and more. Our other teachers (both full time and part-time) often share their passion; many are already committed to a career in early childhood education, or are exploring this.

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| <p><u>Eagles Lead:</u> Rebecca Peckumn Aides: Mikhaela Johnson & Ameena Hobbs</p> | <p><u>Falcons Lead:</u> Mic Anderson Aides: Callie Moss / Mikhaela Johnson & Acelyn Samora</p> |
| <p><u>Blue Jays (Interim Leads:</u> Experienced teachers Kim Rabick & Lexi McMinn are helping here!) Aide: Donna Marie (Rie) Howley Aide: Kathy Clark Aides: Makayla Tahe</p> | <p><u>Sparrows Lead:</u> Brooke McMinn Aide: Jess Alvarez Aide: Callie Decker - M,W,F Aide: Acelyn Samora on Tue/Thur</p> |
| <p><u>Hummingbirds Lead:</u> Lexi McMinn Aide: Angelique Cather Aide: Lupita Gonzalez Pt Aides: Lauren Pharrell & Taylor Hall</p> | <p><u>Chickadees Lead:</u> Jeana Cooper Aide: Darcy Diaz Aide: Kathy Clark Pt Aide: Jayda Arguelles & Jemma Chapel</p> |

Kitchen Staff: Margaret Brown & Bailey Fogel

Facility News

- We hired a new caretaker! Dan Howley will be doing a "what's needed position," helping us with maintenance, custodial work, and kitchen help. Dan has many skills in areas such as electrical and plumbing work - so we are super grateful he's joining the team. Dan is married to Rie, our full-time aide in Blue Jays.

FACILITY WINTERIZING...

- There was a facility maintenance day for volunteers on Saturday Oct 29th, led by our board member, Kyle Montgomery. Thanks to all the volunteers who came out and helped clean up the playground and take down the huge tarps that cover the playground. This list includes: Keagan Alexander, Max McCulloch, Stephen Koch, and Matthew Williams. A huge THANK YOU!
- In October we fixed 2 door locks, and the fob control for the main playground door. We had the entire center tested for radon (we passed!) and there was an inspection done by San Juan Public Health (no major problems at all).

Needs:

- This winter we are in need of a new contractor to provide snow removal from the parking lot. This is in addition to volunteers who can help with snow shoveling the playground and sidewalks. Anyone have an extra snow blower?

ANOTHER GIVING IDEA...

An easy way to give... is through your City Market value card or through Amazon!

<https://www.riverhousecci.org/city-market-cares-amazon-smiles>

Alex's Lemonade Stand is a nationwide effort to raise money for the Foundation for Childhood Cancer. The Eagles classroom did this last month and funded their Halloween celebration this way!



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