



Busy Bees December '25 Newsletter

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Happy Holidays from the Busy Bees staff! Do you have any holiday traditions that you would like to share with the class? Each year we welcome all Busy Bees families to share any holiday traditions with the children. If you have any stories, books, games etc. to share, please let us know.

The Busy Bees children will not be taking home many crafts during the month of December. We will be doing some group projects, and they will be working on a special craft to take home for the holidays. We have some fun activities in store for exploring the holidays through the five senses!

HOLIDAY PARTY

On December 18th and 19th, we will be having a holiday party for the children. We will sing songs, eat yummy treats, and have a visit from Santa! If you would like to bring a special treat (please no chocolate or chocolate chips), please sign up on the parent board.

REGISTRATION DUE

Registrations are due for September 2026. We are now opening the registrations to families that are not currently enrolled. Feel free to spread the word! If you need a registration, please see me.

SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY

Please reference East Longmeadow Public School cancellations due to inclement weather. When East Longmeadow cancels school for the day, Busy Bees will be closed. **When East Longmeadow Schools are delayed, we will delay 1 hour and open at 9:45.** Pick up will be at 11:45.

COLD WEATHER PREPARATION

The cold weather is here! We love to play outside, even if it is cold and snowy. Please pack warm jackets, hats and mittens every cold day. If there is snow, please pack snow gear. **Please help your child practice putting on his/her jacket and snow gear.** Getting snow gear on all of the children takes time and patience. I cannot stress enough the importance of labeling clothes, recognizing their belongings and practicing getting dressed for snow. Gloves are very tricky to get on, unless your child can put his/her gloves on easily his/herself, **please send mittens.** Please put your child's name on all outdoor clothing. We have permanent markers above the cubbies if you need them. We would appreciate it if you could **walk your child to his/her cubby in the morning before dropping off into a classroom.** It helps them to see where their hats, mittens, and belongings all are when we get ready for the playground. Thank you!

A NICE PLACE TO EXPLORE: Brown Farm Trailhead

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/massachusetts/old-brown-farm-loop>

Begin from the trailhead and parking area at 64 Hampden Road. There is an informational kiosk at the trailhead. Loop counterclockwise through the woodlands north of the farm area, behind the historic barn. This park is open from dawn until dusk daily. This is a perfect stroll for the entire family to enjoy some fresh air and adventure!

SECOND STEP:

The children in our MWF class have been having *Second Step* lessons with Mrs. Manley every Wednesday. The *Second Step* Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Program helps children make progress with emotion management, situational awareness and academic achievement. The curriculum is presented through music, games, puppetry and conversation about picture cards.

So far, our *Second Step* lessons have focused on skills for learning. The children have discussed how to welcome new friends to class, focus attention, listen, follow directions, and ask for what they need or want. We are currently working on identifying our feelings by using and observing facial expressions. They enjoy learning along with puppets, Gus and Ava. The lessons in this unit will help set the foundation for future learning.

A GREAT WEBSITE: <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/>

This website is full of fun science projects, engaging engineering activities and exciting STEM challenges designed to spark curiosity and inspire young minds. Hands on fun for the whole family!

THANK YOU

To parents who donated Thanksgiving treats for our party. The children had a great day! A sign-up sheet is up for our Holiday Party if you would like to sign up to bring something. Thank you!

CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Please mark your calendars, the last day of Busy Bees this month is Friday, December 19th. We will resume on January 5th. We wish you a joyous season full of love, family, peace and joy.

Sincerely,

Marna Shields

