

# THE VOICE



**Pumpkin time!**

## Housekeeping

1. Early Dismissal: Friday, December 17th
2. Holiday Celebration (visit with Santa): Friday, December 17th
3. Winter Break, School Closed: December 20th - January 3rd (inclusive)



# A Message From Our Director of Education

It is hard to believe we are already in December! This past month has been another busy one! Our centre based teachers and therapists have held IEP meetings and parent teacher conferences, our Itinerant teachers have had many IEP meetings and our First Words team continues to support families with infants and toddlers online. We have also had our Annual General Meeting (AGM), Giving Tuesday, and our annual Purdy's sale while preparing for our CARF Accreditation survey!

We had a good turnout at our AGM with some families and staff members in attendance. Our AGM is a time where we reflect on our past year, examine our financial standing, and make board changes as needed. Sadly, this year we are saying farewell to two board members, Johannes Weinmar and Gary Kern. Johannes has served on our board for four years and Gary for five. We will certainly miss them and we are so grateful for all their time and support. It is with great pleasure that we welcome a new board member Jenny Lush. Jenny is a parent of a former CHSC student and we are just so happy to have her on board!

The themes this month explore the different celebrations that take place in winter. The children will learn about the traditions different families have, including special foods, lights, and songs that come with those traditions. It has always been our tradition to hold a holiday celebration on the last day of school before the winter break. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic we are unable to celebrate together in person again this year. This year the children will have the opportunity to experience a variety of winter celebrations as we conclude our theme on the last day of school before the break. Each classroom will focus on a different celebration. We will have Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice, and Christmas themed classrooms and the children will circulate between the different rooms. Santa will also be joining us virtually this year in the Christmas room. We are still exploring options for parents to participate virtually and more information will follow.

Lastly, given the current rainy weather we are experiencing, please ensure that your child comes dressed in appropriate outdoor attire. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher.

Wishing you all a joyous winter break,



**Loretta Richardson**  
**Director of Education**

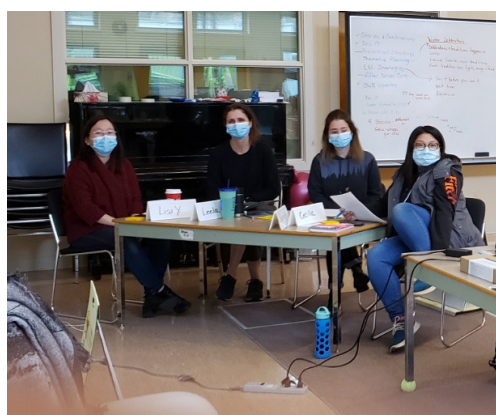


# What Are Pro-D Days About?

Do you ever wonder what we do during a Pro-D Day? These professional development days are set aside so that teaching and other staff can further hone their skills and expertise. They can take the form of seminars, individual courses, lectures, workshops and much more! Sometimes our Pro-D days involve all CHSC staff and will tend to focus on organizational growth and development. This was our focus on November 26th.

Under the direction of Marsha D'Angelo from Apostrophe PR, CHSC staff came together for a Visioning and Team Building day. Marsha guided us through a series of exercises to help us flush out our hopes, wants, and vision for CHSC!

CHSC staff care deeply about the future and direction of our organization and want to ensure that we are continuously meeting the needs of our target population. Visioning and Team Building days are just one of the many ways we are ensuring a bright future for children with hearing loss.



# Expanding the Classroom into The Home

by: Sarah Chodos

Did you know that fine motor play helps strengthens children's finger muscles? This helps prepare them to write letters and numbers. Here are some activities your child can do at home to help get their little digits in tip-top shape!



1. Cutting paper along a line
2. Ripping paper
3. Putting together a puzzle
4. Building a tower with blocks
5. Drawing a stick person
6. Draw basic shapes
7. Snapping snaps and doing up buttons

## Winter's a Word Wonderland!

by: Sarah Chodos

This time of year is packed full of great vocabulary you can build conversations from such as: Lights, Christmas Tree, star, Santa Clause, reindeer, elves, gingerbread, belts, candy cane, garland, decorations, candles, family, celebrations, presents, traditions, menorah, dreidel, Hanukkah, Solstice, scarves, hats mittens, snowman, sled, toboggan, snowing, skating, celebrating, singing, caroling, giving.

Remember from our [November Newsletter](#) to:

1. Go beyond the word
2. Help build connections
3. Describe it
4. Build a mental picture
5. Discuss your experience
6. Connect real experiences with a book (Like Mrs. Wishy Washy's Christmas)



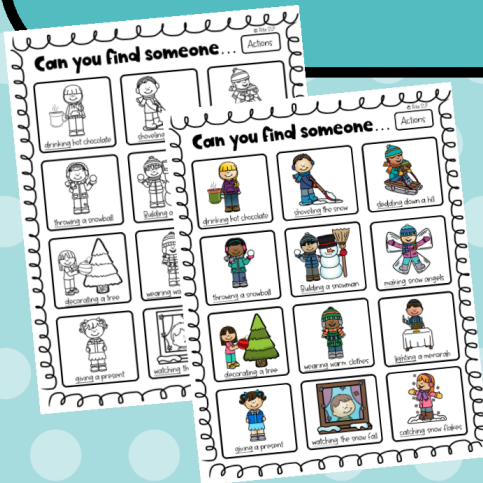
# Winter Activities

by: Rita Frances



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# Winter Scavenger Hunts for speech and language



Includes vocabulary related to winter, Christmas, and Hanukkah.

- Verbs
- Adjectives
- Articulation



# Winter Activities

by: Rita Frances

