

# THE SPOTTED ZEBRA

## Learning Center

December 2024

**Reminder:**

- Center is closed at 1:30 on 12/13 for staff training
- Center is closed 12/24-1/1 for holiday break
- Center Re-opens 1/2/25!





## Admin News

Hi Everyone!

We hope everyone enjoyed some nice time with their families last week, those who traveled are settled back in, and everyone is staying warm through the transition to winter! This past month has been a big one at Spotted Zebra! We now have new lights, new carpets, new offices, and our new gym is ready for play when the weather won't let us out! Thank you all for your patience with our construction project, it is SO fulfilling to see the fruits of it come out, and we just hope you all are as excited about it as we are.

This month we are featuring some of our fantastic therapist team at the end of the newsletter!

**Ms. Sheri, Mr. Matt, Ms. Shannon, Ms. Rachael, and Mr. Derek**



## Violet Room News

Welcome Winter! It's hard to believe the holiday season is already here. We had a November full of thankfulness, kindness, and friendship here in the Violet Room. We had so much fun exploring themes of fairy tales, nocturnal animals, harvest season, and Thanksgiving. We also had a blast celebrating Friendsgiving with the Blue Room, and hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving break.

During the month of December, we will explore holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa, as well as other notable world holidays in December. We will wrap up this theme centered around tradition and celebration with a holiday party before winter break; information will follow in the coming weeks.

Please remember to send in cold weather clothing such as long sleeves, sweatshirts, and pants as well as hats, scarves, boots, and mittens. Winter is approaching, and we will continue to go outside as long as it is above 32 degrees.

**Ms. Brittany, Ms. Laura, Ms. Terry, and Ms. Allison**



## Blue Room News

Can you believe it's already December! This month is going to be filled with exciting activities as we dive into the holiday season. We have lots of fun projects planned, including making Santa, snowmen, poinsettias, Christmas trees, ornaments, gingerbread creations and many more fun filled activities totally packed for Christmas celebration.

We will also explore how different countries celebrate their holidays, such as Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, to broaden our understanding and appreciation of diverse traditions.

Looking back at last month, we had a wonderful time learning about hibernation, Thanksgiving manners, facts about turkeys, and Veterans Day. We also practiced the letters P, R, M, and N, discovering new words that start with those letters along the way.

It's going to be a joyful and educational month, and we can't wait to share all of our adventures with your kids!

We are excited to celebrate two upcoming birthdays in December.

Ms. Sunita – 12/06  
Paxton Young – 12/14  
Ms. Katina – 12/20  
Everly Williams – 12/31

We have a very exciting full month ahead of us filled with fun event and Christmas activities that we will learn together. For any important information please check weekly lesson plans (N.B. part) and Class Dojo. Thanks again for your all support and help.

**Ms. Sunita, Ms. Katina, Ms. Jackie**



## Green Room News

Time is flying, and it's hard to believe we're already in the final month of the year. We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday! As we step into December, we're excited to focus on the spirit of giving, holiday traditions, and the New Year.

We'll kick off the month by exploring winter and winter clothing. The children will learn all about what to wear to stay warm when it's cold outside. Later in the month, we'll dive into the adventures of the tricky Gingerbread Man and explore holidays celebrated around the world.

This month is packed with fun activities!

One highlight will be creating gingerbread trees using sugar cones. Keep an eye out for an email with a sign-up sheet for peanut/tree nut-free candy decorations as the activity gets closer. We truly appreciate your continued support!

As the weather cools, please make sure your child has warm clothes, including hats and gloves, for outdoor play. We'll go outside whenever the temperature is above 32°F. Don't forget to label all items with your child's name to avoid mix-ups. The playground remains a favorite spot for fresh air and fun!

Finally, let's send a big happy birthday shoutout to Brodie!

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season filled with warmth, cheer, and special moments.

**Mr. David, Ms. Michelle, Ms. Elle**



## Orange Room News

Hello Orange Room Families,

We can't believe it is already December! We love this time of year for many reasons.

This month, we will conclude our fairytale unit with The Gingerbread Man. Then, we will move on to discussing holidays around the world. In the following weeks leading up to the holiday break, we will incorporate some winter and holiday cheer themes.

We at Spotted Zebra and the Orange Room value and honor the traditions that our families observe and celebrate. We will be sending home a questionnaire for you to fill out about the holidays that you celebrate and your family's favorite traditions! We would love to collaborate with you if your child would like to bring something in to share with us about their traditions.

We ask that you please continue to be conscious of the weather on a day to day basis since we will be going outside as often as the weather will allow. Please label all outerwear with your child's name. They are still learning how to identify their own belongings, so this will help to prevent lost or misplaced items and mix-ups with other children. Additionally, the indoor gym space is finally ready for play, so on days when the weather does not permit for playground time, we will have some time to move our bodies in the gym!

We are excited to start to wrap up 2024 and get into the holiday spirit with our friends this month!

**Best,**

**Ms. Hope**

**Ms. Tami**

**And the Orange Room Team**



## Yellow Room News

Time flies! How can it be December already!? We hope that everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving, and had special times with their loved ones!

December themes will be holidays around the world (specifically Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa), as well as learning about giving, and needs versus wants. Be on the lookout for a special form to complete and return regarding family traditions. We will use them throughout December to highlight similarities and differences, and make connections, between our families and the books we read.

Letter learning and meaning making lessons using the letters Gg, Ll, and Oo will be the focus for our Learning Without Tears (LWT) curriculum. Solving problems, understanding feelings, and sequencing story events are also a big part of the LWT curriculum. Geometry will be our math focus for the month of December. We will learn about both 2D and 3D shapes. Graphing, patterning, counting and comparing numbers/quantities will continue to be practiced daily.

We are impressed with how much engagement the children show in our learning activities. In particular, they enjoy the morning activities that allow them to access sensory, procedural, and social learning, which help them to start the school day more regulated and organized. Their independence is growing so nicely as well. Thank you for your support in helping to foster independence at morning drop-off.

Happy Birthday to Prue, Riley L., and Ms. Carol this month! We wish everyone a happy holiday season!

**Ms. Carol, Ms. Megan, Ms. Chris, and Ms. Sara**

# Meet the Spotted Zebra Herd!

## Therapists and Special Educators

Ms. Juli	Psych
Ms. Marlis	OT (O, V)
Ms. Shawna	Speech
Ms. Kaylyn	Speech (Yellow)
Ms. Caitlin	OT (V, B)
Ms. Rachel J	Speech (Orange)
Ms. Rachel M	Music
Ms. Carla	OT (Y, B, G)
Ms. Allison T	Speech (Violet)
Ms. Wendy	Speech
Ms. Cindy	PT (B, G, O)
Ms. Laura	Speech
Ms. Allison R	PT (Y, V)
Ms. Jesse	Speech (Blue)
Ms. Olivia	Speech (Green)

## Offsite Therapists

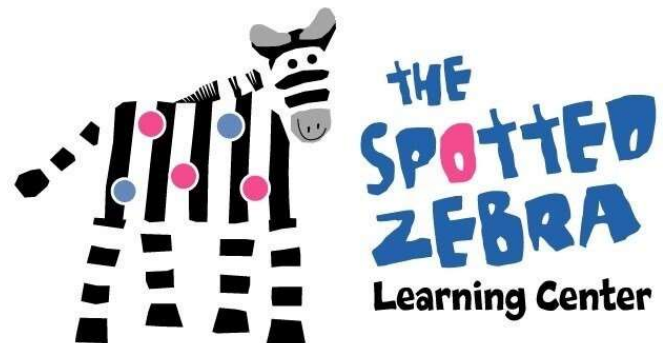
Ms. Shawna	Speech
Ms. Nicole Ge	Speech
Ms. Kathi	PT
Mr. Peter	OT
Ms. Nicole S	SEIT
Ms. Sarah	PT
Ms. Wendy	Speech

## Floating Teachers

Ms. Chantal  
Ms. Alaina  
Ms. Tristyn  
Ms. Nakisha  
Ms. Nicole Gr  
Ms. Karen  
Ms. Jenna  
Ms. Emily

## Admin Team

Ms. Sheri  
Mr. Matt  
Ms. Shannon  
Ms. Amy  
Ms. Victoria  
Ms. Rachael  
Mr. Derek





# Newsletter Features

## Some of our Therapists!



**Allison Rosa**

**PT**

**What is your hometown?**

Guilderland, NY

**Who is your favorite musical artist?**

Noah Kahan

**What is your favorite season?**

Summer

**What is a fun fact about you?**

I have a pet hedgehog

**Rachel Johnson**

**Speech**

**What is your hometown?**

Potsdam, NY

**Who are your favorite musical artists?**

Sabrina Carpenter, Noah Kahan, Lake Street Dive, and Teddy Swims

**What is your favorite season?**

Fall

**What is a fun fact about you?**

I studied abroad on a solo exchange trip to Perth, Australia in college



**Caitlin Gabriel**

**OT**

**What is your hometown?**

Guilderland, NY

**Who is your favorite musical artist?**

Dave Matthews Band

**What is your favorite season?**

Fall

**What are some fun facts about you?**

I love organizing and decorating