New Year Celebrations Around the World

Happy New Year! As you probably know, in the United States and other countries that follow the Western or Gregorian calendar, December 31 is the last day of the old year while January 1 marks the start of the new one. We celebrate this international holiday with festivities, social gatherings, and fireworks on New Year’s Eve, which is also known by other names around the world, including Hogmanay, Malam Tahun Baru, and Réveillon. In Hungary, where I’m from originally, we call New Year’s Eve “Szilveszter” because December 31 is the feast day of Saint Sylvester.

But there are additional multicultural or religious holidays that mark the occasion of a new year. For example, Chinese New Year is based on the lunar calendar, so the first day of the New Year typically falls on the new moon between January 21 and February 20. Celebrations can include family gatherings, traditional dinners, and giving red envelopes containing money.

Many South and Southeast Asian countries also celebrate the Lunar New Year, which occurs in late March or April. Songkran, for example, marks the Thai New Year. This three-day Buddhist festival celebrates the significance of water. It also emphasizes unity, so many people who have moved away will return home to visit loved ones and elders.

Rosh Hashanah, the first of the Jewish High Holy Days, is commonly known as the Jewish New Year. This two-day celebration typically occurs in the early autumn of the Northern Hemisphere. Some customs include praying, sounding a hollowed-out ram’s horn, and eating special foods, such as apples dipped in honey, to symbolize a sweet new year.

The first day of the New Year in Ethiopia, meanwhile, is called Enkutatash, a national holiday that usually occurs on September 11, or Meskerem 1 on the Ethiopian calendar. After attending church, families will gather to share a traditional meal and exchange formal new-year greetings.

Of course, these are just a handful of the annual occasions and customs that commemorate the start of a new year. No matter how or when you celebrate, we wish you a happy, healthy, and safe New Year! We hope you make the most of every opportunity to embrace new beginnings and fresh starts.

Sincerely,
Pearl Tokar
DATES TO REMEMBER

January 2017

January 1  Happy New Year
January 2  New Year’s Day observed
            We are closed
January 3  School reopens-classes start.
January 3, 5  Cub Care Zone Information Night 6:30-7:30 p.m. - R-H Senior High School, room E-100.
            You may come either night. Child care is not available.
January 9, 23  Parent Music Program with Michelle – 11:15 a.m. in room 114
January 11  Preschool Story Time 9:45 a.m.
January 12  Nacho sale to benefit the Even Start Scholarship Fund
January 16  No school - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 23  Kindergarten registration begins – by appointment only
            Watch for your packet to come in the mail.
January 24  Popcorn sale to benefit the Even Start Scholarship Fund
January 25  Poetry Day –11:30 a.m. in your child’s classroom. Please join us.
January 27  No school – Grading Day

February

February 1  Cub Care Zone registration begins online at www.rhnet.org/ceregister
February 2  Groundhog Day
February 8  Preschool Story Time - 9:45 a.m.
February 12  Abraham Lincoln’s birthday
February 14  Valentine parties for children in their classrooms
            Arts and Crafts Night – K-5th – 6:30 p.m. – Good Shepherd School – please
            call to register at 359-7914.
February 20-24  No school – February recess
February 20  Presidents’ Day
February 21-23  Open swim at the High School – 1:30-2:30 p.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m.
February 22  George Washington’s birthday
February 27  Classes resume

2017-2018
Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration period will begin Monday, January 23, 2017 and run through Friday, March 31, 2017.

• Registration packets will be mailed out the first week of January.
• After receiving a packet, parents may then call to schedule a registration appointment.
• Appointments will be held between 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily; additionally, five (5) evening dates (from 4:30-7:00 p.m.)
            will be offered on various Mondays throughout January to March.
• Registration appointments will be held at the Ninth Grade Academy, at the specific entrance for the District Registrar.

**In the packet you receive, there will be a google map, with specific directions of the District Registrar entrance.
Did you know that . . .

- our annual Poetry Day for preschool will be on January 25 this year 11:30 a.m. in your child’s classroom? Please bring a book of poems from home.
- there is no school on January 27? It is Grading Day.
- there is no school on January 16? It is Martin Luther King Day.
- if you need wrap around care or after school care for your kindergarten/school age students, the R-H Care Program is registering new students? Please contact Pearl Tokar at 359-7912 or stop by room L1 for more information. Summer care is also available.
- all children need warm coats, hats, and mittens every day at school?
- when the school district is closed for bad weather, there are no Even Start classes?
- we will have an Art Show of children’s and adults’ art work in March?
- applications for UPK for September 2017 will be in the mail later this month. Please call Denise Ambrose at 359-7914 if you don’t receive one by February 1st.
- putting down salt doesn’t melt snow and ice? Instead, salt keeps melted snow from freezing again, even when it is well below 32 degrees.
- when the weather is cold, it’s important to keep indoor air from becoming too stuffy? Don’t set the thermometer too high – ideally, it should be set between 68° and 72° F. Also, air out rooms by trying to keep windows open for at least 5 to 10 minutes each day.

Congratulations to…

- Annette Slocume and Amanda Crisler for presenting the Make a Holiday Ornament program through the Family Center in December.

Thank you to…

- Christine Sargent and the R-H Singers for their wonderful holiday concert on December 15th.
- everyone that purchased books from the used book sale to benefit the Even Start Scholarship Fund.
- Ms. Sheri Brege and colleagues from the Administration Building for sponsoring an Even Start family for the holidays.
- Kevin Lyons for visiting all of our classrooms as Santa on December 23rd. The children were so excited.
- Michele Mihalitsas for delivering letters from Santa to the children.
- Pam Harper for preparing the room for the holiday luncheon and holiday reception in December.
- Jessica Mattice for donating two large bags of toys and blankets for a family in need.
- our Even Start and after-school care children and staff who collected 130 food and toiletry items and 50 games, toys, stuffed animals and blankets. Thank you for your generosity.
- Kay Lyons for donating a Christmas wreath.
- Sobia Zulfiqar for a jar of chocolate chip cookies.
News from the Infant/ Twos Room

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a very nice holiday and welcome back.

We will be working on making snowmen and snowflakes, and snow rabbits in a snow storm. We will be singing snow songs like Little Snowman and Snowflake.

Poetry Day will be in our classroom on the 25th of January, we hope everyone will enjoy the readings. Please bring a book from home.

Michelle Whitt’s music program for parents are scheduled on January 9th and January 23rd. Please join her in room 114 on those days.

Enjoy your days off with your children on January 16th and January 27th.

Karen Minotti and Chris Miner

News from the Preschool I Room

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday.

December went by very quickly. The children did lots of fun activities. They loved making their gifts for parents. We read many versions of The Gingerbread Boy and made some gingerbread crafts.

The R-H Singers' holiday concert was great. Our class enjoyed the performance. Santa's special visit was the most exciting event for the children.

In January we will continue to learn about animals that live in cold climates such as polar bears and penguins. We will also learn about different types of bears, snowman, mittens and will do more fun projects. We are also working hard to practice poems for Poetry Day, which is on January 25th at 11:30 am, parents are invited. Please bring a book of poems from home to read to your child.

Sobia Zulfiqar and Celeste Nicholas

News from the Preschool II Room

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday with their family.

Thank you to Michele Mihalitsas for delivering our Santa letters to the children; the R-H Singers that performed the beautiful holiday music; and the exciting event of Santa’s visit for giving us gifts.

During the month we learned about colors and shapes. Through the activities and experiments we had fun discovering when two primary colors are mixed they produce a new color. We enjoyed making colored bracelets and a favorite color graph chart. Through the stories, games, songs and activities we recognized different shapes. We used different shapes to create a self-portrait. We also learned about different celebrations including Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. On these holidays we lighted candles, sang songs, ate yummy food and spent time with family and friends.

In January we will learn about the winter season, snowmen, mittens and work on more fun projects.

Angeli Wong and Lindsay Vaeth-Halbrook
Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Extended Day Program

Available for students enrolled in the UPK program at the Rush-Henrietta Webster Building.

**Hours of operation:**
7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday - Friday
Following the Rush-Henrietta Central School District calendar.

Minimum sign up of three days/week
Staff-to-student ratio 1:8

**Care available for non-school days:**
6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Activities include arts and crafts, music, gym, outside time, and interest centers.

Interest centers include sand/water table, easel, writing center, housekeeping, puzzles, blocks, manipulatives, playdoh, cars and trucks, dinosaurs/animals, etc.

Snack will be provided.

For more information please contact:
Pearl Tokar, Coordinator of Child Care Services
(585) 359-7912
ptokar@rhnet.org
or
Kim Fiscus (585) 359-5522
kfiscus@rhnet.org

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Attention parents with grades K-6 students

The Cub Care Zone, or C²Z for short, will provide fee-based care for children in grades K-6 at the school the child attends. Beginning in September 2017, this care will be provided at six locations: our four K-3 schools (Crane, Fyle, Leary, Winslow) and two 4-6 schools (Sherman and Vollmer).

C²Z is available weekday mornings at 6:30 a.m. until school begins and weekday afternoons at the end of the school day until 6 p.m. Children can attend in the morning, the afternoon, or both. Children must be registered for a minimum of three days per week.

The Cub Care Zone will be open on all school days, as well as non-school conference days and most holidays. When school is not in session, all-day care throughout the district will be provided, for an additional cost, from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Carlton Webster Building, 2000 Lehigh Station Road. There will be no care available for district-wide emergency closings.

For your convenience, C²Z will be available before and after school for unexpected personal needs. To be eligible for As-Needed C²Z, you must be registered for the program prior to your child attending; and notify us of the date needed and pay the per-day cost.

If you would like more information or have any questions, please call (585) 359-7911 or (585) 359-5522.

In addition, if you have a child who will enter kindergarten in September, and will need care during the summer, please call (585) 359-7911 or stop by the library at Good Shepherd School.
Yes! Really! You can and SHOULD head there in winter! Seneca Park Zoo strikes the perfect balance for many parents: It's small enough to "do in a day" -- you can spend enough time in each area that the kids can really learn about the animals -- but it's inexpensive enough that you don't necessarily feel the pressure to "do it all" in one visit. So you can spend a couple of hours and return another day in the same season to focus on a different area. There are several indoor areas that are popular with kids, especially if they love snakes.

The Rochester Museum & Science provides unparalleled science education and opportunities to learn about the world around us. Wonderful exhibits, hands-on activities, camps, classes, shows and festivals, and traveling exhibits. Gorgeous giant-screen films about nature and space, many of them produced at the Planetarium, keep kids and adults coming back to learn more.

Mendon Ponds Park

Mendon Ponds Park is widely acknowledged as having the area's best sledding and cross-country skiing opportunities. Located in Mendon, just south of Pittsford, it is the largest park in Monroe County at over 2500 acres. Hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and ice fishing, are just some of the things to do in Mendon Ponds Park in winter. We also encourage you to head over to the Nature Center, on the west side of the park. There, Wild Wings provides respite, rehabilitation, and housing for engaging information. And from the Nature Center, head out on the Birdsong Trail with some birdseed. Show your kids how to be very quiet, and the chickadees may come up and eat right out of your hand!

Tinker Nature Park and the Hansen Nature Center

Tinker Nature Park is a 68 acre, handicap accessible park. It features a 1.2 mile walking/exercise and a 1/2 mile nature trail.

Tinker Nature Park is open 7am until sundown, restrooms are available by the Calkins Rd parking lot. Several unique features include:

- Wildflower Meadow
- Snake Hibernaculum
- Wildlife Observation Blind
- Fairy House Trail (perimeter trail from playground to fit-trail post)
- Orienteering Course
- A playground and recreation area
- Physical fitness course
- Three pavilions with picnic tables for cold picnics

(Dogs are not allowed in Tinker Nature Park.)

Also located at Tinker Park is the Hansen Nature Center. It is free and open to the public. You will be able to view nature exhibits that change with the seasons.

There is something for all ages:

- Nature Library
- Extensive Taxidermy Collection
- Special Events
- Indoor Honeybee Observation Hive
- Seasonal Programs

The Nature Center is open Tuesday-Saturday 9:00 am-3:30 pm.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>There are NO Even Start Classes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>January 16</strong></td>
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<td><strong>January 27</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Even Start Program Poetry Day</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 28</strong> in your child’s classroom.</td>
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</table>

Please bring a book of poems (in any language) to read with your child.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Be Safe!</th>
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<tr>
<td>With all of us now wearing boots and bringing snow into the building, the stairs can get slippery.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do not let your child run in the halls.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keep your child with you at all times.</td>
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<tr>
<th>When the Rush-Henrietta School District is CLOSED</th>
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<tr>
<td>due to bad weather or for any other emergency,</td>
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<td>The Even Start Program is also <strong>CLOSED</strong>.</td>
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<td>The information is available on the district web site, <a href="http://WWW.rhnet.org">WWW.rhnet.org</a> and posted on local radio and television.</td>
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</table>
The R-H Singers came and performed a holiday concert for our programs on December 15th.

The children participated in many songs, including “The Twelve Days of Christmas” which was a lot of fun.

After the concert, the children stood with the singers so the chorus director, Christine Sargent, could take a picture of them all together.

It was a beautiful concert and the children really enjoyed it.
When should your child stay home?

It’s that season again! It’s time for coughs and colds, fevers and flu. Below is some information on how to tell the difference between a cold and the flu. But first, we want to remind you of the Rush-Henrietta district policy on when a student should stay home and not come to school. This is true for both preschool and adult literacy students.

A student should stay home from school if he or she:

- Has a fever of 100 or more
- Had a fever above 100 in the last 24 hours
- Has vomited in the last 24 hours
- Has had diarrhea in the last 24 hours
- Has a runny nose that requires a great deal of management time
- Has a persistent cough that interferes with concentration
- Is too tired to engage in usual activities. Has one or both eyes that are red, watery or draining
- Has been on medication for an infection for fewer than 24 hours

Generally, after the above listed symptoms disappear, students require an additional 24 hours to recover.

Which is it… cold or flu?

Here is a simple comparison chart…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cold</th>
<th>Flu</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Transmitted through touch.</td>
<td>1. Transmitted by air.</td>
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<td>2. Results from contact with individuals or objects.</td>
<td>2. Just being in a room with germs.</td>
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<td>3. May begin slowly, two or three days after infection with the virus.</td>
<td>3. Headache, dry cough and chills often signal sudden onset.</td>
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<td>4. Usually starts with sore throat, followed by sneezing and runny nose.</td>
<td>4. Muscle aches, often in the legs and back or a high fever.</td>
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<td>5. May experience a yellow or green nasal discharge, congestion or a slightly elevated fever.</td>
<td>5. May experience extreme fatigue – a “knock out” feeling.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Hacking cough, fatigue and weakness are common.</td>
<td>6. Respiratory symptoms like nasal congestion and sore throat are common.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Symptoms generally last two days to a week.</td>
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Parent Reading Tips

You can make reading with your children part of their daily routine. Reading together in the evening can become an important part of the bedtime ritual. Here are some additional suggestions for making reading together a pleasurable experience.

- **Make Reading Part of Every Day**  
  Read at bedtime or any consistent part of the day.

- **Have Fun**  
  Children who love books learn to read.  
  Books can be part of special time with your child.

- **A Few Minutes Is OK**  
  Young children can only sit for a few minutes for a story, but as they grow, they will sit longer.

- **Talk About the Pictures**  
  You do not have to read the book to tell a story.

- **Let Your Child Turn the Pages**  
  Babies need board books and help to turn pages, but your three-year-old can do it alone.

- **Show Your Child the Cover Page**  
  Explain what the story is about.

- **Show Your Child the Words**  
  Run your finger along the words as you read them.

- **Make the Story Come Alive**  
  Create voices for the story characters and use your body to tell the story.

- **Ask Questions About the Story**  
  What do you think will happen next? What is this?

- **Let Your Child Ask Questions About the Story**  
  Use the story as an opportunity to engage in conversation and to talk about familiar activities and objects.

- **Let Your Child Tell the Story**  
  Children as young as three years old can memorize a story, and many children love an opportunity to express their creativity.

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Even Start Program

Change in Family Information

Fill in any new/changed information only.

Child’s Name: ______________________________________________________________

Home Address: _____________________________________________________________

Home Telephone: _______________________________________________________

Mother’s Name: ________________________________________________________

Mother’s Work Phone: ________________________ Cell:______________________

Mother’s email: ________________________________________________________

Father’s Name: ________________________ Cell:____________________

Father’s Work Phone __________________________________________________

Father’s email: ________________________________________________________

Today’s date: ____________________________

Return to Linda McGory in room L1 if you have a change in information.
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
<td>Happy New Year!</td>
<td>New Year’s Day observed</td>
<td>We are closed</td>
<td>School reopens – classes start. RH Cub Care Zone Information Night and registration R-H Senior High School 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Parent Music Program with Michelle – 11:15 a.m. – room 114</td>
<td>11 Preschool Story Time 9:45 a.m.</td>
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<td>Nacho sale to benefit the Even Start Scholarship Fund</td>
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<td>No School Martin Luther King Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Parent Music Program with Michelle – 11:15 a.m. – room 114 Kindergarten registration begins</td>
<td>24 Popcorn sale to benefit the Even Start Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>25 Poetry Day in your child’s classroom – 11:30 a.m. Please join us.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 No school – Grading day</td>
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<td>A look ahead: Schools closed February 20 – February 24, 2017 Classes resume February 27, 2017</td>
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<td>1 Online registration begins for Cub Care Zone Please call 359-7806 if you have any questions regarding registration</td>
<td>2 Groundhog Day</td>
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<td>Classes resume</td>
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Rush-Henrietta Even Start Program
Good Shepherd School - 3288 East Henrietta Road - Henrietta, NY 14467
(585) 359-7919
(585) 359-7912

February 2017

No School - February Recess
HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?
Return this form Pear Tokar

RUSH-HENRIETTA
Central School District
2034 Lehigh Station Road
Henrietta, New York 14467
Phone: (585) 359-5000
Fax: (585) 359-5045
www.rhnet.org

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Mr. Sean P. McCormick, Vice President
Mr. Simeon I. Banister
Mr. Robert C. Bower
Mrs. Diane E. McBride
Mrs. Sue A. Smith
Mrs. Annmarie Strzyzynski

Superintendent of Schools
Dr. J. Kenneth Graham, Jr.