Therapeutic Activities

For the month of December, the Therapeutic Activities Team and the Quality of Life Team have planned many festive activities to help spread holiday cheer! To celebrate Hannukah, the children will light the Menorah for eight nights and cook latkes. We will also have a donut decorating competition and an outdoor Hannukah Parade with Menorahs and Hannukah Music! In addition, there will be a Christmas event sponsored by Police Columbia via Zoom, as well as a holiday pajama event, a virtual Christmas Caroling with the Ossining Girl Scouts, a tree trimming party, Christmas Eve cookies for Santa, and a New Year’s Rockin’ Eve event!

The Sun Shines on...
our Housekeeping Department

This month, the sun shines on our Housekeeping Department: Luleta Dakaj, Gjervahire Deshaj, Julio Espana, Juan Rodriguez, Jorgilia Santos, Blanca Niguela, Emine Ugrimaj, Jose Loja, Onelia Mayan Marin, Patricia Carrington, Maria Quishpi, Fresia Sanhueza and Moises Aquilar! Sunshine offers the best care and services to our children and the Housekeeping Department plays an integral role in keeping our children safe. Their team works hard, both day and night, to provide a clean, organized, safe and comfortable home for our children and for the staff who care for them. The Housekeeping Department provides a wide range of top-notch services, from maintaining clean hallways and rooms; sanitizing showers, countertops and sinks; to replenishing supplies, making beds and changing linens.

Gus Lopez, Assistant Director of Facilities, oversees the Housekeeping Department and offers first-hand insight about the hard work and effort that the team puts in. Gus shares, “They really take pride in what they do and always produce high-quality work.” During challenging and uncertain times, Sunshine was able to trust that the reliable, diligent housekeeping staff would not only continue to bring their expertise to the job every day, but would also work effectively in tandem with other departments to ensure that our home continued to run smoothly and remain in the best shape, especially when the stakes are so high. Gus states, “The Housekeeping Department is a wonderful group to work with. They create a pleasant atmosphere, practice great teamwork and are always willing to assist other departments.” A strong department like Housekeeping is what helps to make Sunshine the special place that it is.

Thank you to our wonderful Housekeeping Department!

Holiday Message from Linda Mosiello

“This holiday season is an extra special one for us all, as we look towards a new year that holds the promise of a vaccine for COVID-19 and when families and friends can once again be with one another. We’d like to express our most sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation to you for entrusting your children in our care and for finding creative ways to connect with your children when it didn’t seem possible. We are grateful to all of our families and staff for pulling together to keep our children safe and happy in the face of these unprecedented challenges. We continue to be inspired and encouraged by the outpouring of kindness and generosity shown to one another in the spirit of teamwork. On behalf of the entire staff at Sunshine, we offer you our warmest wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season that is filled with hope for good health, as well as a look ahead to the hugs and togetherness that we have so missed.”

Linda Mosiello, Administrator
Visitation Guidelines

Parents are encouraged to call their social worker to plan a safe visit. Testing and screening continues to be required per NYS DOH guidelines. Visits are scheduled Monday–Friday 10:00am, 12:00noon and 2:00pm. We have been very fortunate to have a temporary heated tent to accommodate families when they are spending time together with their child. The team remains available to all parents to address any and all questions or concerns during your visit.

Winter Safety Tips

Winter can be cold, but for children it’s a fun time to play outside anyway! Here are some tips to help keep them safe:

- Keep children indoors if the temperature falls below −25°C (−13°F), or if the wind chill is −28°C (−18.4°F) or greater.
- Tell children not to put their tongues on cold metal. It may sound silly, but some kids still do it.
- Advise children to stay away from snowplows and snow blowers.
- Advise children to play in an area away from roads, fences and water.
- Apply sunscreen to exposed skin, even when it’s cloudy.
- Dress children in several layers of clothing. If they get too warm, they can remove one layer at a time.
- Always remove children’s wet clothing and boots immediately after you come inside.
- Make sure children wear a hat because most body heat is lost through the head.
- Have children always keep their ears covered to prevent frostbite.
- Have children wear mittens instead of gloves.
- Dress children in warm, waterproof boots that are roomy enough to wiggle their toes around.
- Remove all drawstrings from children’s clothing to prevent strangulation. Use Velcro or other fasteners instead and use a neck warmer instead of a scarf.
- Children should always wear a helmet when sledding, skating, snowboarding or snowmobiling.

SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday, 12/5/20

NYDBC Virtual Complex Care Resource Fair
For Professionals and Families
Saturday 12/5
10:00am-4:00pm EST
&
NYDBC Family Holiday Celebration
For Families Only
Saturday 12/5
5:00pm-7:00pm EST

What to Expect:

Presentations from:
Feeding Tube Care & Options
Traci Nagy, MA
Feeding Tube Awareness Foundation
Founder and Executive Director

Special Education Law
Gloria Buzzano, Esq.
Children First Consulting and Coaching
Owner and Executive Director

Key Highlights
Family Interviews
Q & A with various Professionals

Representatives from Various Entities
State Agencies
Medical Providers
Organization for Families
Specific Related Service Providers

Access Points Provided
- Sign Language Interpreting
- Live Captioning
- Spanish Interpreting

* Please submit additional access requests at: nydeafblind@gmail.com
** For those unable to attend live event, a recording will be available for your viewing**