

# A.E.L.'s Early Learning Edition

December 2025

## From the Director's Desk



Dear AEL Families and Caregivers,

As we step into the month of December, our classrooms are full of excitement, curiosity, and cozy learning moments. This month, we'll be exploring winter themes, engaging in hands-on activities that build early literacy and math skills, and enjoying plenty of opportunities for creativity and play.

### What We're Learning This Month:

- ❄️ **Winter Science:** observing weather changes, exploring ice and temperature, and asking questions like little scientists.
- 📖 **Literacy Fun:** seasonal stories, new vocabulary, and activities that support early writing and storytelling skills.
- 🤝 **Social-Emotional Skills:** practicing kindness, taking turns, and noticing ways we can help one another during this busy time of year.
- 🎨 **Creative Arts:** winter crafts, music, and movement activities that spark imagination.

### Reminders:

- Please send your child with **labeled warm clothing** (hat, mittens, coat, boots) so we can continue to enjoy outdoor play safely.
- Please use caution in our drop off and pick up lines - stay in your cars so our staff can assist children to and from the building safely.
- School will be closed for **winter break from Tuesday, December 23 to Friday, January 2. We will return to school on Monday, January 5, 2026.**

### A Note of Appreciation

Thank you for all the ways you support your child and our school community. We are grateful for the joy your children bring to our classrooms every day.

Wishing you all a warm, joyful month filled with connection and celebration.

Please reach out anytime—we're here for you!

# Kimochis Corner

## Deep Breathing to find our Calm

Our Kimochis lessons have focused a lot on finding our calm, shrinking our big feelings down just a little bit so that we can make better choices. We can do this by taking 3-4 big, deep breaths. This strategy is one that works for both children and adults... and is something you can practice together with your little people at home.

This is a breath that we use often at school. Pretend to smell a beautiful flower. Take a deep breath in. Then pretend to blow out a candle. put one finger up to be the candle, and blow it out.

Try this with your child at home when you see them beginning to have a difficult feeling. Try it for yourself and model the strategy for your child.



## Calming Breath.



Smell the flower



Blow out the candle



**Boomer from the Thunderbirds came to kick off our Stick to Reading Challenge!**



**AEL Turkey Trot '25 was a success!**



**Nurse Ellis always makes things even more fun!**



**High Fives from Boomer!**



**Parents and caregivers came to support!**



**Around the building and through the hallways. AEL Turkey Trot '25 was a success!**

## **Our Busy Classrooms**





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## AEL's P.T.O. News

Thanks to all who came out to our November Family Dinner and participated in our Winter Gear Exchange! And thanks to Ms. Heather for serving us such a delicious meal. What a nice evening!



### PTO's December Story & Gingerbread STEM

Hello from the PTO!

We hope you can join us at these upcoming free family events:

- Wednesday, December 3, 5:00 p.m. PTO Meeting. This month, we will try a virtual meeting.
- [Link for our PTO Meeting HERE.](#)
- Thursday, December 17, 4:30-6:00 p.m. - PTO Family Storytime & Gingerbread activity. We hope you can join the fun!

If you haven't already, follow us on Instagram @aelpto or The Academy of Early Learning PTO Facebook to stay updated on our upcoming events!

Sincerely,

Lea Herrick, PTO President

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## Upcoming Dates & Link to District Calendar

- December 9 - Fire Department Visits AEL for Fire Safety Presentation
- December 17 - 4:30-6:00 p.m. PTO Family Event - Storytime & Gingerbread Houses
- December 23 - January 2 - NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK

- January 5 - Welcome Back! and Happy New Year! Classes Resume

[Click here for the District Calendar](#)



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## AEL Lunch Menu - December

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## Parent and Caregiver Resources



### December's Book to Enjoy

As the temperatures cool down, we have more cozy indoor time together with our families. What better way to spend that time than with a good story! There are so many books to enjoy together!

[Enjoy this fun fall story with your family: The Snow Thief](#)

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**Jill Taglia**

Jill is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters