



November 24, 2020

Hi Everyone,

Almost three decades ago, my husband was a child at PIC while my mother-in-law was one of the teachers. They laugh about how in the 90s there was just one building and share stories about what they loved and the relationships that were built (and still remain). Fast forward, there are multiple buildings being used to help mold the growing minds of many more children and this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> holiday season that my husband and I have been parents within the PIC community. We laugh at how his experience has come full circle. Our daughter (a Moonbeam), cries when she leaves school. In the car rides home, she consistently (and I mean like every 15 seconds) says that she wants to go back to school and play with her friends. I say, “you don’t want to play with momma and daddy?”, to which she swiftly replies “NO”. It’s on our daily car rides home that I reflect on how PIC has been an insurmountable mental and physical place of relief for not only ourselves and other parents, but for the children and teachers as well. From our start as a Doodlebug family, to our current Moonbeam Family, to our next chapter classroom PIC family, and to all the other classroom families we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all that you do!

This year has taught us that we need each other more than ever. It has been a painfully obvious reminder to be kind, understanding, and flexible. To help our teachers stretch their modest incomes during the holiday season, it has been a PIC tradition to collect monetary gifts from both the Early Learning and After School families and share them among the classroom staff. This is a tradition that accommodates family budgets of all sizes. The average family contributes between \$25 and \$50, but any amount is welcome—if you would like to give more, that would be greatly appreciated. PIC pools all the funds and divides them equitably, giving smaller gifts to the regular part-time staff and larger gifts to full-time staff. This helps ensure that teachers in smaller classrooms and those who “float” to different rooms are recognized fairly. Just before the holiday break, room parents will present the gifts, along with a special card.

**Please make your contribution by Friday, December 11.** You may drop your contribution in the tuition boxes located throughout PIC or give it to Accounts Manager, Safia Abdullah. Cash or checks made payable to PIC are accepted. Additionally, families can give these gifts online! Please note that PIC incurs a small charge for accepting online gifts, to help us balance that cost, we ask that you please add \$2 to your online gift. This ensures that staff will receive the amount that you intended. For more information on how to make an online contribution, go on PIC’s website <https://parentinfantcenter.org/news/gifts-during-holiday-season-0>. Be sure to let PIC know who the funds are from by indicating “Teacher Gift” on checks or putting cash in an envelope marked “Teacher Gift” with your name and classroom.

Thank you for being a part of the PIC Community!

Vivian, Jerome, and Zoe Whitener