



PreK 4s

December 2023

Week of November 26

Advent Angels

- Number Review #1-6
- Letter Review

Music:

- Jesus Is Our Gift
- Mary and Joseph Went to Bethlehem
- I'm A Little Pinetree

Stories:

- Christmas Mice (repeated read aloud)
- Duck and Goose Christmas
- Bible Read Aloud: Jesus & the Good News
- Count the Days till Christmas
- The Shape Family (class book)
- This is the Stable with CD

Special Projects:

- Heart for Jesus marble roll
- Special gift...shhh
- Finger painted BIG ornament
- Triangle Shape
- Gift wrapping prints

Alphabet Activities:

- Letter M: Missy Mouse, printing & sound of M

Activities:

- card making, tree decorating & role playing the nativity in dramatic play
- wooden bench (elves working)
- main sensory: white batting (snow) & hidden Christmas objects
- Jesus prayer table
- play dough and tools
- real tree block slices and vehicles
- light table: Christmas trees with ornaments, etc.
- Christmas books in the library
- various play sets of the nativity scene
- Christmas tree flannel and decorations
- science table: tree trunks, BIG pinecones & living and non-living Christmas sorting game & more...

Week of December 3

Jesus is the Reason

- Christmas Matching Game
- Letter and Numeral Review
- The "J" Says

Music:

- Christmas Program Practice
- Christmas CDs

Stories:

- Merry Christmas Big Hungry Bear
- Come and See (Nativity story)
- Christmas in the Barn (RRA)
- The First Noel
- The Littlest Christmas Star

Special Projects:

- Decorating our BIG ornament
- Advent Angel
- Triangle Shape Family page
- Numbers 1-6 printing practice
- Stable scene and foam stickers
- Monthly journal page
- and more exciting learning

Alphabet Activities:

- Letter J: Jerry Jellyfish, printing & sounds of J

Activities:

- play dough w/ Christmas cookie cutters and rollers
- science: tree branches, spinners, bells & Christmas magnetic bottle
- maker table: Christmas stencils and writing tools
- side sensory: clear ornaments & trinkets to fill them
- dramatic play: cards, tree decorating and Nativity play
- bolts and washers for tree building
- Christmas flannels and books
- light table with sequencing tree/decorations
- Jesus prayer table with Advent wreath
- red and green twist blocks and pattern blocks
- STEM tree building with green cups/pom poms
- triangle puzzle
- Christmas memory game
- white boards and Christmas shapes
- Nativity puppets
- pipe builders, bristle blocks, stackables and duplos
- how many Christmas ornaments tall are you?
- size sequencing of a Christmas tree and more...

Other News in Preschool

Twinkling Lights (week of December 10th)

The Preschool children will continue to be exposed to Christmas theme games, hands-on activities, practicing special songs, exploring science, sensory and dramatic play areas, creating at the maker table and much, much more. *It's the most wonderful time of the year!!*

Friday, December 15:

We will be celebrating the birth of Jesus by having a small Christmas party. The children will be creating an ornament for your tree at home, playing Christmas bingo and a few other Christmas items. Plus, the children will be making reindeer food for Rudolph and friends, listening to Christmas music and stories. The children will enjoy a delicious snack in honor of Jesus' birthday. It will be a joyful day to celebrate the birth of Jesus with our friends.

Christmas Program

New this year: PreK-2nd grade

Our Christmas Program: Tuesday, December 19th

Location: St. Joseph's Church. Time: 6:30 pm.

Arrive: 6:15 pm. Please drop your child off with Ms. Tammy and myself in the church which is where *only the children* will sit together prior to the program. Once dropping off your child with us, find yourself a seat in the church. The PreK4s & PreK 4/5s will be singing several songs for you together. 😊 The excitement amongst the children is contagious and will certainly be a very special part of your Christmas.

A few helpful notes:

- *Please take your child to the bathroom **before** you arrive at the church. It will be very difficult for one of the staff to bring a little one to the bathroom during the program. Thank you.
- *There is Mass prior to the program so please be considerate of the folks that will be exiting church when you arrive for the program.
- *Once the PreK4s have sung their songs—your child will be excused from the altar steps to sit with you during the remainder of the program. Please walk up to the altar after our final song to get your child.
- *Your child will enjoy watching the grades K-2 perform their songs, too.

Special Gifts Coming Home in December:

Your child will be coming home with two special gifts in a few weeks.

One gift is hand-made with love by your little one for you. The other gift is for your preschooler. Please place the gifts under the tree or in a special place until Christmas morning.

School Days

There is still a lot of formal learning happening at Preschool. Please review at home.

December Concepts:

Letters: M, J, T Past Letters include H, F, A, E, O, B, G, M

Shape: Triangle Color: Green Letter & Name Printing Practice Skill: Scissors Practice

Christmas Cards:

Please send in your family Christmas card or photo. I love to hang them up for all to view. It is never too late—I keep the cards/photos up until late January. 😊 Note: this is optional.

December Faith Focus: God Gave Us Jesus

The PreK 4s will be engaged in many different aspects of the Advent/Christmas season. They will learn about the visit to Mary from Angel Gabriel, the name of our liturgical season Advent and the waiting for the birth of Jesus and more. The children will learn the reason for Christmas and why we share gifts with others. It is a beautiful time of the year. Please be sure to continue these lessons with your child at home. The children are soaking in all they can as they grow closer to Jesus.

New Morning Arrival Message:

As the cold weather arrives, please note that the front doors of the preschool will be unlocked for the first 10-15 minutes during our arrival time. Our front door will not be propped open as our lobby heater has to work overtime and the cold air sneaks into the lobby when the children are taking off their coats, as well as the cold temps make our classroom cold. Brrrr. If you walk your child to the door—just open it and let your little one inside. IF you drop your child off with our drop-off ladies—there is no change for you. Thank you.

Large Muscle Time:

We try to get outside on a regular basis during the winter months. The exceptions of going outside relate to temperature/wind factors, icy conditions, or if there is something special or extra happening during our class.

I also like to look at the “real feel” temperature. Please send warm winter gear to school each day.

Note: if your child is a Lunch Bunch participant, please send an extra pair of socks and mittens to school.

Sometimes socks and mittens get very wet when we are outside and a fresh dry pair is needed for the outside time after lunch. Thanks so much!

Zoo-phonics Characters

The zoo-phonics program is used in the classroom to engage the children to be excited about learning the letters of the alphabet. It is an interactive way that teaches and allows for reinforcement with the sound/formation of the letters. I bet your little one would love to tell you all about zoo-phonics animals.

It would be very valuable to reinforce the skills at home. It not only makes your child excited about learning, but it helps with confidence building. When you practice the letters at home it is best to find informal ways to support your child's learning rather than formal flashcard drilling. When you are reading a story to your child be sure to look for letters we have studied or look for letters that are in a family member's name. Practice listening for letter sounds using simple household items, bath toys, Christmas decorations, or even while you are baking cookies. Keep the conversations about all the Preschool skills a part of your child's week.

It truly is a valuable time spent together.

Early Childhood Screening

Early Childhood Screening is completed through the district you reside in and is currently mandatory for all children. Be sure to make an appointment for the screening earlier rather than waiting until your child is closer to the Kindergarten year. It is a very valuable tool for both St. Joseph's teachers and your family.

Feel free to ask if you have any questions. Hint: call early to get your child's appointment. Thank you.

Coming Up:

January brings a special themed week of celebrating our families. I will be asking for **TWO 4 x 6 copies** of your beautiful **immediate family** in January. If you are taking pictures during the holidays, please plan to make two copies of them and send them to school. Thank you.

Reminders & Suggestions

- *Label all coats, mittens, hats, etc. Hint: mittens are so much easier for the children at this age level as they work on being independent getting dressed to go outside.
- *Try to have your little one use the bathroom before arriving at Preschool.
- *Practice getting snow pants and boots on at home to support independence.

Important Illness Reminder:

With the change of seasons and being inside more often, our children are exposed to many different illnesses. As you know the ugly germs travel far and wide!! At Preschool, we do our best to stop the germs from spreading to all of our friends. We try our best to wash hands multiple times a day. Each classroom has a timer the children watch while washing hands. It is best to wash hands for 25-30 seconds. Anytime a child blows their nose, picks something in their nose, prepare for snack, enters the room—they wash their hands. We wash hands often and it is for good reasons. Another practice is to sneeze in the “pocket” of the elbow. Reviewing these best practices at home is helpful.

With this being said—please refrain from sending your child to school when it is questionable. Germs spread to others and are often brought home to share with the entire family. No one wants the nasty germs from entering their home. Yikes!

Becoming Independent

Along with the topic of winter outerwear is learning to zip up clothing. Zipping and snapping clothing can be tough skills to accomplish at the Preschool level, so I emphasize to you that encouragement will be placed on these skills, but mastery is not expected. Once the spring coats appear again—then it is my hope the children will be able to tackle the skills without much effort.

Mark Your Calendars

- *Friday, December 8: Wear green.
- *Wednesday, December 13: Bring a favorite Christmas ornament to show classmates.
- *Friday, December 15: Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration. Wear red/green.
- *Tuesday, December 19: Christmas Program 6:30 pm.
- *Wednesday, December 20: All-School Festive Christmas Attire Day
- * Thursday, December 21: Christmas Break Begins.
- *Wednesday, January 3: Welcome Back to Preschool PreK4s!

Thank you

Thank you for the wonderful support you have given all of us at Preschool this year. The delicious snacks, sharing day items, extra supplies, the color of the day clothing, wish list items and countless other ways you show support is appreciated. It is a true joy and delight to teach your little ones. It is an honor to watch them grow and blossom as the year progresses. There is so much to celebrate and still a lot of learning yet to come.

*Have a blessed Advent season!
With peace and joy,
Peg Dierberger*

