



## Preschool Peek

December 2023

Week of November 26

### Merry & Bright

#### Music:

- Mary Had a Baby Boy
- Ten Little Elves
- Christmas Snowflakes

#### Stories:

- Counting Christmas (repeated read aloud)
- Devotion Book: Count the Days
- Mouse's First Christmas (repeated read aloud)

#### Special Projects:

- Heart For Jesus Marble Roll
- Shhhh.... A Christmas Gift
- Special Gift Wrapping
- Advent Angel part 1
- Big Triangle Tree

#### Alphabet Activities:

- meeting Missy Mouse
- Letter M: mini marshmallows

#### Activities:

- white boards and markers
- duplos, tinker toys and bristle blocks
- nativity flannel board
- Christmas lacings
- fake snow & hidden Christmas treasures with magnetic wands
- light table: transparent tree & decorations
- Christmas stable color matching
- Christmas books in the library
- being "elves" at the work bench
- new dramatic play: tree decorating, stick nativity puppets, nativity scene and the popular card making shop
- several different Christmas nativity sets
- prayer table with statues & books
- big felt Christmas tree decorating
- Christmas living and non-living sorting game
- tree trunks & BIG pinecones for exploration
- real tree slice block building with wooden blocks
- and much more...

Week of December 3

### Jesus is the Reason

#### Music:

- Christmas Music CDs
- Christmas Program songs
- practice, practice, practice

#### Stories:

- Merry Christmas Mouse
- Who Is Coming to our House
- The Story of Christmas (pop-up)
- Bible Read Aloud: Jesus and the Good News

#### Special Projects:

- BIG Triangle Tree Decorating
- Special gift...shhh
- Stable Scene w/stickers

#### Alphabet Activities:

- meeting Jerry Jellyfish
- Letter J: Jesus clipart

#### Activities:

- big sensory: tinsel and Christmas treasures
- dramatic play: Nativity scene, puppets, tree decorating, & card shop
- Christmas trees, pom ornaments w/ tweezers
- real pine trees and tree sections at the science table
- exploring bells of all types & spinning tops
- Jesus prayer table w/ Advent wreath
- light table: Christmas tree sequencing w/ornaments
- Nativity play figures
- Christmas books in the library
- red/green twist cubes & pattern blocks
- Christmas cookie cutters, rollers and play dough
- magnetic Christmas bottle with wand
- Green solo cup tree building with pom ornaments
- How many ornaments tall are you?
- pocket charts with matching Christmas characters
- silly blocks and pipe builders
- and much more...

#### December Faith Focus

- God Gives Us Jesus

# Other News in Preschool

## Twinkling Lights (Letter T): (week of December 10<sup>th</sup>)

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!!*

## Thursday, December 14:

We will be celebrating the birth of Jesus by having a small Christmas party. The children will be creating a candy cane ornament for your tree at home, along with a few other Christmas items. Plus, the children will be making reindeer food, 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.

## Preschool Christmas Program: PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade

**Our Christmas Program: Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Location: St. Joseph's Church. Time: 6:30 pm.**

**Arrive: 6:20 pm.** Please drop your child off with Ms. Julie, Ms. Betsy or me in the front of the church which is where *only the children* will be sitting prior to the program. Once dropping off your child with one of us, find yourself a seat in the church. The Terrific Threes and the All-Day PreK class will be singing four songs for you *together*. 😊 Then, the PreK4s and PreK4/5s will sing their songs together. Followed by the K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade concert. 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 Terrific Threes 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.
- \*The other Preschool classes will be singing after the Terrific Threes. Please stay for the PreK 4s and PreK 4/5s songs, as well as the K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade concert. Your child will enjoy watching them.

## 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.

## 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.

## December Concepts

Letters: M, J, T, plus the alphabet song      Counting 1-10+

Shape: Triangle (review circle and square)      Color: Green

## 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.

**The target age has recently changed to 3 years.** Feel free to ask if you have any questions. Hint: the screening dates are sometimes six weeks out—so call early to get your child's appointment.

Thank you so much.

## Letter of the Week

Our letter of the week lessons have been going well. The children are enjoying their letter creations each week. It is wonderful to collect the alphabet pages into a book. As the book grows the children show more excitement, as well as understanding. Plus, it is a way to celebrate your child's accomplishments.

**Reminder:** Look at the monthly calendar for the letter each week.

**Thank you for getting excited about your child's learning at Preschool.** 😊

## Snacks

Thank you for your efforts to send a healthy and nutritional snack to Preschool. Pre-washed and cut fruit is always a hit and appreciated. Please look at the Terrific 3s calendar for the snacks that cannot be consumed with this age group. 😊

## 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!

## Christmas Cards:

Please send in your family Christmas card or photo. I love to put them up for all to view. 😊 I will keep the cards/photos up until late January—so please send them now or after break. 😊

We are so proud of our Preschool families!!

## 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 to get dressed to go outside.
- \*Please try to have your little one uses the bathroom before arriving at Preschool.
- \*Practice, practice, practice getting snow pants and boots on at home to support independence.
- \*Remind your child that mittens are truly the last item to put on when getting on winter gear. 😊
- \*Keep extra clothing (underwear and bottoms for sure) in your child's backpack. 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, and if there is something special or extra happening during our class time such as Christmas Program practice or a special visitor. I look at the "real feel" temperature each morning, too. It does indeed take time to help the children put on and off their winter gear, but the more we do it, the better we will be at dressing ourselves. Please encourage independence and practice at home, too. Additional support does help. If your child is in Lunch Bunch you may want to send an extra pair of socks and mittens to be kept in backpack just in case, they are wet after we go outside.

## Mark Your Calendars

- \*Thursday, December 7: Wear green.
- \*Tuesday, December 12: Bring a favorite Christmas ornament to show classmates.
- \*Thursday, December 14: Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration. Wear red/green.
- \*Tuesday, December 19: Christmas Program PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade. 6:30 pm in the church.
- \*Thursday, December 21: Christmas Break Begins.
- \*Thursday, January 4: Welcome Back to Preschool!

## Christmas Blessings

come in small packages.

Thank you for being such delightful families to work with this year. It is a gift to teach your little ones. Your support has been amazing. The healthy snacks, wish list items, special requests and countless other ways you show support is greatly appreciated. It is such a joy and privilege to teach your beautiful children.

Ms. Julie, Ms. Betsy, and I look forward to many more wonderful learning opportunities during the new year!

*May you and your loved ones have a blessed Advent season!*

Peg Dierberger

[pedierberger@stjosephwsp.org](mailto:pedierberger@stjosephwsp.org)

