



Preschool Peek

December 2017

Week of Nov. 27 & Dec. 4

Santa's Elves/Baby Jesus

Music:

- Mary Had a Baby Boy
- Ten Little Elves
- Twinkle Twinkle Christmas Lights
- practice, practice, practice

Stories:

- Little Christmas Elf
- Counting Christmas (repeated read aloud)
- Christmas in a Manger
- Merry Christmas Mouse
- Who is Coming to our House?
- It's Christmas Time: Baby Jesus is Born

Special Projects:

- Shhhh.... A Christmas Gift
- Finger painted Triangle Tree
- Gift Bag and Tag
- Advent Angel (following directions & glue)

Alphabet Activities:

- Letter E: elf clipart & sharing with a microphone
- Letter J: Jesus clipart & sharing with a microphone

Activities:

- magnetic blocks and old-fashioned spike blocks
- play dough with cookie cutters/rollers
- side sensory: Christmas ornament decorations
- big sensory: tinsel and Christmas treasures
- Christmas lacings
- snowflake blocks, unifix cube exploration
- light table with Christmas trees and ornaments
- real pine tree exploring w/ bells at the science table
- Christmas books in the library
- new dramatic play: Christmas cards/wrapping
- more dramatic play: stick Nativity puppets and Nativity scene
- big trucks, vehicles and blocks for hauling
- prayer table, wooden tool bench (elf work). Etc.

Week of December 11

Jesus is our Newborn King

Music:

- Christmas Music CDs
- Christmas Program songs

Stories:

- Mouse's First Christmas (repeated read aloud)
- Duck & Goose: It's Time for Christmas
- The First Christmas (pop-up)
- Bible Read Aloud: Jesus and the Good News

Special Projects:

- Christmas Program Practice
- Christmas Playdough

Alphabet Activities:

- Letter K: kleenex
- Letter K: Sharing K items with a gold microphone

Activities:

- big sensory: with white fluff/quilt materials and magnetic bells and ornaments
- dramatic play: card making, wrapping and Nativity
- toy spinner exploration at the science table
- real pine trees and tree sections at the science table
- the smells of Christmas activities
- self face portrait
- Maker Table: Christmas stickers and paper
- Christmas flannel stories
- Jesus prayer table
- Christmas puppets
- trains and tracks on the floor
- Nativity Fisher Price play figures
- Christmas books in the library
- matching Christmas cards and gift cards
- Christmas trees and pom poms/tweezers
- magnetic dolls (girls/boys)
- red/green pipe builders and unifix cubes
- Christmas cookie cutters, rollers and play dough, etc.

December Faith Focus

- God Gives Us Jesus

Other News in Preschool

Preschool Christmas Program

Our Christmas Program: Tuesday, December 12th Location: St. Joseph's Church. Time: 6:30 pm.

Arrive by: 6:15 pm. Please drop your child off with Ms Kathy and myself in the Great Room which is where we will gather prior to the program. We will enter the church as a class. Once dropping off your child with us, find yourself a seat in the church. The Terrific Threes will be singing three songs for you. 😊 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 to the Great Room. 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 three 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 third 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. Your child will enjoy watching them.
- *There will be cookies and milk served in the Great Room after the program.
- *Pick up a little something special for Christmas for YOU on the table in the Great Room after the program.
- *There will also be a little something FOR your preschooler from our staff. Please open at home or place under your tree in anticipation for Christmas.

Kindergarten Screening

Kindergarten 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 is 3.5 years, but you can certainly have your child screened before this time frame. 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 gone well. The children are enjoying their letter creations each week. It is wonderful to hear so many of you tell me about the alphabet books that you are making with the letter pages that come home.

Reminder: Look at the monthly calendar for the letter each week. It is optional to bring in sharing items. Please only send in one item either on Tuesday or Thursday.

Reminder about sharing time: Sharing items should be something that sounds like the letter of the week. Thank you for helping your child find a toy/special item with the initial sound of the letter. It helps so much.

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

December Concepts

Letters: E (end of November) J, K & Alphabet song Counting 1-10

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

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. Reminder: send 20 cups (5 oz is the best for little hands) and 20 napkins, as well. 😊

Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration

We will be celebrating our last day before Christmas break together (Tuesday, December 19) with a Happy Birthday Jesus celebration. We will be creating a little ornament for your tree at home, listen to a special story and enjoy a delicious birthday treat. Shhhhh, there might just be a little surprise visitor coming from the North Pole!! Please keep it a secret!!! It will be a joyful day to celebrate the birth of Jesus with our friends.

Thank you

Thank you to the mom's and dad's who have graciously offered their time to help in and out of the classroom this year. Your support has been such a gift to me and our entire staff. I feel blessed to have such fabulous families to work with – so know you are most appreciated.

If you haven't been able to volunteer as you had hoped.... Never fear... you are welcome to join us. Just let me know how you'd be able to help.

Reminders & Suggestions

- *Are you virtue trained? All volunteers must be virtue trained.
- *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.
- *It is helpful to have a bag (Ziploc works well) of extra clothes in your child's blue school bag.
- *It helps immensely to have the sleeves of coats, sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts not inside out after arriving to school. It is difficult for the children to get on these items efficiently when we get ready to go outside. Thanks.
- *The cold weather days are here! it is a good idea to have an **extra bag for winter gear**. The blue school bag is not quite big enough to have school papers/projects in it, as well as snow pants and all the gear. You can make this decision if you decide to go this route, but I certainly have found it helpful for the children and staff. Recycle or fabric type shopping bags work well.

Mark Your Calendar

***Preschool Information Night for NEW families: January 16 at 6:00pm in the Preschool.** Be sure to share your families Preschool experiences with your friends and family. Our best marketing tool is YOU! Thank you for sharing the good news of St. Joseph's Preschool with others.

***Kindergarten Information Night: January 23rd.**

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. Feel free to practice at home, too. Additional support does help. If your child is in Lunch Bunch—they do make an effort to get outside, too.

Coming Up:

January brings Preschool Parent/Teacher Phone Conferences. Phone conferences are an opportunity to discuss your child's progress this year. You will sign up for a time and I will call you from my classroom. Dates: Thursday, January 25th and Friday, January 26th.

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 many healthy snacks, sharing day items, special requests, helping in the classroom and at home, donations and the countless other ways you show support is greatly appreciated. It is such a joy and privilege to teach your beautiful children. Ms. Kathy and I look forward to many more wonderful learning opportunities during the new year!

May you and your loved ones continue to have a blessed Advent season,

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