



Preschool Peek

January 2018

Week of Jan. 1 and Jan. 8

Happy 2018/Winter Wonderland

Music:

- Happy New Year to you....
- Snowflakes, Snowflakes (Twinkle tune)
- A Chubby Little Polar Bear
- Praise Him

Stories:

- Winter Walk
- Jesus and the Good News (Bible Read Aloud)
- Let it Snow (repeated read aloud)
- The Three Wise Men (pop-up book)
- Here Comes the Snow

Special Projects:

- New Year's fireworks with cardboard rolls
- New Year's noise maker
- Winter hat painted with snowy mittens
- Snowy glitter polar bear painting
- Hot Cocoa Mug with real cocoa/marshmallows
- Ice Painting

Alphabet Activities:

- Letter Y: yellow yarn & sharing with yellow mic
- Letter W: white paint & sharing with a wand

Activities:

- pipe cleaner creations
- play dough with winter cookie cutters/rollers
- white foam
- dramatic play: pet shop
- big sensory with flour/salt snow
- snowflake blocks, duplos, wooden blocks
- light table snowman creations
- mitten matching on a "clothes line"
- winter books in the library
- Jesus prayer table
- trains and tracks on the big rug
- Tinker Tray with sugar cubes, toy penguins, snowmen and winter animals
- snowball pincher game, construction building, etc.

Week of Jan. 15 and Jan. 22

Polar Bear Express

Music:

- This is the way we shovel the walk...
- Polar Bear, Polar Bear
- Five Little Fishies (Polar Bear song)
- Good Things (just like Jesus)

Stories:

- Let it Snow (repeated read aloud)
- One More Swim (Polar Bear family)
- Polar Bear, Polar Bear What Do You Hear
- All About Polar Bears
- Say Hello to the Snowy Animals

Special Projects:

- Finger painted Church (for our photo)
- Big Polar Bear with paint/bath puffs

Alphabet Activities:

- Letter B: Band-Aids and sharing with a blue mic
- Letter Review
- Alphabet song

Activities:

- science table: sink/float
- Jesus table-area to pray
- non-standard measuring
- magnetic shapes
- ice fishing with magnetic fish
- ice chunks with arctic animals/hammers/goggles
- Tinker Tray with items to build a snowman
- big screen viewing of polar bears
- science balloon/water freeze experiments
- Pet shop at dramatic play
- winter floor puzzle
- big waffle blocks
- winter books in the library
- matching mittens and snowmen
- table puzzles
- mini stacking blocks, colorful keys
- vehicles and wooden signs and more

January Faith Focus

- We Belong to God's Family

Other News in Preschool

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 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.

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

January Concepts

Letters: Y, W, B, S & Alphabet song Counting 1-10

Shape: Rectangle (review circle, square and rectangle) Color: Black and White

Snacks

Thank you for your efforts to send a healthy and nutritional snack to Preschool. Pre-washed fruit and veggies (no carrots please) are 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) and 20 napkins, as well.

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.

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. 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—send two pairs of mittens in case one gets wet during our class. The Lunch Bunch staff does make an effort to get outside, too.

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 can be very difficult for the children to get on items on efficiently if they are inside out. 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.

Looking Ahead:

Black and White Day: Thursday, January 18

Baptism or Child/Family photo due: Tuesday, January 16 **or at least by** Thursday, January 18.

Super Kid Week (aka: Catholic Schools Week): Week of January 28th. Specific details will be emailed to you.

All School Open House: Sunday, January 28 from 10:00-1:00 pm.

Valentine's Day Celebration: **Thursday, February 8**

If you are looking to do something with your preschooler during the cold days of winter, please think about doing your child's valentines together. Each child will be asked to **bring 20 valentines** for the class. More details soon.

Preschool Registration:

Preschool Information for the 2018-2019 school year will be available after January 16. Registration is online. I would be happy to discuss the class that would be the best fit for your child during our phone conference.

Guest Reader:

Remember you can be a guest reader on/near your child's birthday. If you are unable to read when it is close to your child's birthday, then another time can be arranged.

*Thank you for the support you have given us throughout the school year.
Looking forward to more learning, fun and joyful days together in 2018.*

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