



# November 2011



| Sun                          | Mon  | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri                                 | Sat  |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Boots<br>Manners             |  | <u>Tuition Due</u>                             |  |   |                                     | 5<br><u>November<br/>Godly Play</u>                          |
| 6<br>Thanksgiving            | 7<br>***<br>***<br>Monday through Thursday | 8<br>Children's Chapel<br>Book Fair ***<br>*** | 9<br>Chapel<br>***<br>***<br>8:30am—8:00pm | 10<br>No School<br>Conferences<br>8:30am—8:00pm | 11<br>No School<br>Veteran's<br>Day | 12<br>The Flood<br>and the Ark                               |
| 13<br>The color<br>brown     | 14   | 15   | 16<br>17<br>Toy Drive<br>Begins!           | 17<br>Toy Drive<br>Begins!                      | 18                                  | 19<br>Jesus Feeds 5,000<br>With the little boy<br>who shares |
| 20<br>Hibernation            | 21   | 22   | 23<br>No School ~ Thanksgiving Break       | 24<br>Thanksgiving Break                        | 25<br>Thanksgiving Break            | 26<br>The Great<br>Banquet                                   |
| 27<br>The letters<br>H, M, O | 28   | 29<br>Registration for 2012/2013 begins        | 30<br>Registration for 2012/2013 begins    | <u>November 1 !!</u>                            |                                     | David the<br>Shepherd  |



Forty-three “birthday parties in a bag” were delivered to The Humanitarian Service Project on October 24th! Thank you for your generosity towards children in need, and for your support of our October service project.



*From the Director...*

At Little Blessings, November is a busy month that seems to pass too quickly! The first week will bring Children’s Chapel, the Book Fair, and conferences. Stop by the Book Fair (located in the upper level Gathering Area) after Chapel, before pick up time, or when you are here for your child’s conference. Teachers complete “wish lists” that indicate books they would enjoy having from the book fair in their classroom libraries. In preparation for conferences the teachers have been recording observations since early October. They are noting the children’s friendships, skills, preferences and overall adjustment to preschool. See your child’s teacher if you would like a conference, and have not yet signed up.

Also during the month of November, we begin practicing for *Little Blessings Shares the Christmas Story*. This pageant has been a special tradition at Little Blessings since the school first began 16 years ago. Half of the children are dressed as shepherds, and half are dressed as angels. The cast includes three wise men (or wise women!) Mary, Joseph, the prophet Isaiah, and the Angel Gabriel. The story of Jesus’ birth is narrated by adults, and the children sing, parade, ring bells, and walk through the events of the story. The pageant lasts about 25 minutes, and finishes with birthday wishes to Jesus, as everyone sings “Happy Birthday Jesus.”

The pageant is a very memorable way to teach our children the events of Jesus’ birth. The story becomes more meaningful and better recalled as children are given the opportunity to become active participants. Our music teacher, Ms. Lisa, works diligently along with the children as they learn the six pageant songs along with related sign language. Performing in the pageant also supports children’s learning in several ways. As they memorize songs and sing, children gain language and comprehension skills as well as social and emotional skills; these are all needed for school readiness. By moving and dancing to music, children improve their gross and fine motor skills. The pageants will be held Saturday, December 10, and Sunday, December 11. See inside this newsletter for your child’s specific pageant time, and mark your calendar for what is sure to be a very special day!

...Ms. Stephanie



**Blessings News**  
**November 2011**  
 (630) 904-9898 [www.littleblessings.org](http://www.littleblessings.org)



## The Christmas toy drive begins November 17.

Last year, as they brought toys to Winthrop Children's Center and Mary Crane Center in Chicago, our delivery "elves" were greeted with excited smiles, hugs, and happy thanks! Each child received a new toy or gift that was purchased especially for them by a Little Blessings family. Present requests will be printed on cut-outs and posted outside of the classrooms beginning November 17. Take a cut-out, purchase the item, and return it to the preschool office by December 9. Toys will be delivered by Little Blessings teachers on December 15.



### November Godly Play



Some of our November themes are boats, manners and Thanksgiving. These themes tie in well with our Godly Play stories; The Flood and the Ark, Jesus Feeds 5,000 with the Little Boy Who Shares, and the Great Banquet.

The Flood and the Ark, is a dramatic account of God asking Noah to build a big boat called an ark, and place every kind of animal in the ark. Two by two, the animals entered the ark, and then it began to rain. As the rain fell for 40 days, the earth flooded. Lifting the ark high over head, the teacher will help the children imagine water covering everything, and making the earth clean and new again. The Great Banquet is the parable of a man who prepared a great feast, and said to his guests, "Come for all is now ready." But the guests were too busy, and began to make excuses for why they could not come. The man then invited the poor, the blind and the lame, and filled his house! At this point the children are invited to consider the events of the parable with questions such as, "I wonder how it felt to be invited to this great feast?" and "I wonder why some would not come to the feast?"

### News and Notes

- Volunteers are asked to enter Door 1 and sign in at the preschool office.
- Ms. Carole, Ms. Kristin, and Ms. Gina's classes will decorate the altar for Children's Chapel this month.
- Proceeds from the book fair will go towards the Little Blessings Scholarship Fund.

### Thank you for collecting Box Tops

Our Box Tops program is a big success thanks to all of our Little Blessings families who cut, save, and turn in Box Tops! A special thanks to Julie Boubal, Betsy Demick, Liz Foeder, Judy Rackl, and Tracey Sokolowski for their help with cutting and bundling the Box Tops for mailing.

## Little Blessings Shares the Christmas Story

Little Blessings families are invited to attend our special enactment of the story of Jesus' birth. We will not be using tickets, but we ask each guest to **bring a box of granola bars or baby wipes** to be donated to Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. The programs will be recorded, and DVD's will be available for purchase. (Please plan on arriving about 1/2 hour prior to your child's pageant time.)



### Saturday, December 10, 1:00pm

|        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 2pm265 | Kpm224 | 3pm154 | 3pm201 |
| 4pm144 |        |        |        |

### Saturday, December 10, 2:30pm

|        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 4am144 | 3am201 | 3am154 | 3am265 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|

### Sunday, December 11, 2:00pm

|        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 5am146 | 5am226 | 3am108 | 3am106 |
| 3am267 |        |        |        |

### Sunday, December 11, 3:30pm

|        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 2am201 | 4am100 | 2am106 | 2am108 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|

### Sunday, December 11, 5:00pm

|        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 4am246 | 2am154 | 2am265 | 4am224 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|

### Our Hospitality Team is getting ready for their first event!

This year, Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled between the hours of 8:30am and 8:00pm on November. 10. This will be a long, but productive day for our teachers. When they are ready for a break, there will be treats, bottled water, coffee, and a soup and salad dinner waiting for them, thanks to our new Hospitality Team! If you would like to be a part of treating the teachers, please contact Maria Dresnin at: [mdresnin@att.net](mailto:mdresnin@att.net).



### Ms. Tracy's Kindergarten Corner

October was a fantastic month, full of fun fall activities and learning opportunities! We have been working in our reading groups doing small group, guided reading. We are also sounding out and writing words, and learning bigger, harder words. We have been working on capitalization and punctuation as we fill our first journals. In math, we are learning how to read and use a number line—recognizing and locating numbers, doing addition and subtraction, and counting the hops between numbers. We are also using the 100's chart and counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's. We integrated math with science this month by estimating and counting pumpkin seeds, measuring the circumference of a pumpkin, and doing a unit on sink and float. We couldn't believe a BIG pumpkin can float!