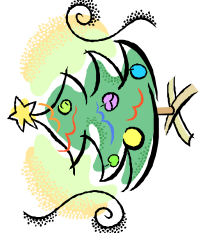





December 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Angels The letters D and J				1 Tuition Due	2	3
4 Stars ⁵ Farm Animals	6	7	8	9 Gifts for Toy Drive Due Today!	10 Little Blessings Shares the Christmas Story 1:00pm, 2:30pm	17
12 Little Blessings Shares the Christmas Story 2:00pm, 3:30pm, 5:00pm	13	14 Children's Chapel <i>(Join us for coffee after Chapel!)</i>	15	16	17	December Godly Play:
18 Holiday Cooking and Measuring	19	20	21 Pajama Days 	22	23 Christmas Break	24 The Prophets, The Holy Family The Shepherds, The Magi
25 The color White	26 *** ***	27 *** ***	28 *** ***	29 School resumes January 9***	30 *** ***	31



Blessings News December 2011

(630) 904-9898 www.littleblessings.org



From the Director... "Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay.
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care.
And take us to heaven to live with thee there."



These are the words to the very last song (of six songs!) that the children sing during their performance of Little Blessings Shares the Christmas Story. It is also a familiar children's prayer and a beautiful way to finish the pageant. We begin with the prophet Isaiah announcing, "Something incredible is going to happen in Bethlehem," and end with the children praying for God's love, blessings, and protection for all. We hope that all of our families will be able to attend this very special event, and feel free to invite grandparents, relatives and friends.

Looking ahead to January, if you are considering adding an Enrichment class to your child's schedule, this is a great time to start! Spaces are available in several of our sessions. Here is a look at some of the activities that the classes will be doing in the near future:

Spanish Explorers: Children in Spanish Explorers will learn the vocabulary for Estaciones del Año (Seasons of the Year) and La Navidad. A favorite song is Juanito, which helps them learn parts of the body in Spanish. Students will play an exercise game and a color game to help them further expand their Spanish vocabularies.

Health & Fitness: In addition to relays, games, and scooter races in the Recreation Room, this class will explore family traditions and customs surrounding the holiday season.

Book Club: The featured author for January is Denise Fleming. We will read, The First Days of Winter and practice writing our names in the snow. After reading Alphabet Under Construction the children will construct their own alphabet letters, and have fun with beginning letter sounds.

Art Works!: During the month of January, two featured artists will be Vincent Van Gogh, and Michelangelo. The children will explore Rhythm and Movement, and Technique and Texture. Little artists will swirl paint, blow paint, and (using the underside of a table) experience "drawing" on a ceiling, just as Michelangelo did.

Science & Math: Conducting experiments, observing, and recording, are all components of a day in Science & Math. Children will investigate sound and vibration, insulation, freezing and melting, and touch/taste/smell. *Please contact the office with any registration questions, and have a wonderful Christmas season! ...Ms. Stephanie*



December reminders...

- Little Blessings water bottles are just \$5.00, and are great stocking stuffers!
- Children’s Chapel is December 13 and 14.
- Pajama Days are December 21 and 22.



January brings “Picture Days” to Little Blessings!

Photographers from Life Touch studios will be here on January 24 through January 27, 2012. A specific schedule will be provided to the teachers, and they will let you know your child's exact day. Life Touch offers pricing starting at \$10.00 per sheet, and will be here for picture preview and purchase on February 14, 15, 16, and 17. This year, picture day will include a safety program. Life Touch participates in the Smile Safe Kids program, which provides complimentary safety ID cards to the families of every student photographed. The cards include the child's picture and the date the photograph was taken, and a section for parents to record their child's age, height, weight, hair, and eye color.



All presents for the Toy Drive are due Friday, December 9. Please wrap your gift, and tape the present cut-out to the outside.
Thank you for your generosity!

We had much to be thankful for during the month of November!

The Book Fair was a big success thanks to all of the families who shopped the fair and also a big “thank-you” to our Book Fair volunteers: Sarah Anderson, Cheryl Brunetti, Lori Davis, Sarah Goldman, Kendra Kirshgessner, Dana Kubiak, Michelle Onyschak, Robyn Schmidt, and Kathy Urbanowski.



The Box Tops program receives tremendous support! We collected 9,560 points, which raised over \$900.00! The money will be used to purchase much needed office equipment, and fund the scholarship account. Ms. Kim’s classes turned in the most Box Tops on the October collection sheets!

Can I Come to School in my Pajamas?

Yes! On December 21 and 22 we all dress in warm pajamas and bring a favorite stuffed animal to preschool. A special treat on pajama day is getting together with another class and enjoying a Christmas DVD! Teachers choose from two favorites that have emerged over the years :
The Snowman or Timmy’s Gift.



On a day that brought snow and cold temperatures, our teachers were treated to warm bowls of chicken soup! *Thank you Hospitality Parents for providing warm soup, salad, tasty desserts, water bottles, and snacks for our teachers during Parent Teacher conferences. A special thanks goes to Maria Dresnin for her efforts and care in coordinating and setting up the meal!*

Registration has begun for the 2012-2013 school year

To guarantee your first choice of sessions, please register your child before Christmas break. Some sessions fill quickly! If you have a friend who is considering Little Blessings for their child, please have them contact the preschool office at 630-904-9898 x 228 to schedule a tour. **New families may register now.**

Do you like to plan ahead?

Little Blessings provides great summer program options. Camp Little Blessings offers week-long outdoor camps during the months of June and July. Children explore nature and fun summer themes, ride bikes and run under the sprinklers, enjoy messy art projects, and finish each day with a snack and story time under a shady tree. Preschool and PDO Summer Adventures are week-long indoor and outdoor summer programs that offer lots of play, learning and fun! Registration for our summer programs begins Thursday, March 1.



Extended Care Club will begin next fall.

Beginning September 2012, preschool children may attend Little Blessings between the hours of 7:00am and 5:00pm. The program will offer flexible time blocks and days, allowing parents to tailor their child's schedule to best meet their needs. Visit the website (littleblessings.org) and click on the “Extended Care” tab for more detailed information.

Ms. Tracy’s Kindergarten Corner

November was a great month, and now we are looking forward to the holidays. During November we added two new challenges: homework packets and spelling tests! We practice writing our spelling words during the week, and on Friday there is a fun test. We are up to 14 sight words now, and each week we memorize a new poem. In math we are adding numbers up to 20 using dice, a number line or fingers. We are working on symmetry, and had fun finding things in the classroom that are symmetrical. There was also time to write letters to grandparents, make turkeys, and create a mural of the first Thanksgiving. Be sure to look for our special song during the Christmas pageant! ***If you are considering our Kindergarten program for next fall, please call the preschool office to schedule a short visit.***