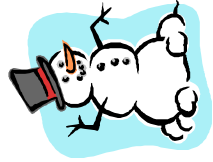

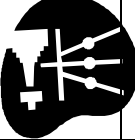


# January 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Outer Space Ovals	2	3	4	5	6	7 January Godly Play:
8 Silver and Black	9 School Resumes Tuition Due	10	11	12	13 No School	14 Joseph's Early and Later Life
15 World Cultures	16 No School Dr. Martin Luther King Day	17 Children's Chapel	18 	19	20	21 Moses' Birth
22 Freezing and Melting	23	24 *** *** ***	25 *** *** Picture Days	26 *** *** ***	27 	28 The Exodus
29 The Letters O, N, Z	30	31				The Ten Best Ways



## Blessings News

### January 2012

(630) 904-9898 [www.littleblessings.org](http://www.littleblessings.org)



### From the Director...

After an exciting and busy month of December that was filled with touching Christmas pageants, Pajama Days, gift creating and giving, and special classroom celebrations, there will be a two week break. The children will return on January 9, rested and ready to go! Our January themes have been carefully selected to bring new opportunities for learning and growth.

One of the themes that will be explored in our classrooms is "World Cultures." It is vitally important for young children to have the opportunity to investigate aspects of other cultures such as the customs, foods, games, music, animals, and related books so they begin to appreciate, value, and respect differences. In preparation for the month, the teachers read an article titled: "Teacher Preparation, Exploring Culture and Identity," (Illinois Child Care, Winter 2011). The article encourages teachers to first explore and understand their own cultural values and how these values have shaped them, and then learn to



note the similarities and differences of others. These are components of cultural competency along with respect, and a willingness to learn about others (p. 2). Cultural competency prepares teachers to identify learning differences in her students, and ensure that the classroom environment

and activities are meeting the needs of all children. Just as awareness and understanding enhances the interaction between teachers and children, an appreciation of cultural differences helps children value and embrace diversity rather than dismiss what they do not understand.

The second half of this school year is sure to be an exciting journey!

...Ms. Stephanie

### Extended Care Club ~ Beginning Fall 2012

- Hours are 7:00am to 5:00pm, available Monday through Friday
- Flexible drop-off and pick-up times, in a nurturing classroom setting
- Click on the "Extended Care" tab on our website for complete details



## Portrait Days will soon be here!

Photographers from Lifetouch Preschool Portraits will be at Little Blessings January 24 through January 27, 2012. Individual and class photos will be taken. This year, each child will receive a free Smile Safe Kids card. This is a safety ID card that provides an updated photo of your child, and an area to record your child's general identification information. Portrait pricing begins at \$10 per sheet. Information will be sent home in early January.

### Tuesday, January 24

4am224 Kpm224  
2am265 2pm265  
2am154  
4am246  
2am106

### Wednesday, January 25

3am154 3pm154  
3am201 3pm201  
4am144 4pm144  
3am265

### Thursday, January 26

2am201  
4am100  
2am108  
5am226

### Friday, January 27

3am267  
3am108  
5am146  
3am106

*This is a special dress-up day, so messy projects and snacks will be saved for another time!*

### Jim Gill's Music Play for All Young Children, is coming to Little Blessings!



Are you familiar with *The Sneezing Song*? Then you have heard one of Jim Gill's most popular songs. This performance for the entire family is scheduled for Wednesday March 7, at 6:30pm. Jim is a musician and child development specialist on the study of play. His music creates opportunities for playful interactions, movement, and song! The event is a part of our week-long celebration of **Lutheran School's Week**.

**If your child will be returning to Little Blessings next fall...  
please remember to turn in your registration form!**

**We are better able to honor class, teacher and friend requests, at this time.**

We welcome parent volunteers! Beginning in January, all classes are requesting volunteers. See your child's teacher to choose a day.



A big "thank-you" comes from our little friends at Winthrop and Mary Crane Children's Centers. On December 16, 107 gifts and 80 coats were delivered, thanks to the generosity of our families.



### Little Blessings Sunday February 12, 2012

Children will have the opportunity to sing for everyone during the 9:00am or 10:15am worship service. After singing with Ms. Lisa, children are invited to attend Church School.

A special Valentine's Day pancake breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 10:00am. Little Blessings families are welcome guests!

**January is a great time to add an Enrichment class to your child's schedule.**

**Spanish Explorers      Health & Fitness**  
**Book Club**  
**Science and Math      Art Works!**  
(Contact the preschool office for more details and to check on availability for a certain class.)

### Dates to Remember in 2012:

- Picture preview and purchase days, February 14—17
- Parent Teacher conferences, February 21
- Summer Program Registration begins March 1
- "A Day with Dad," March 15 and 16



### Ms. Tracy's Kindergarten Corner

Here we are wearing our Wiseman crowns from the Christmas pageant and displaying our gingerbread house creations!

