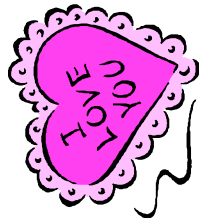







February 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dental Health			1 Tuition Due	2 	3	4 February Godly Play:
The Five Senses	6	7  Children's Chapel	8	9	10	11 The Birth of John
pink and purple						
12 The Letters L, V, U	13 Valentine's Day Parties 	14	15 ***Picture Purchase Days*** (Tuesday, 10:30am-3:30pm, Wednesday, 12:30pm-5:00pm, Thursday and Friday, 10:30am-3:30pm)	16	17 ***	18 Jesus is Baptized
19 Sign Language: I Love You and other phrases!	20 No School President's Day	21 No School Conferences	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24	25 Jesus in the Wilderness
26 My Body & Good Nutrition	27	28	29			Lent 1: Jesus the King
Hearts						



Blessings News

February 2012

(630) 904-9898 www.littleblessings.org



From the Director.....
 Music is always in the air at Little Blessings! There is a strong emphasis on providing musical experiences to the children throughout each day, beginning with our youngest students in the Parent's Day Out (PDO) program, and continuing through preschool and kindergarten. Teachers play music CD's as the children work on projects and play, music and song is used during transition times and circle time, and each week every class enjoys a special music session with Ms. Lisa (preschool) or Ms. Michele (PDO).

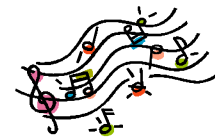
As would be expected, music sessions for our PDO children are active and always on the move! During the month of January, Ms. Michele used rhythm sticks, drums, scarves, and hoops, and the children danced with snowflakes, ice skated, threw "snowballs," and pretended to be snowmen. The preschoolers with Ms. Lisa spread out and did some interpretative movement: They listened to classical music that inspired them to skate, slide, and make snow angels. They also listened to the sounds that winter animals make, and took turns guessing each animal's name. Afterwards, there was a little snow party for animals that "winter" in Illinois. Each music session with Lisa or Michele includes time for singing fun, active songs with movement or sign language.

When music and movement are paired, children use their entire bodies to express and create ideas. Language and listening skills are developed and enhanced, and abstract concepts become more concrete (Miche, M. 2002 *Weaving Music into Young Minds*). Participating in music activities can also improve attention span and increase vocabulary. Experiences with music benefit children in so many different areas, but the main focus should always be on music for its own worth. Music is valuable to learn simply for the joy that it can bring to a child throughout his or her life.

...Ms. Stephanie



*"Music gives soul to the universe,
 wings to the mind,
 flight to the imagination,
 and life to everything."
 ~ Plato ~*



Jim Gill's Music Play for All Young Children
 Join us for an opportunity to enjoy music with your child!
 When: Wednesday, March 7 at 6:30pm
 Admission: \$10.00 per family

- Dates to Remember...
- Children's Chapel
February 7 and 8
(Ms. Kim, Ms. Allie, and Ms. Diane's classes decorate the altar.)
 - My Little Hands
Summer Camp
(Registration begins March 1)
 - Box Tops are due
March 1
(Last fall we raised \$900 for classroom equipment.)

Stop In and See Your Child's Portraits

We have all put on our good clothes and smiled for the camera, now it is time to see the pictures!

Portrait preview/purchase days will be:

February 14, 10:30am—3:30pm
February 15, 12:30pm—5:00pm
February 16, 10:30am—3:30pm
February 17, 10:30am—3:30pm

Lifetouch representatives will be located in the upper level Gathering Area, just outside of the Worship Space. Pricing begins at \$10 per sheet. Portrait packages range in price from \$27.95 (for 3 sheets) to \$50.95 (for all 10 sheets).



**Spring Conferences
Tuesday, February 21**

Parents will have the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher, and receive an update on how the year is unfolding.

At this point in the year, questions about kindergarten readiness, class placement for the next year of preschool, and general questions about their child's progress are on parents' minds. See your child's teacher to sign up for a conference.



It is Time to Make Plans for a Great Summer!

Summer is meant for time outdoors, exploring nature, enjoying play with friends, and experiencing hands-on learning. Camp Little Blessings and Summer Adventures for Preschool and PDO provide many opportunities for children to do this and much more.

Registration begins Thursday, March 1 at 9:15am, in the upper level Gathering Area. Programs will run from June 4 through July 19.

Camp Little Blessings themes will be:

Dinosaurs Part I	June 4—June 7
Holiday Fun	June 25—June 28
Messy Art	July 9—July 12
Dinosaurs Part II	July 16—July 19

Little Blessings Sunday at Alleluia!

On Sunday, February 12, Little Blessings children will have the opportunity to sing for their parents and everyone during the 9:00am or 10:15am worship service.

Children will begin the morning seated with their parents in the Worship Space. Ms. Lisa will invite them to come to the front to sing a song that she has taught, and then participate in the Children's Chat. Afterward, they may return to their seats or attend Explorations Church School. Parents will escort their child to Room 226, sign them in, and return to the worship service.

Afterwards a Valentine's Day pancake breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Pancakes, waffles, sausage, and Valentine's Day trimmings will be served, and there will be a craft activity available for the children. There will be no charge to Little Blessings families, or you may make a free will donation.

Please RSVP to your child's teacher if your family plans to attend.



**Attention:
Little Blessings Dads**

Thursday and Friday, March 15 and 16, we celebrate "A Day With Dad." On this much anticipated day, fathers are invited to spend an hour with their child playing, enjoying a snack together, and working on a project. Your child's teacher will provide the specific day and time for this special event.



Ms. Tracy's Kindergarten Corner

January was a fun month in Kindergarten. We're back from Christmas break and ready to work! We are learning about parts of speech, and have been making sentences using "parts of speech" sentence tiles. Our spelling words are more challenging now, and we learned how the silent "e" makes other vowels say their name. In Math, we have been learning about measurement, and used rulers to measure various objects in our room. As we made cookies, there was time for more practice with measuring, weighing, and reading temperatures. We learned about the solar system and made pin-hole constellations, planet mobiles, a chart of the moon phases, and launched our own rockets!