

Great Beginnings Christian Child Care Center and Kindergarten

DIRECTOR'S DESK

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas and New Year celebrations. I'd like to thank everyone who so generously gave gifts to the center and to me as well. I pray this year brings all of you good health and happiness.

Well it's back to our normal routines now and that is a good thing for us. The holidays really show you how important routine and schedule are in the life of a child. It's time for Mrs. Deanna to come back and start the winter session of Music Class

for toddlers, preschool and Kindergarten. It starts on Jan. 19th and the charge for this ten week class is \$27.50. It will be added to you accounts and can be included on your tuition check.

Little Caesar's Pizza Kit fundraiser will be starting soon. Watch for order forms and posters for further information.

2011 payment totals will be going out soon for your income tax returns. Watch your child's cubby for this.

AMY BARTLETT



YOUNG INFANT

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Building memories with loved ones is always a special time to cherish.

We would like to give a special thank you to the Pohl family for donating a glider to our room. We will put it to good use. Thanks! Our two oldest friends Kyle and Zalina have become great play-

mates. Kyle is always excited to have Zalina to play with. They enjoy having jumping contests in the jumper and sharing toys. Little Tyler is too little to join in to play with them, but he is starting to roll over and he loves to reach up to grab for toys. Kyle has started to stand on his own and is even taking a few steps. Zalina is rolling all over to reach her favorite toys. Our friends have been

MISS JENNY

quite busy learning new things, I can't wait to see what 2012 has in store for us!

We send out a big welcome to our newest addition, Logan Netkowski. Logan has a big brother Connor in the Kindergarten room just across the lobby. We are thrilled to have Logan and his family join us.

OLDER INFANT

Happy January everyone. The older infants are growing and growing and growing. Everyone came back rested and ready to play. The break did us all good but it's nice to get back into a routine.

We have lots to work on in January. For emergent literacy we will create some toddler graffiti. This also will further our prewriting skills and

develop those fine muscles in our hands. We will do something called "Sticky Side Up" where we stick different things to the sticky side of contact paper. This is another fine motor skill and also helps further our creative expression. For our social and emotional development we roll a ball to one another and have a finger play called, "I Am Terrific." We have lots

MISS ANN

of energy to burn so we need to do some Toddlercising and creative movement to the "Grand Old Duke of York." We also will waddle like the penguins. Working those large muscles tires us so we nap well and grow. Language is a huge area we work on every day. We have so much to talk about. Sometimes our brains take a break in the language area because our bodies are focusing on
continued ...

OLDER INFANT CONTINUED..

moving. We will concentrate on using our words so we can say what we want.

All of those activities involve our cognitive skills but we will work to push them farther by following simple directions, listening to their teacher and each other. We also will discover many things through reading and looking at books. Of course we have to be

hands on and exploring through our senses. Since we aren't experiencing much of that white stuff (snow) outdoors we will have to be creative and touch and use things like cotton, flour, noodles, paper snow balls, ice cubes.... oh the possibilities.

See, we do have a lot to do in January!

Our play is our work. Mommy's and Daddy's aren't the only ones who go to work each day. We just get to have fun while doing it.

Have a great month

XXOO

Older Infants

TODDLERS

Where oh where has the winter weather gone? I'm not complaining, it's much easier driving on dry roads. If God would only let it snow on the grass and off roads that would be awesome!

Well our theme for this month is "Winter Weather." We have been reading about snow and building snowmen and sledding.

Some of the friends are doing quite well in getting ready to go outside. I'm sure you would be amazed at all they do.

We do venture out every day whether we go for a walk to the hills or play in the yard. The friends love the outdoors. So we will still need boots, mittens and hats each week.

We welcome to our center and room Hadi and his family. His parents are students at SVSU. We also welcome Alkhalil (Lilo) and his family. We are glad they are here.

I pray the very best for all of you in the new year.



THREES JANUARY NEWS

Thumbs in the thumb place, fingers all together. This is the song we sing in mitten weather. Brrr.... The cold weather has arrived! I just keep counting the months until Spring is here again!

I hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday season with your families and were able to find time to relax and enjoy being together. Thank you so much to all of you for the generous gifts and snacks that you provided us with to make our Christmas special.

In the month of January our theme will be "Winter Wonderland." We will be making paper snowflakes, snowmen, painting mittens and playing in the texture table with

snow. During outside time, we will be able to go sledding and climb the big snow hills when the snowy weather stays. It is always such a great time outside when the children are enjoying themselves during this time of year.

At the end of the month, we will focus on the circus. "Under the Big Top" will be our theme. The children will pretend to be tightrope walkers, elephants and lions during creative movement. We may even act out some of the circus during our play time together. If you have anything to add to our time together that goes with our theme please feel free to share it with us. Stories, coloring books or puzzles are al-

ways welcome.

Happy Birthday to Ellija and MiMi who both turn 4 this month! May God give you many blessings this year!

Happy New Year!

Miss Di

Christmas Thank You

Snow cube maker
Stamp out and count play dough set
Imaginext Plane

Thank you McNish Family!

MISS DI

FOURS

Happy New Year! Here in the Fours Room we'll be welcoming the New Year with various themes focusing on winter and snow. We'll also be doing "story extensions" with three winter themed story-books, "[The Snowy Day](#), [The Mitten](#), and [Copy Me, Copycub](#)." I love doing story extensions. They give such great reinforcement and offer interaction in various forms for the boys and girls. [The Mitten](#) is an Ukrainian folk tale that is so fun to read and interact with. The boys and girls will be acting out the story using a large mitten outline on the floor as "our stage." ☺ They're always so cute and funny! It's

always a favorite!

For our "poetry" in January, the boys and girls will be learning "Five Silly Snowpals" and "The Chubby Little Snowman." Science will be so fun this month with experiments focusing on temperature, measurement, ice, snow formation, and an odd sounding experiment... "Why Are Raisins Wrinkled?" ☺ In phonics our letters this month will be Oo, Pp, Qq, Rr. "Oo" is exciting... another vowel and two more "basement letters" with Pp and Qq! I'll also start sending "The Surprise Pail" home periodically throughout January. It's a fun cog-

nitive-language activity. When you find the pail in your child's cubby, please read the note inside! Have fun! Have a great January... I know the Fours class will!

Happy Birthday to Arjya!
Happy Birthday to Evan!

Thank you to Zane and his family for sharing new toys: dry erase boards, car garage, "Littlest Pet Shop" figures, Duplo sets and Tinker toys! Awesome! So fun! So generous!

Thank you to Brock and his family for sharing art/scrap paper. Always appreciated!!!

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Bless the houses snug and tight,
Bless the families day and night,
Bless the young and bless the old,
Bless us all when cold winds blow.

Welcome 2012! January is a wonderful time to begin fresh and rested from our long Christmas vacation. Our themes for January are "Good Healthy Bodies and Musical Instruments." If you have any health professionals in your family or any musical people please send them to us.

Phonics is exploding in kindergarten. All of the boys and girls are putting final con-

sonants on the blend ladders and reading one vowel words! Later this month we will begin our "Reading Club." From now on, if the boys and girls read a book during center time and then to me; they may go to any room in our building and read the book to a sibling, a teacher or a friend. This is one of the huge pluses of our reading program. It is very dear watching a budding reader share a story with an infant in a swing or a group of 4 year olds in a huddle. Readers are leaders!

Our math centers are progressing well. We are counting in the 10 family and February

2 will be our "100 Day Party." We will have many surprises and everyone needs to bring a 100 collection—so be thinking about what it could be??

Our field trip for January now has changed the date to Feb. 3. We will go to the Shrine Circus! This is a super fun trip, enjoying the circus with all the friends is great. Stop the presses—Great Beginnings Kindergarten has been invited to sing our National Anthem in the center ring at the Shrine Circus. What an honor—so cool! We plan to leave the center at 11:10 and return at about 2:45. Please sign up to drive!!



Winter fun at Great Beginnings!