

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY
2021

GREAT BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN CHILD CARE
CENTER AND KINDERGARTEN



Director's Desk...

Amy Bartlett

Special points of interest:

- *We are open on President's Day.*
- *Valentines Day is on a Sunday this year 2/14, but classroom parties will be on Friday, 2/12.*
- *2/17 Ash Wednesday the season of Lent begins.*



Happy Valentines Day to all of our sweet friends and families!

We are half way through the school year, so Miss Heidi is getting ready to send her mid-year assessments out to the families in the Fours room. And we are almost ready to start our Fall Young 5's/ Kindergarten Round-up activities. That's right, we're already planning for the 2021-2022 school year! If you know of any families outside the center who are looking for a nurturing, small classroom experience - Mrs. Layer's room is the place!! She is hands down the best Kindergarten teacher. Her curriculum is tailored to meet the needs of each individual child. A child can move through at their own pace, while being encouraged to achieve their very best. Round-up activities will include Mrs. Layer doing classroom observations, individual testing and consulting with Miss Heidi on the readiness of each child.

Little Caesars Pizza Kit Fundraiser—thanks to everyone participating. Each spring the playground needs a little help, new sand, new toys, new shade sails, etc. All that sand that goes home with your child needs to be replenished!!☺ We get high quality, clean beach sand brought in by the truck load from West Branch by Champagne & Marx. Sand is cleaner than mulch which breaks down into dirt, and safer than pea gravel which hurts if thrown or put up noses! Beach sand is more costly, but so much cleaner than construction grade. Sorry, I know a lot of the sand goes home in pockets, shoes, diapers, etc., but the children love it and we need it for safety under the swings, climbers and tires.

Enjoy your month and know that spring is not that far away!

Young Infant

Hello All! We made it through the first month of the New Year! February brings us one step closer to spring and warmer weather.

Our littlest friends are acclimating nicely to being in child care with all the new faces, noises and routines. Chase, Cecelia and Julia are our tiniest friends and are so bright eyed and love watching the movers and shakers. Remi is next youngest turning 5 months. She thinks she's a big girl and holds her own bottle and is working hard sitting up with the assis-

tance of the boppy pillows. Mason has decided staying in one place isn't much fun. So he is pulling himself up to his knees and has got the going backwards down pat. Our 3 oldest are ready for grand adventures. They are very curious and want to help rock the babies in the seats and they play with the toys on the chairs as the tiny ones watch. It's time to introduce the ball pit and the bubbles. They are always mesmerized by the bubbles floating and popping.

Miss Ann

Eight infants definitely keeps us busy but is so fun and rewarding as we watch the development progress weekly, sometimes daily.

We want to wish a Happy February to all.

Love to all our families and babies.



Older Infants

The year is flying by—it's February already! The month of LOVE, and what's not to love? The groundhog tells us how close we are to warmer weather, and of course the fun



Valentines day songs and projects we have planned.

The love of a child is such a wonderful gift. As our older infants are growing up, they are each showing such loving personalities. Our current group of friends is showing kindness by sharing with others, and helping during clean up time. Plus all of the hugs they hand out. We are so proud to be able to watch your babies

Miss Loren

grow into the children they are meant to be.

We will be talking about some of our Jungle Friends; their colors and the sounds they make of course. We can't forget our daily dance parties!



Toddlers

Happy Ground Hog Day and Happy Valentines Day! We should still have 6 more weeks of winter. I hope you all can take some time and enjoy some of this winter weather. Some of the friends have been doing some ice skating, ice fishing and sledding. I personally only sled when I'm here at work with the friends. We used to go when I was much younger as a family. Then in my youth group from church, when you're young the cold doesn't bother you. You can spend hours outside and never complain. However you choose to spend our last few weeks of winter I hope

its fun and relaxing.

Our themes for February will be Valentines, hearts, and teddy bears. We will be singing songs, reading stories and doing some art work that go along with our topics.

We've been working through our toilet learning process with most of our friends. Don't get discouraged if your child isn't catching it as maybe some other friends seem to be. We all move at our own pace in each area of development so each child develops at different times. If you have

Miss De

questions on the process or any other area please call or stop in to chat. I've been working at this for 40+ years, I have a little bit of experience with this age group. They can make you doubt your parenting skills at times, and other times they make you so very proud. They are wonderful and crazy at the same time. Trust me your all doing wonderful. Enjoy these years because they go by so quickly.

I wish you all joy peace and fun in this month.

Newsy Notes from the Threes

Happy February Everyone! As I write this we will be looking ahead to what the groundhog's prediction will be. I am crossing my fingers that spring won't be too far away. The kids did create one snowman so far this winter and have enjoyed taking turns for sled rides and walking the winter trails and hills for exercise.

The month of February we will be focusing on friends, hearts and Love Valentines as we start off the month. We

will share special stories and many ❤️ projects. If you want to send in Valentines for the class you may do so. You do not have to address them to each friend instead please just sign your child's name so we know who sent it. We will plan to pass our Valentines out in our room on Friday, February 12th so please bring them in with your child by that morning. The teachers in our room are Ms. Jacky and Ms. Di Teddy Bears will also be a fun week for

Miss Di

us during this month. We will have several fun activities to share along with great books to share at circle time.

During creative movement we will "Go On a Bear Hunt" and do the Teddy Bear Dance.

At the end of the month we will talk about the circus since it is usually in town at this time of year. A few fun activities will go along with that theme.

Threes continued...

We welcome Brynn, CeCe and Ameer and their families to our room. They have all recently moved up from the Toddlers and we are happy to have you!!!

Have a blessed month! Happy Valentine's Day!!

Fours

Here in the Four's Room, we have a lot of plans for February. We'll have a Valentine's Party on the 12th. The boys and girls will be very busy creating beautiful decorations to make our room look festive. Since we can't have a party sign-up sheet at this time, please send in \$2 to go towards pizza for our party. I will supply the rest. Your child will need 10 Valentines to share with their classmates. I encourage you to have your child sign their Valentines, even if it's just a couple. Great practice in a fun way! They will not need to address their valentines. This makes it much easier when it comes time to "mail" them.

We will be exploring the great presidents: Washington and Lincoln in February. Even at this young age the boys and girls are so interested in these two great historical figures.

In phonics, our focus will be letters Rr, Ss, Tt and Uu. A fun activity we'll begin in February for letters "S,s" is the "Surprise Pail"! This is a pail that I will start sending home periodically, with a different child each time. When your child brings it home, please read the note inside. You'll need to select an item to place in the pail and write down 3 clues about that object. Your child will share those clues with their

classmates, seeing if they can guess what the object is. Please encourage your child to not tell what is inside! Please return the pail the next day! ☺ It's great fun!

In math we'll keep working with patterning, numbers 1-10, counting our word list words and looking for those number families. Have a fabulous February!



Young 5's/Kindergarten

Roses are red, violets are blue, Angels in Heaven know I love you!

I love February for sooo many reasons! Our themes for February will be weather and bears. We will record the temperature everyday and do some freezing and thawing. We will also study about some fantastic weather happenings. At the end of the month we will read about some real and pretend bears and enjoy a "Teddy Bear Day".

If February we will read our first chapter book about when Abe Lincoln was a little boy and we will turn a shoe box into Abe Lincoln's log cabin. We will also read



about our first President, George Washington.

This is party month! Friday, Feb, 5th is our super fun "100 Day Party". We will run 100 times around the room, eat 100 Fruit Loops, make a 100 inch snake, bring our 100 collections and more— Then on Friday, Feb. 12th we will have our Valentine Party. This could be a sugar overload!

Mrs. Layer

Our "Reading Club" started about 2 weeks ago and some boys and girls have read 4, 6 even 9 books silently, to me and to some other person in our building. This is super cool—"Readers are Leaders".

The math centers are coming along in leaps and bounds. We are reading numerals in the hundreds, even the thousands. The boys and girls are writing from 10's to 100 in a beautiful way. We are learning to do a dot to dot page super neat.

We'll enjoy the wonderful month of February! It's getting lighter everyday. ☺