

Wee Folk in December

We extend our thanks to those who shared their time recently for parent-teacher conferences. Through these sessions we gain new perspectives and hopefully convey to you how much we enjoy working with your children. If your child is eligible for admission to kindergarten next September, your conference will be scheduled in January or February.

We expect excitement to mount as we begin our December calendar. Everyone knows that Christmas is not far away! Our featured calendar song for the month is: "This month is December, Baby Jesus is born." Our emphasis this month will be learning about the greatest gift ever given, when God sent his son, Jesus, into the world. As we enjoy counting down the days until Christmas, we will be remembering that Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season! We are so pleased to share an Advent Coloring Book with the children, given with love from the Indian Creek Church Leadership Team.

As we celebrate the many joys of the holiday season, we will experience the many sweet sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of Christmas. Our fine-motor skills will be challenged as we make a variety of Christmas arts and crafts, as well as enjoy Christmas manipulative games and puzzles. A small Christmas tree to decorate will be part of the fun in our housekeeping center. An assortment of Nativity sets and puppets will also be available for dramatic play. Sequencing skills will be used in making paper chains to decorate our classroom, and beaded candy cane tree ornaments. Other Christmas projects will include collage decorated stars and Christmas trees, a variety of ornaments, and a surprise gift for our parents! We are going to be busier than Santa's elves!

Sweet smells of Christmas will abound when we bake sugar cookies to enjoy at snack time, after reading about our story friend, Arthur, and his dilemma in *Arthur's Christmas Cookies*. Other holiday books to be shared will include: *A Merry Mouse Christmas ABC*, *Once There Was a Christmas Tree*, *The Christmas Star*, *Surprise, Surprise! Mortimer's Christmas Manger*, and *This is the Stable*. We will also read the Christmas story in the *Jesus Storybook Bible* and view a video presentation of *The Nativity* just prior to the Christmas holiday.

At music time, we will be singing our traditional Christmas songs, including: Mary Had a Baby, Behold the Star, Away in a Manger, Happy Birthday, Jesus; and play our bells while singing, Jingle Up, Jingle Down, Ring those Bells, Jingle Bells, and Go Tell it on the Mountain.

“Santa” and his elves will be temporarily using our workbench to make surprises for classmates, and may even build a sleigh from our blocks. Pulled by “Rudolph,” they will deliver their packages to the delight of their friends, who are “asleep” and waiting for Christmas morning!

Our indoor climber will be transformed into a “Gingerbread House” this month, welcoming friends for tea and visiting, or provide a quiet place to look at Christmas books. Our puppet theater will become a stable this month, complete with a wide assortment of animal and Nativity puppets.

In order to encourage an awareness of sharing with those in need, we will be collecting **children’s socks** to be distributed by the Keystone Opportunity Center through their clothing cupboard for families in our community. Each pair of socks that is donated will be tagged with the child’s name who brought them and hung on our Christmas tree. Additionally, should you wish to bring food items for under the tree, we will collect children’s **healthful snacks** which will be distributed through the KOC Food Pantry. Suggested items are: animal crackers, granola bars, peanut butter crackers, applesauce, fruit cups, raisins, etc. We will collect the things the children bring to share under our tree, and deliver them before the holiday. You may send donations anytime through December 16.

Mrs. Thomsen and I wish you and your family a very blessed Christmas season, filled with the peace, joy, and love of our Savior.

Merry Christmas!

Kathy Moyer

Special December Days!

- December 8 & 9: December Scholastic Reading Club orders are due
We did not receive flyers this month, but you may access them online and order using our school code: **GVLDG**.
- December 8 & 9: Cookie baking days!
- December 15 & 16: Last school days before the Christmas Holiday.
We will present our “Mary Had a Baby” Christmas program in the Sanctuary at 11:15 on these days. Grandparents are invited, too!
- January 3: School resumes in the Happy New Year!