



Where Love, Learning, & Play go Hand in Hand

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December
2019



Director's Corner

Christmas is a very special season that we enjoy celebrating here at Children's House. As the anticipation of this month grows, we will continue to focus on the birth of Jesus. The Pre-K program will attend chapel this month with the Christmas story being the main focus.

On December 18, Children's House will host the annual Christmas program, beginning at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Families have been invited to join Central Baptist Church's Wednesday Night Dinner here at the church prior to the program. Adult meals (10 and over) are \$5.00 each and children's meal (10 and under are a \$1.00). Dinner service is 4:45-5:45 downstairs in Merriam Hall. Order forms with the menu will be sent home closer to the date. We are very grateful for the Wednesday night cook team and their assistance with this evening.

Classroom Christmas parties will be held on December 20 at 3:00 p.m. Classrooms will be sending more information out soon about party donations and a gift exchange. Santa's schedule was a little busy this year so he will be visiting us in the morning on the Dec. 20 at 10:00 a.m. Families are welcomed to join us for both events.

Completion of the playground continues to move forward, weather permitting. A very special thank you to the volunteers who helped with the removal of the playground. We are very grateful for your time, support and assistance.

Have a blessed Spirit-filled Christmas and New Year!

Judy Vlach,
Director

INFORMATION STATION

December dates to remember:

- Christmas themed spirit week - December 16-20.
- Interesting sweater voting - December 13-19. Winner announced Dec. 20.
- Pre-K holiday shopping field trip to be announced.
- Christmas program - December 18 at 6:15. Dinner is served 4:45-5:45 p.m.
- Santa visits - December 20 @ 10:00 a.m.
- Classroom parties - December 20 @ 3:00
- Closed - December 24 & 25.
- Closed - January 1.

December Birthdays

Children

12/2 Wyatt, Sunshines
12/9 Landon, Sunshines
12/11 Grayson K, Baby Bunnies
12/14 Isaac, Sunshines
12/20 Lauren, Sunshines
12/23 Malachi J, Rainbows
12/27 Weston, Sunshines
12/29 Brayden, Rainbows
12/30 Kirby, Rainbows
12/31 Malakai N., Sunshines

Teachers and Staff

12/4 Mr. Mason
12/15 Ms. Erica

Classroom News



Baby Bunnies

Happy December! Our theme this month: Happy Holidays.

Olivia can roll over now and is working on sitting up on her own. She is also starting to make sounds in response to her teachers.

Dylan is getting very vocal and loves to sing. He is close to scooting and enjoys talking to his reflection.

Leonard is almost crawling! He moves all around the room and loves to watch how his older friends play. He has started to say "da-da" and can shake his head "no".

Grayson is running along with Lane all over the Baby Bunnies room. He loves saying "ma-ma" and enjoys reading books.

Lane is running everywhere and loves to dance. He is learning more sounds every day and loves when his teachers sing.

Bingham has started to walk! He is great at stacking blocks and loves to help his younger friends.

Elliott is doing well with tummy time and loves to play with rattles. He holds his head up incredibly well and loves arts and crafts.

Lucia is also getting very vocal and loves the jumpy-jump. She has started sitting up while using her arms to support her and is very close to rolling over

Ms. Loretta
Ms. Jo Jo
Ms. Amanda H.

Busy Bees

The holiday season can be such a wealth of fun ways to learn! This month, we will be using many special symbols of the season to continue to teach our toddler curriculum. Gingerbread people are an artistic way to talk about parts of the body. Peppermint, cinnamon, pine, wondrous ways to explore our sense of smell. Christmas trees are triangle!

All month long we will talk about being kind and about sharing. This month's themes will be:

- Gingerbread People (body parts, clothes, emotions)
- Shapes of the Season (triangles, stars, circles, etc.)
- Jingle Bells & Wonderful Smells (sensory exploration)
- Gifts are for Giving (many special gifts and talking about kindness and giving).

Ms. Alison
Ms. Erica

Sunshines

'Tis the season for holiday fun. The Sunshine room is already for Christmas fun. This month we will be learning about all things Christmas. During our theme, we will take time to focus on the birth of Jesus. Our color of the month is red. Many of our games, songs, and activities will focus on this color. Also, all month long we will be collecting red things for our color poster. More information will be coming home soon.

Everyone really enjoyed the family project last month. The Sunshines took pride in their family feather and enjoyed showing it to all who entered our room. Be sure to check your child's mailbox for the December family project!

Continued..

Sunshines *continued..*

Last month we created a classroom story book all about us! We have so enjoyed reading it together and soon we will be taking turns to bring it home for the evening.

Our Christmas party is December 20 at 3:00 p.m.. A party signup sheet will be posted soon. We will be having a non-gender specific book exchange of \$5.00 during the afternoon party. Santa will be visiting us at 10:00 a.m. that morning.

May your family have a very joyful and merry Christmas.

Ms. Gracie
Ms. Katie

Shooting Stars

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The Shooting Stars are ready for a fun and magical month with these themes:

December 2-6: Visions of Sugar Plums
December 9-13: ABCs of Christmas
December 16-20: Christmas
December 23-27: Nativity/Winter
December 30-Jan. 3: New Year's/Winter

Please remember these important dates:
Dec. 18 at 6:15 pm. – Christmas Program
Dec. 18 – Grinch Day (dress like a Who)
Class Party – Dec. 20: Santa @10 a.m. and Party @ 3 p.m.

We will be having a book exchange at our party. Please bring a wrapped, non-gender specific book with a tag that reads: To: A Friend, From: (your child's name). A signup sheet will be hung on the door. We will be taking a class trip to the Mini O'Beirne Christmas Store on a date to be announced. We will need drivers for this trip. More info will be sent out closer to the trip.

We have everyone has a very Merry Christmas and many wonderful wishes for the New Year.

Ms. Amanda S.
Ms. Tami

Rainbows

Do you hear what we hear? We hear preschoolers excited for Christmas! This month's theme will be Christmas.

Throughout the month, our lessons will take us through the Nativity story. Beginning with Mary being visited by an angel and following with the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. Red will be our focused color and we will learn all about the triangle shape. Ms. J, Mr. K, and Mr. L will make their debuts this month from the letter people land.

December 2-6: Christmas/Letter J
December 9-13: Christmas/Letter K
December 16-20: Christmas/Letter L
December 23-27: Christmas/no letter
December 30-Jan. 3: New Year's/no letter

Mark your calendars on December 18 at 6:15 p.m. will be the Christmas program. Please have your child in their classroom by 6:00 p.m.

December 20 will be our classroom party. Santa will be here at 10:00 a.m. and the party starts at 3:00 p.m. A signup sheet will be posted. We will be having a book exchange. Please keep the cost around \$7. Please bring a wrapped and labeled non-gender specific book with To: A Friend, From: (your child's name).

Please have your child's book in the classroom by Dec. 16.

Happy birthday this month to Brayden, Malachi, and Kirby. Have a merry and joyous Christmas!

Ms. Kayla
Ms. Rachel



The Real Meaning of Christmas

One week before Christmas, a well-known visitor made a surprise appearance...

I had just finished the household chores and was preparing for bed when a noise startled me. I cautiously opened the door to the front room. To my amazement, Santa Claus stepped from behind the Christmas tree! He placed one finger over his mouth so I would not cry out.

“What are you doing here?” I exclaimed. Then I realized that Santa had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. The eager, boisterous soul we all know was very sad. Santa offered one, simple statement, “TEACH THE CHILDREN!” I was puzzled—what did he mean? Anticipating my question, with one quick movement he brought forth a great bag from behind the tree.

I stood there bewildered. Santa explained, “Teach the Children! Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. So many people today have forgotten what Christmas is really about!”

Santa then reached into his bag, pulled out a tiny FIR TREE, and placed it on the mantle. “Teach the Children that the stately fir tree remains green all year round, showing the everlasting hope of mankind. The needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of our prayers that always reach God.”

Santa again reached into his sack and pulled out a brilliant STAR. “Teach the Children that the Bethlehem star was the sign of promises long ago. God promised to send a Savior to deliver the world. The bright star pointed to the fulfillment of that promise—God’s only Son had been born!”

Next, Santa pulled a CANDLE from his bag. “Teach the Children that the candle symbolizes that Jesus, God’s Son, is the light of the world. When we see this light remember the One who overcomes the darkness.”

Once again Santa reached into his sack. This time he removed a WREATH and placed it on the tree. “Teach the Children that the wreath reveals the endless nature of God’s love. Real love never ceases. Nothing can stop God’s amazing love.”

Santa then pulled from his bag an ornament of HIMSELF. “Teach the Children that Santa Claus symbolizes the generosity and good will we show to others because God has given us His very special Son. Don’t forget to tell the Children that Saint Nicolas was not part of the first Christmas in Bethlehem.”

Santa then reached into his sack and carefully placed a CANDY CANE on the tree. “Teach the Children that the candy cane represents the shepherd’s staff. The crook on the staff rescues sheep who have strayed from the flock. God never gives up on people who wander from Him.”

Next, He removed a delicate ANGEL and lifted it to the very top of the tree. “Teach the Children that angels shouted the glorious news of the Savior’s birth. These heavenly messengers sang ‘Glory to God in the highest! Peace and good will to everyone on earth!’”

Finally, Santa pulled out a beautifully wrapped GIFT. He said, “Teach the Children that God deeply loves people, so He gave them His most precious gift—Jesus, His only Son. When the wise men arrived in Bethlehem, they bowed before the Child and presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This is why we give gifts to others each Christmas.”

Then Santa paused. He stared at the tree and seemed to be pleased. I saw that the twinkle had returned to his eyes. He turned, looked at me, and smiled. Santa offered these final words, “Remember to teach the Children the true meaning of Christmas. Please don’t put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant. Jesus Christ is the real reason for the Christmas season. I am glad to join all others who bow down and worship Him, our Lord and God.”

—Author Unknown



Central Baptist Church Worship Hours

Downtown Springfield:

- 9:15 to 10:15 AM - Sunday School
- 10:15 to 10:45 AM - Fellowship Time
- 10:45 AM – Worship

New Berlin:

- 9:30 AM - Worship
- 10:30 AM - Sunday School

If you are looking for a church home you are welcome to join us at any of our services.

Wednesday Night Dinners

Central Baptist Church volunteers prepare a meal the first and third Wednesday nights of each month during the regular school year (September – May) as an opportunity to share with each other around the dinner table.

Children's House families are invited to join as well. Dinner is served cafeteria style from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. Carryout meals are also available. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

If you plan to order, please let Ann or Mason in the church office know by noon on Tuesday by calling (523-3639 or email ann@CBCchurchfamily.org)



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Parenting Article

Parenting Tips for the Holidays

Anyone who has ever been a parent knows how the holidays affect children. The excitement sometimes is more than they can handle. They have meltdowns and lists of what they want for Christmas. According to a contributing psychologist to WebMD, parents should start with their own expectations. Don't try to please everyone. Your children will remember the little things, like playing board games together. Do things together, such as cooking and doing things for others. Children can help wrap presents. Another thing they can do is to buy gifts for the less fortunate. If they get an allowance, they can use some of their own money.

If you would like to read more of this article, click [here](#).

Couple's Article

Believe it or not, it will soon be the new year. When you set those resolutions, try setting relationship goals as well. In making these goals, keep in mind to align your goals. Also, set up a system of accountability. Make sure the goals make you happier in your relationship. Make your goals attainable and quantifiable. Also, don't forget to celebrate your accomplishments. To read more about relationship goals, click [here](#).

Blessings,
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For monthly couples, individual, and family tips, please sign up for our e-newsletter. For daily relationship tips, follow us on facebook. For more information about any ConnectEdPAIRS service, please visit our website at www.connectedpairs.com, stop by, call, or email me in the counseling office. I look forward to talking with you soon.