

# GRACE LUTHERAN ECC & PRESCHOOL



## News and Notes

February 2018

### Dear Parents,

February is finally here! With the new month comes our long awaited hot lunch program. Thank you to the many families that signed up for the hot lunch. We are serving our hot lunch family style in the classrooms. The Elephants, and Penguins eat lunch at 11:30am, and the Bears, and Monkeys eat lunch at 12:00. The younger classrooms eat as their individual schedule dictates. I will keep you posted if we need parents help serving. Please remember that your lunch order will always be due the 19<sup>th</sup> of each month for the following month. Remember to please include your payment with your order and a separate check or cash from your tuition payment.

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Children's Dental Health Month with a presentation from Dental Associates. They will present a brief DVD on dental health and a short program afterward. The presentation will be for the 3 and 4 year old children. Dental Associates has agreed to also stop in the 2 year old room and visit with the children for a short time.

I am sure that you noticed that we did a little sprucing up in the three big classrooms. The Koalas' rug was replaced, and we removed some of the rug area in both the Bear room as well as the Elephant room. The rooms look a even bigger and brighter now. A reminder to parents that we have booties for the Koalas' room and ask everyone to either wear booties or remove your shoes before entering the classroom.

You will also notice that beginning February 14<sup>th</sup> the Hunger Task Force boxes will be displayed in the hallway near the time clock. The ECC is competing with the day school on the amount of dry goods that we can collect for the Hunger Task force. The collection will run until Easter.

**Help needed!** We are looking for a few volunteers to help the teachers with organizing, coloring, and cutting some math activities. This is something that can be done at home. These activities will add a new dimension to our math curriculum and will be an asset to the children. We are also looking for a parent to assemble the Scholastic Book order forms once a month. If you are interested in either of these tasks, please stop and see me in the office.

Looking towards March, please put a note on your calendar that Lifetouch will return on March 15<sup>th</sup> to do portraits once again, and graduation pictures for our graduates.

God's Blessings,

*Rachel Miliacca*



## FebUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

**Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Camp Graceland Open – Grace No school Day**

**Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> – PJ Day – Wear your PJ's to school**

**Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> – PNO Special Hot Lunch – Hot Dog Plates for lunch \$3.00 per plate**

**Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> - Crazy Sock Day – Wear a pair of your craziest socks**

**Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> – Valentine's Day – Classroom parties/Wear Red or Pink Day**

**Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> – PNO 6PM – 10 PM – Enjoy a special night out and leave the kids to the teachers**

**Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> – Children's Dental Health – Dental Associates presentation**

**Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> – Camp Graceland Open – Oak Creek/Franklin No School Day**

**Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> – President's Day – Wear Red/White and Blue Day**

## Parent Night Out

Staff: Rachel Miliacca  
Katie Nowack

A special Parent Night Out for February is planned for February 16<sup>th</sup>. We will decorate cookies, play games and watch a movie. This is a great opportunity for Mom and Dad to take a break and enjoy a special Valentine's evening together.

Friday, February 16th, 2018

6PM to 10PM

As always this program is open to any Grace Early Childhood Center child, Grace Lutheran School students, and any members of the community who wish to come. Please look for the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board near the ECC office, or call 762-8755 to make a reservation. A minimum \$10 donation for our services is appreciated. We will use the money donated for improvements to our classrooms.

# Koalas (6 weeks to 1 year)

Staff: Christie Perez, Samantha Otzelberger, Rachel Miliacca

Our main classroom theme in January was Winter and included winter animals and changes to the environment. The babies did feel some signs of winter as the temperatures dropped. As long as the temperature was over 20 degrees with the wind chill, we did take the babies out for a little stroller walk.

Our health and physical development activities are changing every day. We have the majority of children now able to take a few steps either on their own or with help from a teacher. We will continue to work on our leg muscles so that when these children are able to crawl and walk their tiny legs can support them.

Our bulletin board in January displayed a variety of art projects we worked on. The Koalas painted a snow storm with white paint and their fingers or hands. Be sure to look for new art projects each week hanging in the room.

We are working on waving hello and goodbye with the younger babies in our classroom. The older babies are now using words to communicate with each other and with the adults as they drop off and pick up their children. If you listen very carefully, you can hear them saying "Hi" and "Bye-Bye". As part of the transition to the day we are working on blowing kisses to Mom and Dad as they leave for the day. We are working on everyday signs of "More" and "All done" with the younger babies, and the older babies are working on "Please" and "Thank you".

Our themes for February are Healthy Hearts and Minds/Dental Health. We will be counting teeth, making Valentine's Day cards, and planting seeds. We will have visitors from Dental Associates in February that will introduce the children to proper teeth care. We will combine with the Tigger classroom for a Valentine's party. We are hoping that the weather will continue to allow us to go outside for our stroller rides in February and give us an opportunity to play in real snow.



# FLAMINGOS (Transition Room)

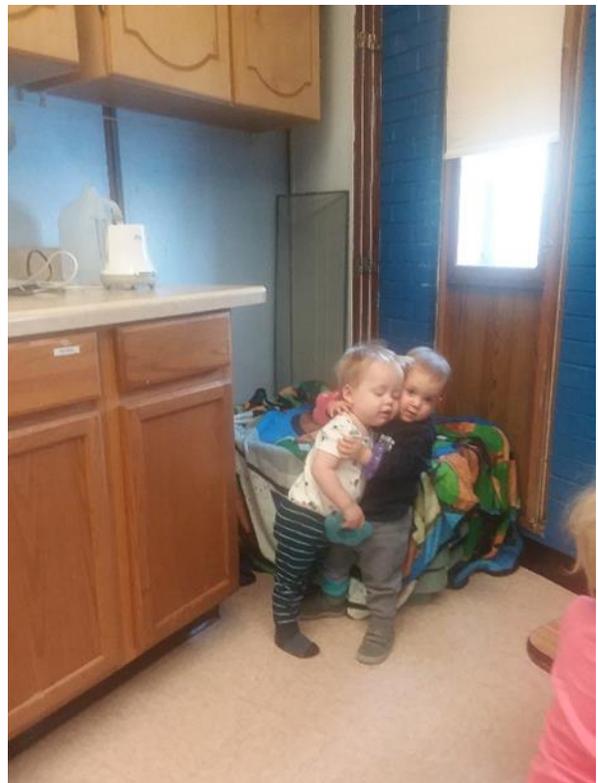
Staff: Kim Haake

Welcome back to another fabulous month in Flamingos! Yes, we have our new name now and are very excited to keep moving forward. The little ones in Flamingos have been working very hard on their sensory skills, large motor skills and doing their own creativity through art work and play.

Last month was full of fun activities such as learning about the cold weather and the snow. We even brought our snow inside to feel what it felt like and how cold it was. Most of them touched the snow, but did not seem to want to play in it for very long. However, we did talk about how cold the snow was and how we could create snow balls. I will continue to bring small amounts of snow in for them as long as God provides it.

Our theme for the month of February is Healthy Heart and Minds/Dental awareness. We will also combine with the Koalas and the Penguins for a small Valentine's Day party. Look for more information coming home soon as well as a sign up sheet for the treats. We will also be doing special projects for that special day.

Remember to bring in your child's snow suits, boots, mittens, and hats for outside because we will be attempting to play in the snow as well as enjoy walks. Have a wonderful month and Happy Valentine's Day!!



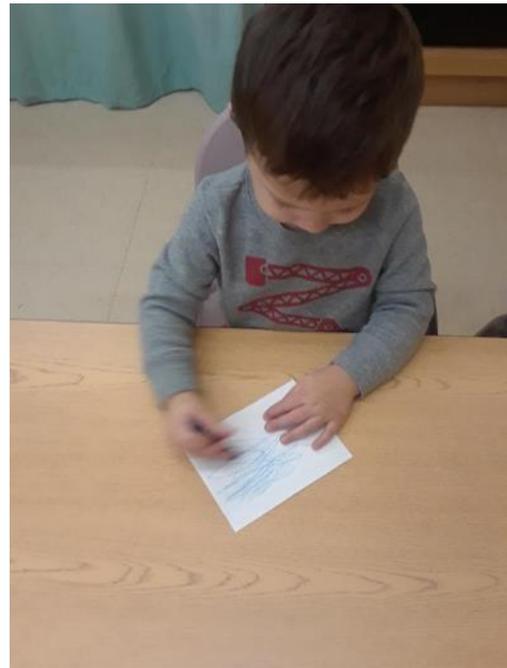
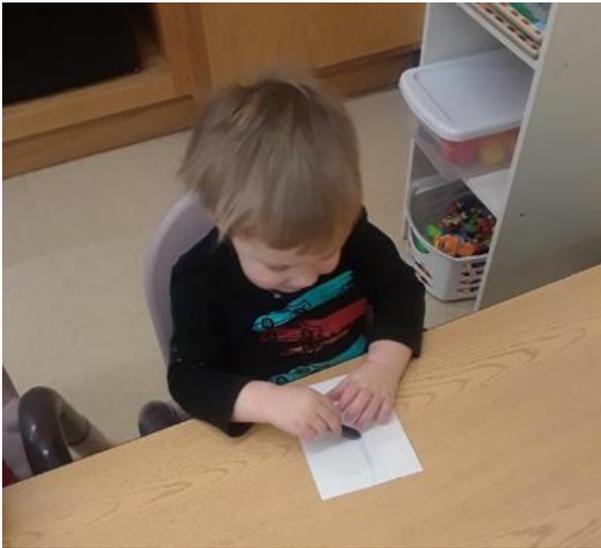
# PENGUINS (1 – 2 year olds)

Staff: Jessi Weiser, Melissa Hickman

The Penguins had a fun time talking about winter this past month. We enjoyed making different types of snow and ice pictures. Finger painting on tinfoil was one of our favorite art projects. One of the Penguin's favorite bible stories in January was "Jesus' baptism". We used cotton balls as paintbrushes to make snow-ball pictures. We also incorporated math into our art activity by counting the cotton balls before we used them as paint brushes.

We welcomed Ms. Melissa to our classroom for a short week. The children loved having her. Unfortunately her husband was transferred to the coast which means that they will need to relocate relatively quickly. She left us to look for housing and to get settled with her husband. We wish her all the best, and will include her in our prayers.

During the Month of February, the Penguin Class will work on the colors red and pink. We are also planning a Valentine's Day party for February 14<sup>th</sup>. Look for more information on the party and a sign-up sheet for treats. As part of the "love" theme, we will talk about how much Jesus loves us and how God blesses us and our children every day. We will work on the sign for "I love you," and to go along with one of our February Bible stories (Jesus Helps us say "Thank you") we will also work on signing "Thank you."



Beckham and Jack coloring  
a winter picture.

# ELEPHANTS (2-3 year olds)

Staff: Jane Durant, & Ashanta Tyce

Hello, parents of the Elephants room! January was a cool month. We did a lot of snow related activities and art activities this month. We want to thank all those who gave Christmas gifts for the classroom. As you look around, you can see some of the new items in action. We wish Noah and Conlan a very Happy Birthday; they celebrate turning 3 years old this month. God's richest blessings on these two as they enter into the Bear room.

Our theme for the month of January was "Jesus Shares God's Love." We continued on with the Epiphany theme by doing a few star activities. After Jesus was born, it took the wise men time to get to baby Jesus while following the star. We did a few activities with water to represent Jesus' baptism and when he calmed the storm on the boat with his disciples. We had fun celebrating national pizza week by making our own pizza muffins, yum! Since it is winter time we did activities that included bringing in real snow and icicles and putting them into our sensory tub. Snow is so much fun! We played in it outside making snow angels. We cut snowflakes out of coffee filters, made snowmen biscuits and threw sock made snowballs in a bucket and drew a snowstorm with white chalk. Being outside in the snow requires proper clothing. We did activities related to this which included matching mittens and a fun scarf dance along with doing our "up and over" getting our jackets on.

Our theme in February is "Jesus Loves Us." We also will be focusing on a few events such as Dental Health, Ground Hogs Day, Presidents Day and Valentine's Day. Our Valentine's Day Party will be on February 14th. We will send out more information about this soon. We will be doing activities that center around love with family, friends and Jesus. Healthy food crafts like fruit stamping, cutting shapes out of whole grain bread and taste testing various fruits, will also be included in the month of February.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34.

Jane & Ashanta



# BEARS (3-4 year old-)

Staff: Katie Nowack  
Danyale Boone

What a month January was. Many changes occurred in January both outside and inside the classroom. Snow, cold, new classroom names, new teachers, new children, and new routines for all are just a few of the changes we have been observing. In January the Bears talked about the many signs of winter. A favorite science topic that we talked about was solid vs, liquid. The children had so much fun watching snow (a solid) turn into water (a liquid) and then turn to ice (a solid). They have now figured out that when ice melts it returns to a liquid form of water. Great job Bears!

As we introduced the children to their new class name, we also took a few weeks and talked about bears. What colors they are and where they live. The children had a chance to bring in their own teddy bears and we had a teddy bear picnic at lunch time. The children had fun seeing how different each child's bear was.

In the month of February we will look at health and fitness along with love. We will look at how much love we have for so many things such as parents, pets, teachers, and Jesus who loves us most of all. We will celebrate Valentine's Day with a small classroom party. Watch for more information to come.

Something else that we will be working with the Bears on throughout February and beyond is respect. The children will learn the responsibility of keeping track of their own things such as gloves and hats as we practice hanging everything on our hooks when we come in from outside. We will also work on respect with the children having their own school supplies. You should have received a list of desired items to send with your children. The children will learn that they have to keep track of their own things if they want them to use at activity time. The children also now have their own take-home folders which should be returned every morning to their cubbies.

The Bears will work on the letter A and B, the number 1 and 2, the shape of the heart and the colors red and pink. Each of these areas will change as the class shows that they have mastered the current letter or number. As we welcome in many new children who are just three we want to work at a slower pace to make sure that all the children are benefiting from the items being taught in the classroom.

If there are any question comments or concerns, please make sure you speak with one of us, We all want to be on the same page so we make sure that our children and families are happy and glad to be at school.



# MONKEYS (4 year olds)

Staff: Judi Behlke

Our January theme was “Winter”. We read books, made marble mittens, torn paper snowmen, potato flake snow pictures and even were able to play in the snow in the sensory table. This snow never melted as it was baking soda and shaving cream.

After practicing putting on our winter gear, we were finally able to go outside and actually play in the God sent snow! Hurray!

Our math concept was “color organizing.” We learned to group things together that were related forming a “family grouping.” Our calendar each week reinforced this by focusing on things that went together (food, clothes, transportation and toys). We also played learning games.

Our literacy time had us continuing our week with letters Aa-Pp (recognition, sound and writing). Hope that you are reviewing with the weekend review sheets I sent home! Our Jesus time will now have us following the life of Jesus. We will be his “fisher-of-men” and see all he did while on earth. We will begin with his Baptism, temptation, choosing his “Fishers of Men” and see his awesome miracles (turning water into wine is our first one).

As we enter February, remember the greatest Valentine “Jesus” and the ultimate love he showed!

Remember you are welcome to come and visit our classroom anytime, or call me if you have any questions. Please remember to return your take-home folders.

Love in Christ,

Ms Judi



The 4 year olds enjoyed a visit from the Oak Creek Police Department. They spoke about their jobs and following laws and rules that keep each of us safe.