GRACE LUTHERAN ECC & PRESCHOOL

News and Notes

January 2018

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

A New Year and a new us! We have many changes in store as we move forward this year. First, after tallying all the votes, the new classrooms names are official.

Previous Name	New Name
Babies	Koalas
Pooh	Flamingos
Tiggers . . . . , ...	Penguins
Busy Bees	Elephants
Little Lambs I	Bears
Little Lambs II	Monkeys

It was fun for the teachers as well as the children to watch the graphs change throughout the month of December and try to guess which name would win. The teachers are all looking forward to re-decorating their classrooms with the new name themes. If any families have articles that they wish to donate that go with the new classroom names, please feel free to drop off in the office.

Our second change in the New Year is adding the Hot Lunch program. Families should look for a menu to come home in the middle of the month of January for hot lunch in February. These menus will have a specific due date in which you will need to return the menu along with a check for the lunches. The menus will come out every month. We ask that you send a separate check from your tuition to make it a little easier for the bookkeeping of this service. You must pay when you return your menu, or the lunch will not be ordered.

We are in need of a few items that you may have around your house. Please consider donating any of the following items to us: plastic grocery bags, and empty baby wipe containers. If you know of anyone that is need of a rocking chair please check out the two rocking chairs next to the office. These chairs are free to a good home. Also, if any families are in need of busy toys for young toddlers we have a few of them. Just stop in the office and ask and I can direct you to these items as they are scattered throughout the center.

Lastly, a special thank you to all the parents who bought gifts for the classrooms and the center this past year. God has truly blessed our center this year with many new toys and materials. As we move forward to a new year and a new identity in each class, we must take a few minutes to reflect back on how great this past year has been. We could not have done this without all of your support.

God's Blessings,

Rachel Miliacca

Director

JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, January 2 – Packer/Green and Gold Day –

Celebrate the last Packer game by wearing a packer shirt, or green and gold.

Thursday, January 11 – National Milk Day – Flavored milk will be offered

Monday, January 15 – National Hat Day – Wear a hat to daycare today

Friday, January 19 – Parent Night Out – 6pm to 10pm at the center

Tuesday, January 23 – National Pie Day – A small slice of pie for snack time

Wednesday, January 31 – National Backwards Day – Feel free to wear your clothing on backwards

Parent Night Out

Staff: Rachel Miliacca
Katie Nowack

Parent Night Out will return in the month of January. We will return to our regular schedule of the 3rd Friday of the month.

Friday, January 19, 2017

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.

February Parent Night Out

Make your Valentine's Day plans now for February 16th

Koalas (6 weeks to 1 year)

Staff: Christie Perez, Samantha Otzelberger, Rachel Miliacca

The month of December was a very busy time for our Angels. The babies were busy in December working on their Christmas presents for Mom and Dad. We included sensory skills in our presents with the foot prints for the mouse on the plaques. Hope all the parents enjoy their new Christmas decoration.

During our Jesus time in December we prepared for the birth of Jesus. Our pretend play centered around the baby dolls that are in our classroom. We used receiving blankets to wrap the babies as Mary and Joseph did using a swaddling blanket. We shared the board book of Jesus birth with the children. As part of our celebration we sang “Happy Birthday to Jesus” and practiced signing “I Love You.” Some of the older infants are beginning to use sign language throughout the day to share their needs with us.

Our outside time was a little more limited in December due to all the cold weather. On the days that the weather was not ideal for a walk, we were able to enjoy some physical development with the Pooh children. We also set up an obstacle course in the classroom for the children to crawl, walk through, or simply push around the classroom.

The New Year has begun and we now have a new name. The Angels room will now be called the Koalas. You will begin to see changes in our classroom as we transition to our new identity in the month of January.

Thank you to all the parents who bought gifts for our classroom. God has truly blessed our room this year with many new toys and materials, along with supportive parents.

FLAMINGOS

Staff: Kim Haake

Welcome back to another fabulous month in Pooh! We have been moving along getting to know each other and having a lot of fun. The Toddlers in Pooh have been working on coloring, shape sorters, and puzzles which they seem to enjoy doing very much. The younger ones coming in from the Angel room have been adjusting very well to their new schedules.

Last month was full of fun activities such as our Christmas program with the school kids along with our three and four-year-old classrooms. We also talked about how God gave us Jesus and how he was born in a stable. In the month of December we also talked about the star, the three wise men, and the Angel God had sent to Mary.

As we move forward into the New Year, please note that our classroom name has changed to the Flamingos. I have many exciting things planned for re-decorating our classroom to match our new theme. It is an exciting time throughout the center and I can't wait to show off my decorating skills for the children as well as the parents.

January we will be a time of learning new Bible stories as well as talking about the weather. We will experiment with snow so we can talk about what cold is and how it snows in the winter time compared to the warm weather in summer. Hopefully we will have a chance to go outside and play in the snow as well as enjoy some fun activities such as food coloring in the snow to see the new colors. We will use buckets and small shovels in the snow to build towers.

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 walks.

Aaron and Bailey using their creativity during Art.

PENGUINS (1 – 2 year olds)

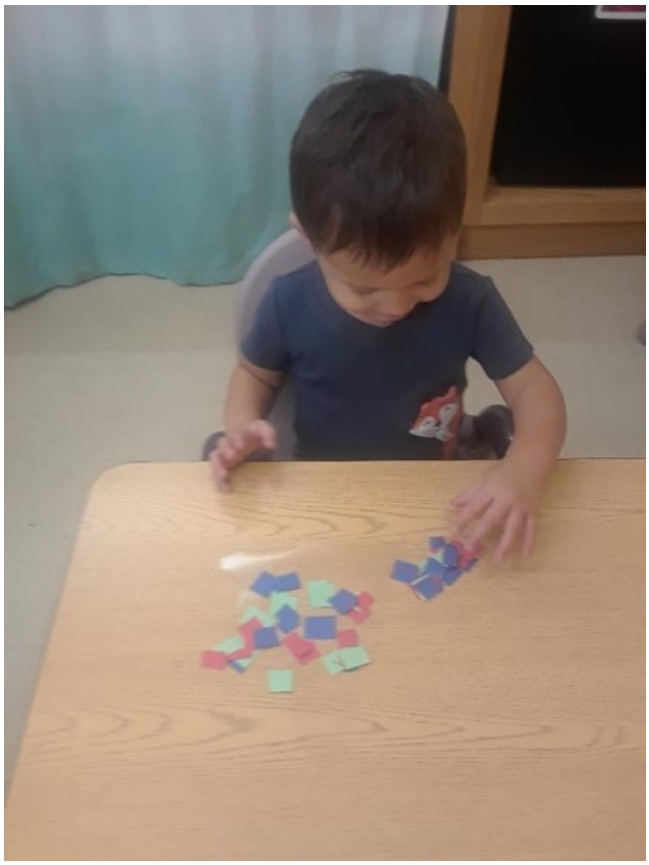
Staff: Jessi

The Tiggers had a fun time in December talking about all the different sights of Christmas! We enjoyed making different types of ornaments on trees. We especially enjoyed making our Christmas presents for Mom and Dad. Hopefully everyone enjoyed their new Christmas decoration. We have had tons of fun playing with cotton balls in the sensory table. I hope everyone had a nice relaxing Christmas. Thank you all for the wonderful Christmas gifts.

One of the Tigger's favorite Bible stories in December was "The Angel's news". We made handprint Angels, built block houses for Mary, and pretended to blow horns to share the Angel's news.

During the Month of January, the Penguin Class will work on the colors white and Blue. We will work on the signs for "all done" and "more" to help the children communicate a little easier. We will be learning about, winter snow, winter animals, and penguins.

On that note, I am happy to share with you that after all the voting, our classroom will now be known as the Penguins. I look forward to re-decorating the classroom to include many new materials with a penguin theme.



Edith making a block house for Mary, and Jack working on his Christmas ornament.

ELEPHANTS (2-3 year olds)

Staff: Miss Jane and Miss Ashanta

Hello, parents of the Busy Bee room! This has been an exciting month of December. One of our highlights was our Christmas party. We had a chance to eat some yummy snacks and sing Christmas songs. I wanted to thank all those who gave gifts to our classroom. We want to wish Sadie, Clay and Elijah a happy birthday!

Our theme for the month of December was "Jesus' Birth." We started off by making our Advent wreaths, then lighting one candle each week and counting down to Jesus' Birthday (by lighting, I mean gluing a yellow flame). We decorated Christmas trees by peeling and sticking circle stickers and stars. How many ornaments and stars can we count? The children tore red and green paper to make Christmas wreaths and glued shapes together to make an angel. Peeling and sticking white tape on red cane shapes known as the traditional candy cane was quite fun. The shape represents the Shepherd's staff, and the red color was for the blood shed by Jesus at the cross so that we would have eternal life and forgiveness of sins. The white color symbolizes purity, without sin. The children had fun decorating their own crowns pretending to be one of the three Wisemen bearing gifts for baby Jesus. We colored our own manger scenes and continue to be observant on our walks and notice all the baby Jesus'. Every time we see one, we sing "Happy Birthday." I hope you enjoyed counting down to Christmas on your calendars with your little ones.

As we move into the New Year we look forward to our new identity. We will now be called the Elephants. Look for many changes to our environment as we move through the next few months.

Our theme for January is "Jesus Shares God's Love." We will continue to do our various crafts and activities centered around signs of winter and winter animals. Some of these will include winter wear, snowflakes, snowballs, icicles, sledding, ice skating, penguins, bears and birds.

"Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned."

John 5:24

God's richest blessings,

Jane and Ashanta

BEARS (3-4 year old-)

Staff: *Miss. Danyale Boone, Miss. Miranda Brannon, and Miss. Katie Nowak*

The month of December was a very eventful and busy time for us in Little Lambs but truly a month that we enjoyed. We've spent a great deal of time practicing for our holiday program and this bonding time brought so much joy to all of us. We became acquainted with our new classroom schedule and welcomed our new friends who are turning 3 and transitioning to our class. Our primary focus in December was discussing the many traditions of Christmas and acknowledging the birth of our savior Jesus Christ.

Now the big news! The Little Lambs I classroom has a new name. We will now be called the BEARS!

As be begin a new year we would like to give a special THANK YOU to our wonderful parents for their continued love, support, encouragement and acknowledgement. We truly appreciate all of you!!!

In the New Year, we have planned several fun Winter themed activities. Our first week will focus on bringing in the new year. We will continue to work on number recognition. Our subsequent weeks will be Snow, Winter Animals, and Hot Cocoa. We expect to do new art, math, fine motor, gross motor, literacy, and science activities. Feel free to include your child's favorite books in our daily lessons because our little Bears love story time.

We would also like to acknowledge our December and January birthdays.

Happy Birthday Sadie, Clay, Genevieve, Carter, and Aubrey!

MONKEYS (4 year olds)

Staff: Judi Behlke

Merry Christmas and Blessed Happy & Healthy New Year to you all!

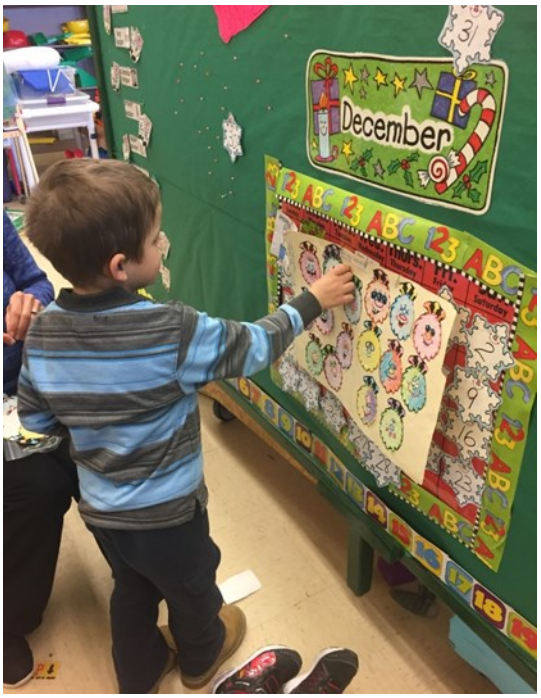
I'd like to share a little update on our transition down stairs to our new classroom. First, our new classroom name which all the children and parents voted on is the "Monkeys". I already have some of our environment changed to this new classroom theme. I am looking forward to finishing remodeling to reflect a Monkey theme.

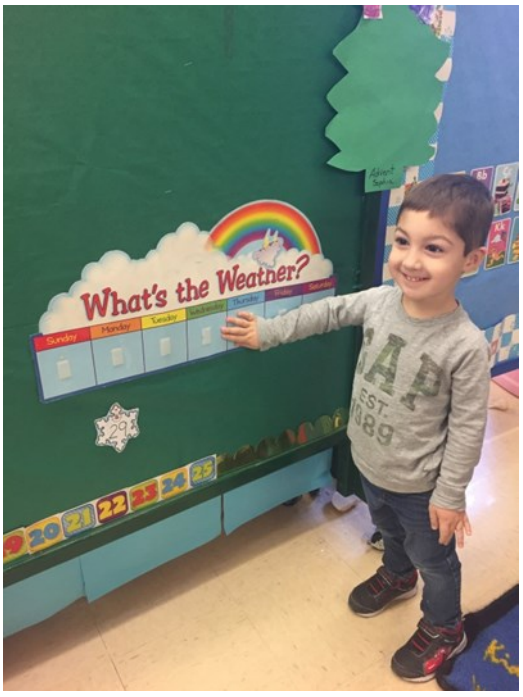
Since December the children have seen many changes. The kids have really adjusted very well and it has been a great benefit to our learning experience. Our day begins by moving down to our classroom at 8 am. We begin each day with calendar (which reinforces counting and number recognition and sequence through days of the week), Jesus Time and exercise time. After snack we have play time (inside or outside) and large group time using our weekly story theme, and weekly letter time.

I am requesting that you provide 1 pocket folder and backpack beginning the first of the year. In realizing that it is easy to forget to check the cubbies this will help in getting all necessary paperwork home so you can reinforce what we are learning here at school.

It's hard to believe the year is half over. Throughout the rest of the months ahead, we will continue going through the alphabet (recognition, alphabetical order, sound and writing). We will also work on several other math concepts (numbers 1-25, group things and early time concepts).

As always, if you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact me. It has been a joy getting to know your child and helping them grow and learn.





Michael and Cameron updating the boards during circle time.