

# January 2014

Children are our ministry!

Toni Watkins, Director

Fr. Krzysztof Gazdowicz, Pastor

## Important Upcoming Dates

- Jan. 1 New Year's Day, SHECC Closed
- Jan. 1-3 No VPK (SHECC Open)
- Jan. 1-6 SAES Closed, Winter Break
- Jan. 20 MLK, Jr. Day, SAES Closed
- Jan. 25 Kumquat Festival
- Jan. 27-31 Catholic Schools Week

## Infants

Happy New Year! It's already 2014! Where does time go? I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and that Santa was good to you. Thank you to all the parents who gave us such great gifts. We had fun making our artwork with our little hands and feet, and we hoped you enjoyed them as well.

The babies are growing so fast. **Demi** is already eating foods and rolling over and talking to herself, reaching for things and taking her socks off.

**Kayden** is also eating foods now, getting up on his hands and knees and rocking. He loves trying to talk.

**Kenzie** just loves swinging and talking away to herself. She reaches for things now and loves to look at things that are around her.

**Jax** is always sweet and smiling. He enjoys swinging and looking around at his environment, especially the outdoors.

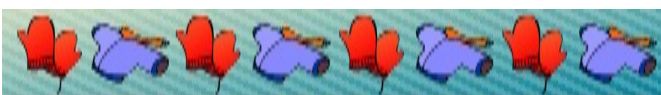
**Mason** and **Carson** eat finger

*“And He who sits on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’” — Revelation 21:5*



All families are welcome to join us for weekly Mass:

- Saturdays 7:00 pm
- Sundays 8:00 am 10:30 am



foods now and thoroughly enjoy them. They get around very well and explore outside. Carson is also trying to "talk."

**Sebastian** is growing fast! He tries so hard to pull himself up. In the meantime, he does very well getting around by scooting. He even said "Dada" one day!

**Alexis** is starting to adjust and is comfortable enough to explore things. He, like all the others, enjoys being out in the fresh air.

The children are so special to us. We just love watching them grow and develop. Their smiling faces are what make each day so enjoyable and fulfilling. Please feel free to talk with us if you have any questions or concerns. It really is so rewarding to work with your child. Thanks, as always, for the snacks and wipes each month!

Happy New Year!

*Ms. Linda, Ms. Teresa, Ms. Phyllis, and Ms. Sarah*

## Ones

Happy New Year!

Welcome, 2014! We hope everyone had a blessed Christmas celebrating with their families and welcoming baby Jesus. As we welcome this new year, we will be talking about the Holy Family and our own families. We will also learn about winter and explore the difference between hot and cold.

Please don't forget our on-going fundraisers with Beef 'O' Brady's in Dade City. The first Tuesday of every month, we encourage our families to eat at Beef's that night and write "Sacred Heart" on the receipt. Beef's sends a percentage of those receipts to Sacred Heart ECC.

Also, remember to send many changes of clothes for our ever-changing weather.

Thanks for your continued donations of snacks, juice, wipes, and powder. Keep up the good work!

*Ms. Rita, Ms. Ashley, Ms. Sarah, Ms. Sandy, and Ms. Courtney*



## Twos

Wow, does time fly when you're having fun! We have all had a wonderful Christmas season that has been filled with blessings. I would like to personally thank all of you for allowing me to work with your children, as well as for the very generous thoughts, prayers, and gifts that I received. Tell your children, "God is good!"—and they will likely respond "All the time!"

We were blessed to have Ms. Lexie join us in the mornings for the last few weeks and are sad to see her go. However, we are excited about her future endeavors at the University of Florida and beyond. Best of luck, Ms. Lexie, we will miss you!

As for the children: **Quinn** and **Annabelle** are looking forward to visiting and then moving up to Ms. Vicki's class in the near future. **Afon** is talking more and more each day. We have a new part time friend **Jay** who is a sweetheart. **Canyon** are all new to the underwear wearing group and are making a great effort every day. **Marco** and **Carson** are both all about

fire trucks and pirates, respectively. And who could forget **Roderick**, who is so happy to do new and exciting things with Ms. Shelley. I am blessed to have them all. We are also looking forward to **Nolan** joining our crew in the near future!

We will be starting off 2014 talking about the **New Year, Winter**, and the difference between **Hot and Cold**. Activities will include associating red with hot and blue with cold, table-top ice rink playtime, and sensory play with frozen water balloons!



As always, I appreciate the donations of snacks and baby wipes. We would love more bubbles for outside if anyone has any to share.

Many blessings in the New Year!

*Ms. Shelley and the Yellow Room Crew*



## Preschool I

Happy New Year, and welcome back, Mason!

This month, our winter lesson will continue by learning about **winter colors** and **arctic animals**. We'll make real snow and discuss the arctic habitat. We are going to work on expanding the children's vocabulary through these and other fun and educational lessons.

As you know, these guys are great helpers, so we are going to end the month by starting a job

chart! Every morning at cereal time, each child will pick a job for the day.

Please look for our sign-up sheet to help make kumquat pies. This is one of our biggest and most important fundraisers.

Thanks,

*Ms. Vicki, Ms. Mary, Ms. Katie, and Ms. Alyssa*

## Preschool II

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with your families.

Our themes for this month are **Winter, Clothes, Hibernation, Polar Animals**, and **Catholic Schools Week**. We will spend most of the month learning how people and animals deal with cold weather. Some of the activities we will be working on are holding a piece of ice with our hands, then putting on gloves and holding the pieces of ice. The children will discuss how it felt with the gloves off and on. We will also observe pictures of the different kinds of animals that hibernate, and how.

The last week of January we are going to be celebrating Catholic Schools! Keep an eye out for a schedule of this week's special activities.

I would like to thank everyone for their monthly snack and wipe donations. We ap-

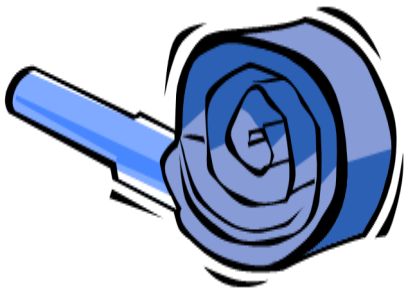
preciate it!

*Ms. Liliana and Sr. Elizabeth*

## VPK 1 with Wrap-Around

Welcome 2014! Happy New Year to all of our children and families.

We'll start our month with the Feast of Epiphany on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>; this is the celebration of the Three Kings visiting the new born baby Jesus. We will read the book *Follow the Star*, which tells the story of the Three Kings' visit to the manger.



During the middle of January we will begin a unit on winter/hibernation. We will learn about how winter is experienced "up north" and compare it to how we experience our winter in Florida. We will have lots of fun as we learn about the properties of ice.

We will continue our "Seeds Weekly Gospels" and our weekly visit to the church. This month our focus is on Jesus and how he revealed God's love to the people by inviting, listening, healing, forgiving and showing compassion. Children will explore how they can be recognized as little people who live Jesus' way.

Catholic School's Week will be January 27-31<sup>st</sup>. We have many exciting activities planned for the special week. We will begin on Monday morning with an opening prayer and songs; Tuesday is Parent Appreciation Day; Wednesday we will dress-up as our favorite

Story Book Character and have a parade; Thursday is Staff Appreciation Day; and we will end our week on Friday with a PJ and Teddy Bear Day. This week will be exciting and lots of fun, so watch for more information and signup sheets.

The Kumquat Festival is at the end of the month, January 25, and we need volunteers to help make pies and help at the Kumquat Festival.

Our Basket Fundraiser is also at the end of the month, and we will need donations of gift baskets to raffle and people to organize, wrap them, and sell tickets. Please sign up to help with these great and important events.

Have a Blessed and Joyous New Year!

*Ms. Kathy, Ms. Katie, and Ms. Becky*

## VPK 2

Happy New Year!!! Welcome 2014! As adults we reflect on the past year and make new resolutions for the upcoming year. We can encourage the children to do the same. Talk to your children about things they would like to learn and accomplish this year. They may want to learn to ride a two wheel bike or learn to read a favorite book on their own. Help them write a list of goals for the year and post it in a special place. They can check off the list as they master each new item, then at the end of the year they can reflect on their accomplishments.

During January we will learn about "Animals in Winter" and hibernation, as we make some scientific

observations about our weather here in Florida compared to the weather of our neighbors to the north. Any pictures of your family enjoying winter activities or activities in the snow would be great to share. "Letters and Numbers" will be our focus as we learn about "Sounds and Music." The children will have a lot of fun as we learn about the different sounds that each letter makes and will enjoy counting the beat as we make some wonderful music!

"Catholic Schools Week" is the last week in January. We will have some special activities during the week to celebrate our school. Please be on the lookout for a schedule of activities for the week. Come One Come All!! We Need HELP!

This month our SEEDS focus is on how God loves the people by inviting, listening, healing, forgiving, and showing compassion. Children will learn how they can share in this important work.

Be sure to sign up in the front office for the **Kumquat Festival, January 25, 2014**. We need help making pies before the festival, and we always need help the day of the Festival. Many hands make light work; if everyone can come for just an hour or so it makes the day fun! We need cutters and servers starting about 9 am until about 4 pm. We need volunteers to help clean up starting about 4pm. Please sign up in the front office. Thank you for all your help with this important fundraiser for our school.

If you can't make it for the Kumquat Festival, don't worry. We need help *Donating, Creating, and Wrapping baskets and Selling Tickets* for our **Basket Fundraiser at the Sacred Heart Women's Club Annual Ham and Turkey Dinner, February 2, 2014**.

These are two of our biggest event of the year! Please come and join the fun!!

Please continue to bring in the wonderful snacks to share; the children love the variety. They are always willing to try new items. Thank you for sharing.

We hope everyone has a Wonderful and Prosperous New Year!

*Ms. Cindie & Sr. Donna*

## **Before & After School**

Hello parents and grandparents! Happy New Year! It's hard to believe the year is over already. I hope you and your families have had a wonderful Christmas and happy New Year.

We would like to thank all the parents and grandparents for all the wonderful Christmas wishes, gifts, and food. God bless you.

January is our winter month. Our lesson plans will be as follows: the 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup> is **snow/ice**. We will be making snowflakes of all kinds and asking the question, "What is the coldest temperature on earth, and where is it?" Housekeeping will



revolve around the theme of doctor's office. The 13<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> will be about **bears**. We will make pompom bears and bear masks. We'll ask, "Why do bears hibernate in winter?" The 20<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> is all about colors. The kids will love this because it opens up a lot of arts and craft ideas, science activities, and fun food snacks. We will do flower shop in housekeeping and read our "how to mix colors" book. The 27<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup> is Catholic Schools Week. This is special for us and our Center. We will make crosses to hang up and also cross necklaces. We will talk about faith and how we can help and be a friend to others. In housekeeping, we will do school-house.

Please remember to call or write if your child will not be here in the afternoons. Thank you again for all our snacks. God bless you, and have a great new year!

*Ms. Debbie, Ms. Cindie, and Ms. Laura*

## Notes from Toni

*Who do we say we are?* This was a question presented to us during a staff meeting recently. I believe that we have to know who we are, who we want to be, and hold firm to that – to be true to ourselves and those for whom we are responsible. You

can't be a fence sitter. So, who *are* we?

*We are "professionals."* The Code of Ethics for the Educational Profession in Florida states, "By virtue of their leadership capacity, teachers are held to a high moral standard in a community." This high standard is reflected in how we instruct, how we teach, and what we teach.

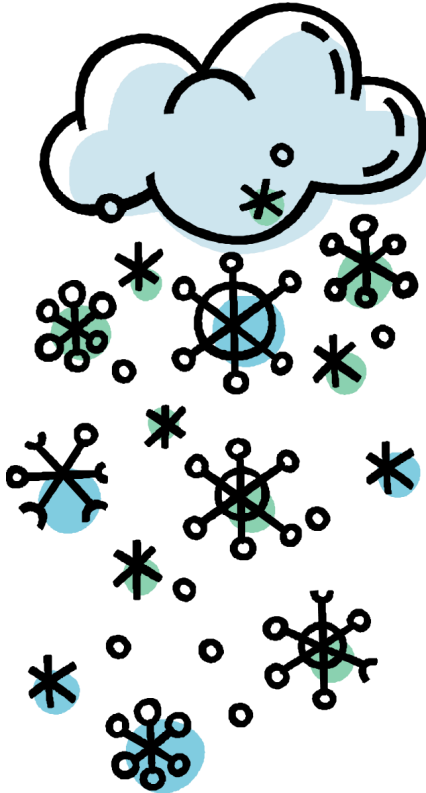
*We are "spiritual."* "Expectations for the Catholic School Principal" states that the "heart" of Catholic School leadership lies in effective spiritual leadership. The Catholic school or is an integral part of the Church's mission to proclaim the Gospel, build faith communities, celebrate through worship, and serve others (p. 17, Expectations for the Catholic School

Principal).

*We are caregivers.* Caring is what we do! This encompasses how we educate, how we instruct, how we interact, how we nurture, how we do everything. We are a "soft place" for many – a firm place for some to land. Who we are expands beyond these few areas. When you say Sacred Heart Early Childhood Center, I would hope that quality care and education, integrity, dedication, faithfulness, and Christian service all come to mind.

*Who do you say we are?*

It's that time of year again! The Kumquat Festival is January 25<sup>th</sup> – the last



Saturday of January. We must begin making our kumquat pies. This is a huge task, but with many hands it is manageable. There is NO experience necessary – just a willingness to work. So watch for the sign-up sheet. If you are not able to help make pies, perhaps you could offer to cut and



serve them at the Kumquat Festival. We need a lot of help to cut, serve, and sell pies as fast as we can that day! We hope this year to make 750 pies. Cutting the frozen pies requires a little muscle, so we appreciate help from our fathers in this particular task.

We are taking advanced orders for pies. In the past, we have sold every last pie by mid-afternoon, so if you want to ensure that you get a pie, the pre-order form may be the option for you. Sr. Donna has sold about 50 so far! Thank you, Sr. Donna! This is a major fundraiser for our center and very important.

The second best fundraiser is our Baskets. We ask everyone to make theme-based baskets and then raffle them on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the first Sunday in February. We normally have between 60 and 80 baskets to raffle. Examples of baskets we've received

in the past are: a Valentine basket, pet supply basket, car wash basket, hair and beauty basket, baking basket, gift card basket, and more – the possibilities of themed baskets are limited only by your imagination! Some baskets come complete and already put together, while some require assembly. We always need help putting the latter baskets together. In the past, we had a king-size, homemade quilt! It would be nice to have a similar big ticket item in place of the quilt this year. We'll be sending home information about the baskets fundraiser soon.

Our children, your children, the future of our church and community thank you for your continued generosity and involvement!

Wishing you and your family a prosperous, healthy, and blessed New Year!

