**SACRED HEART EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**

**JANUARY 2015**

**WE NEED EVERYONES HELP!**

On Saturday, January 31, we will be selling Kumquat Pie at the Annual Kumquat Festival in Dade City. Each year we make and sell around 700 pies. Please sign up in the front office to help with making the pies or working the day of the festival. This is our biggest fundraiser, and any help is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of SHECC!!!

**CATHOLIC EPIPHANY PRAYER**

O God,

Who by a star

Guided the wise men to the worship of your Son

We pray you to lead to yourself

The wise and great of every land

That unto you every knee may bow,

And every thought be brought into captivity

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

May the Lord Bless You

and Keep You.

We welcome all of our families to join us for weekly mass on:

Saturdays at 4:00 pm, or

Sundays at 8:00 am or 10:30 am.



**January Dates to Remember**

January 1 SHECC CLOSED

January 1-2 No VPK

January 5 SAS & SAES Closed

January 19 SHECC, SAS & SAES CLOSED, MLK Day

January 26-30 Catholic Schools Week

January 31 Kumquat Festival

   

**Upcoming Dates to Remember**

February 5 SAS Closed

February 8 Basket Fundraiser Drawing @ the Ham and Turkey Dinner

February 16 No VPK (SHECC OPEN)

February 16 SAS & SAES Closed, Presidents Day

February 18 Ash Wednesday

February 27 Lenten Fish Fry

**INFANTS**

Where does the time go? Already another new year! We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you to all the parents who gave us such wonderful gifts. The children really had fun making things with their hands and feet for you.

**Alexis** is starting to move around a little and enjoys eating different foods. She likes to have people around her. **Elizabeth** loves for the children to sit and entertain her. She does not like to lie down at all. She always wants to be sitting up to see what is going on. She is starting to enjoy her tummy time. **Emma** is getting around all over. She uses her bottom and scoots everywhere. She really enjoys her food. Sometimes you can’t feed her fast enough. **Benjamin** is our little ladies man and our bulldozer. He likes all the girls and if you’re in his way he will bulldoze right over you. He’s fast and is everywhere. He also loves to open cabinets. **Leanna** is pulling up on everything. It won’t be long and she will be walking. She likes to stand at the music tables. **Elina** loves music and dancing. She will bounce up and down whenever the music is going. She has started walking, but she is very careful to catch herself so she doesn’t fall. Once in a while you can catch her singing. I think her favorite is Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. **Jase** enjoys playing with the balls. He just loves throwing them. He really enjoys exploring outside. He is getting good at using his sippy cup. **Andrew** loves chewing on everything. I think his teeth are coming in and it just feels good to chew. His favorite thing to chew on is the silk blanket. He loves food time, and tries to feed himself once in a while. As for outside, all of our babies love their buggy rides around the school. They enjoy swinging, bouncing, and playing in the sand.

Thank you for the monthly donations of snacks and wipes.

**Mrs. Linda Ms. Teresa**

**Mrs. Phyllis Ms. Priscilla**

**ONES**

Welcome to 2015! We are so blessed to have you wonderful children to start this New Year!

As we welcome in the New Year, we will be exploring and talking about Winter, Winter Animals, Dressing for Winter, and Winter Weather. Also, this month we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany on January 6th. The celebration of the Three Kings visiting the newborn baby Jesus.

As always, thank you in advance for you donations of snack, wipes and powder. Remember to bring extra clothes for our ever-changing weather.

Happy New Year to all and thank you for allowing us to care for your beautiful children.

**Ms. Rita Ms. Holly**

**Ms. Jennifer Ms. Sandy**

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**TWOS**

Wow, how time flies when you’re having fun! We have 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.

We will start off 2015 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 wipes. We would love to have more bubbles for outside if anyone has any to share. Many blessings in the New Year!

**Ms. Shelley Ms. Taylor Ms. Priscilla**

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**PRESCHOOL I**

Happy New Year! We are starting 2015 by giving thanks to the Lord for the world he created and gave us. All month long we will sing, “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands.”

This month we are going to work on colors, shapes and positional words. I am aware that most of the kids know their colors so it will be a review for a couple of days. I am going to teach them what happens when you blend the primary colors. They will learn through science experiments, songs and art.

Catholic Schools week will be January 26-30. We have many special activities planned for this week.

**Ms. Vicki Ms. Sara Ms. Katie**

**PRESCHOOL II**

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and were able to spend some quality time with their families.

We will begin this month with the Feast of Epiphany on Tuesday, January 6th. This is the day that the Three Kings pay homage to the Christ child.

Our theme for this month is Winter. We will spend the 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 a glove and holding the piece of ice. The children will then discuss how it felt with and without the glove. We will also observe pictures of how different animals hibernate.

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

This month we have a couple of fundraisers that we could really use your help with. The first is the Kumquat Festival. We will need help making pies and help setting up and selling the pies. The other is the Basket Fundraiser. We will need donations of gift baskets to raffle and help selling tickets. Please let us know if you would be able to help with either of these important fundraisers.

Thank you to all that brought in a monthly donation of snacks.

**Mrs. Liliana Mrs. Natalie Ms. Tessa**

**VPK**

Welcome 2015 and a very **Happy New Year** to all of our wonderful children and their families.

We’ll start our month with the Feast of Epiphany on Tuesday, January 6th; this is the celebration of the Three Kings visiting the baby Jesus. We will read the book *Follow the Star* which tells the story of the Three Kings visit to the manger as we enjoy a warm cup of chicken and stars soup. This year we will also have a ‘Rosca de Reyes’ (King’s Cake). The round shape of the sweet bread signifies a king’s crown.

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 using our *Discovering God’s World*, Religious Ed. Program and our weekly visit to the church. Our theme for the month is **The Bible.** We will listen to some bible stories and how the bible tells us how much God loves us.

Catholic School’s Week will be January 26-30th. 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** please dress your child as their favorite Story Book Character (and bring their favorite book) and we are going to 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 Sister Donna**

**Ms. Becky Ms. Katie**

**Sister Elizabeth**

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**SCHOOL AGE**

Hello Parents and Grandparents! Happy New Year! Its hard to believe the year is over already. I hope you and your families have had a wonderful Christmas.

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:

January 5-9- 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. January 12-16 will be about Bears. We will make pompom bears and bear masks. We will find out why bears hibernate in the winter. January 19-23, will be 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. January 26-30 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 good friend to others.

Please remember to call or write a note if your child will not be getting off the afternoon bus. God bless and have a wonderful 2015!

**Ms. Debbie Ms. Laura Ms. Alyssa**

**NOTES FROM CINDIE**

January is here! The start of a new and exciting year! I hope everyone has a great year!

We have many activities going on in January and we need volunteers. We have something for everyone!

*The Annual Kumquat Festival* is coming up fast on *January 31st*! Everyone can help by making pies, working at the festival cutting and selling pies, purchasing a pie, donating for ingredients. There is a lot to be done. Ms. Susie will have a volunteer sheet posted on the office door for everyone to sign up to help.

*The Sacred Heart Catholic Church Ministry Fair* is going to be *January 10th and 11th*. We need volunteers to help after the weekend Masses to “man” the booth and on Sunday there will be a Picnic from 12:00 -4:00pm. We have been asked to provide a face painting booth during the picnic. If you would like to help with the SHCC Ministry Fair as a representative of the childcare center please contact Ms. Cindie.

*Our Annual Basket Fundraiser* is on *February 8th* in conjunction with the Sacred Heart Ham and Turkey Dinner. We are asking for donations throughout the month of January of Gift Baskets to raffle off during the dinner. Themes for the baskets can be anything from a Kids “Frozen” basket to a “Car Care Kit” to a “Spaghetti Dinner” Basket. Be creative and have fun!! We also need families to sell tickets for the Baskets which will be on display here at the center until the day of the dinner. Tickets are $1.00 each or 6 for $5.00 (You do not need to be present to win).

Thank you for all your help and the trust you place in us to care for your little ones. We appreciate all our families and look forward to spending the year with you! Happy New Year!

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