



## VPK DECEMBER 2015 NEWS

As 2015 is coming to a close we are looking forward to the New Year ahead of us. The main focus this month will be Advent, a season of waiting and preparing. Each week we will light a candle on our Advent Wreath.

- The first candle reminds us of the light of hope that the prophets had as they looked forward to a Messiah who would bring peace and love to the world.
- The second candle reminds us of the dark night when Joseph and Mary found light and warmth in the stable.
- The third candle reminds us of the love and joy which surrounded the shepherds at the announcement of the birth of Jesus.
- The fourth candle reminds us of the star which guided the Magi to the stable where Jesus lay.

The Advent wreath is a powerful way to focus our prayer during this season. The never ending circle of greens reminds us of God's unending love and the source of our hope. In our Bright Beginnings Curriculum, we will introduce Advent with a weekly visit to the church. We will read Bible verses that lead us to the nativity and sing Christmas songs. The children will add a candle to our Advent Wreath each week to help mark the passage of time during the four weeks of Advent.

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus on Christmas, we will be preparing our classroom as well by starting our month discussing ornaments. We will practice our upper case and lower case letters by matching ornaments with letters on them. We will use Christmas playdoh cutters to create different types of ornaments.

The following week we will be talking about cookies. We will touch, taste, see, smell, and we will even get to hear what kind of sound the cookie makes when you bite into it. Children learn and retain more when they use all of their senses. We will create a sensory tub using flour and gingerbread mix. The children will be able to measure, mix and create with this. We will also read several books on the Gingerbread Boy and Gingerbread Girl, as well as practice our one to one correspondence with a cookie matching game.

As we head into the middle of December, we will be discussing gifts and Christmas cards. We will start the week by writing our letters to Santa. As we practice writing our names, we will begin making cards for our family and friends. If you have any used Christmas cards, we love to recycle them by cutting them up and using them for our own cards and decorations.

We will be learning Christmas songs and practicing for our upcoming Christmas Program. Some of the songs we will learn are: Joy to the World, Away in the Manger, Go Tell it on the Mountains, The Angels Sing, and Silent Night. We will enjoy the following stories this month: Asleep at the Stable, The Polar Express, Counting to Christmas, and many more.

Important Dates to Remember:

December 6<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of St. Nicholas. We will celebrate this special feast day on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. We will begin with a "shoe blessing" then place our shoes outside our door during our work time in hopes that we receive a visit from St. Nicholas.

December 10<sup>th</sup>, is our Parent Appreciation Night. This is a night that we keep the children free of charge, and feed them dinner so you can go shopping, go on a date night, or just relax at home. Please return your December Announcements as soon as possible.

December 15<sup>th</sup> is our Annual Christmas Program and Party. We begin in the Church at 6:45 P.M. Children should wear church attire.

May you have a Very Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Ms. Kathy   Ms. Katie   Sr. Donna   Sr. Elizabeth   Ms. Becky