

# SACRED HEART EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

## DECEMBER 2017

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 3- Advent Begins
- 7- Parent Appreciation Night 5:30-9:00 P.M.
- 13- VPK Christmas Program @ 6:45
- 21-Jan-1- SAS Closed, Christmas Break
- 22- Cookies and Carols-Classroom parties
- 25-29- NO VPK (SHECC OPEN 27, 28, & 29)
- 23-Jan. 8- SAES Closed, Christmas Break
- 25 & 26- **SHECC CLOSED**, Christmas

### JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 1-**SHECC CLOSED**, New Years
- 1-5- NO VPK (SHECC OPEN 2, 3, 4, 5)
- 1-8- SAES Closed, Christmas Break
- 15- SHECC, SAES, & SAS Closed, MLK Day
- 27- Kumquat Festival
- 28- Feb.3- Catholic Schools Week

Please remember the Sacred Heart Early Childhood Center Basket Fundraiser coming up on February 4, 2018. During the Christmas sales is a perfect time to pick up a gift basket to donate to our fundraiser. We would like to have Baskets in by January 16, 2018 to give everyone plenty of time to get their tickets in before the big day. We will rotate baskets between the two school buildings and the Church Hall prior to the Sacred Heart Catholic Women's Club Ham and Turkey Dinner on February 4, 2018. Thank you for your generous support.



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
FROM THE TEACHERS AND STAFF AT  
SACRED HEART EARLY CHILDHOOD  
CENTER

# INFANTS

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Our babies and their families are true gifts to our center. The baby room staff would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for allowing us to be a part of your baby's life. They are a true blessing.

We will be doing a lot of painting using our feet and hands- making Advent wreaths and ornaments. We will be singing lots of Christmas songs and reading about Jesus's Birthday. We have lots of tummy time and floor time so they are able to explore their world. They love for us to sit and talk to them, read them books, and sing along to the CD's. The older babies love to fill and dump. More dumping than filling, but that's ok. They love music, books and outside time. They are learning to pick up finger foods. So, we encourage you to continue to send it in so we can practice our fine motor skills. Eating finger foods helps to build fine motor skills as well as eye-hand coordination. We love to watch the babies master the skill of picking something up and getting it to their mouth.

We will continue to go outside even on cooler days. Please make sure you send your child layers so we can peel things off as the Florida days warm quickly. Label all items.

As always, thank you for your generous donation of snacks and wipes. They are greatly appreciated.





# ONES

Welcome December and Advent Season! This truly is the most wonderful time of the year and we are so blessed to have the opportunity to share it with you and your family.

We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and enjoyed your time home with your family. We had so much fun in November making our turkeys and also our beautiful fall trees. We had some sensory fun with pumpkins too. I will post some pictures on the board soon. Speaking of our board...be sure to check out the new layout of our bulletin board. There is an area where I will hang pictures of your children taken during different activities and times of day. The middle section will be a visual version of our lesson plans for the month so that you know what we are working on. The last section will be for hanging the art projects we are working on that go with our lesson plans. Also, coming soon will be a new form of our classroom wish list. (Right now, it is a boring blue poster behind our door that is out of sight and not very effective.) We will post items on the list such as special snacks we have been missing or supplies needed for classroom activities etc... Any help you can give is always greatly appreciated.

We have a slight staffing change effective December 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Eloise will be moving to the green room in the afternoons and Ms. Jennifer France will be in our classroom every morning. She has worked in our room before and is very familiar with our routines and for many of you, she cared for your child in the infant room before they moved up to my room. I am sure the transition will be a smooth one and if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask and make them known.

We have lots of fun activities planned for this month like making reindeer food to take home and making a special Christmas gift for our parents. We also have several fun art and sensory activities planned as well. We will be talking about the meaning of Christmas as well as "The Holy Family" Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As I'm sure you have already noticed, we have started playing our Christmas music as well and will work on learning some of the words while dancing and ringing our bells.

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our annual parent appreciation night from 5:30pm until 9:00pm. This is a night for us to provide care for your child for free as our gift to you. We will feed them and if you would like to bring their pajamas I will get them cleaned up and ready for bed before you come to get them. Please let us know in advance if your child will be attending so we may plan for appropriate staffing.

With Christmas on the way, I would like to take a moment to stress the importance of reading to your child every day. Please check your child's folder for an article that I found about the importance of reading to your child and keep this information in mind when shopping for things to put under the tree this year.

SHECC will be closed on December 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in observance of Christmas and also on December 31<sup>st</sup> in observance of New Year. We will be sending home all of our gifts and artwork the week before Christmas. So, if you are not planning on attending the full week please be sure to let me know so we can send your child's things home early.

We hope you all have a wonderful holiday break and may the spirit of Christ fill your holiday season with joy and thankfulness.







# TWOS

As our Fall Unit is coming to a close, we will be talking about Advent and Christmas. The children enjoyed our Fall Unit; reviewing pumpkins, leaves, Halloween, spiders, turkeys, & Thanksgiving. We looked at Fall colors and used stamps, paints, Legos, and cookie cutters to make our art projects. The children were able to work on their fine motor skills by making Indian Corn. The children enjoyed exploring the inside of the pumpkin that Ms. Maddie brought us in to carve. We were also able to look at the different sizes that pumpkins grow. We made our own pumpkin patch and turkey handprints to make placemats for Thanksgiving. We read stories about turkeys and Thanksgiving. During our circle time, we have been singing our Four Seasons song, What Can You Do With an Apple, and Tommy Turkey. The children's favorite was the Tommy Turkey song. It gave them a chance to get up and dance to the song. They were excited to be chosen to hold Tommy Turkey while the song is being played. Thank you to all the families that were able to make the Thanksgiving Luncheon.

In our next Unit, we will be talking about Advent and Christmas. Advent is a time for waiting and anticipation. During this time, we will be reading books about Christmas and the birth of Jesus. We will be making special Christmas crafts during this time.

For our Sensory and Discovery center we will be making and playing with Santa Slime. We will also use Christmas cutters for our playdoh time. Playing with playdoh is lots of fun and it builds their small and large motor skills especially their grip which is needed to hold a pencil. All of this takes place as they are exploring Geometry as they choose which shapes they are going to make with the playdoh.

We will use red, green, blue, and yellow paint to make thumbprint Christmas lights. The children will also be painting a Christmas tree. I have a Gingerbread book to read to the children and when we are done reading the book, they will decorate their own Gingerbread Man. The children will also be making tissue paper ornaments.

Some Important dates to remember:

December 7th: Parent Appreciation Night 5:30-9:00. This is a time for the parents to enjoy a night to themselves. We will be serving Chicken Nuggets, Green Beans, and Macaroni and Cheese for dinner. We will read Christmas books and we will be doing a special craft.

December 25th, 26th, and January 1st we will be closed to celebrate Christmas and New Year's.

Thank you for the monthly snack and wipe donations! We hope everyone enjoys their Holiday Season!



## PRESCHOOL I

I can't believe that it's December already! I have so enjoyed these last few months with your children.

December brings the season of Advent and Christmas. We will be learning about the birth of Jesus Christ through reading books, acting out the story in block center and on the flannel board, and singing songs. It is my hope that through these experiences that your children will begin to understand that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birth.

This month will have us up to our elbows in fun crafts! We will be making several different types of Christmas ornaments such as glitter stars and fabric scrap Christmas trees.

You might have noticed that low table near the sign in sheet which is filled with odd materials. This is our sensory table.

*Research tells us...*

- *Young children rely on sensory input to learn about their environment.*
- *Sensory play helps build neural connections that support thought, learning, and creativity.*
- *Sensory play supports language development, cognitive growth, fine/gross motor skills, problem solving/reasoning, and social interaction.*
- *Children's exposure to sensory play opportunities is declining due to less outdoor play and more screen time.*

So, if you see your child squishing paper into a toilet paper tube, they are not just having fun, they are actively learning and developing their brains! We also have sand, rice and water bins for the children to experiment with. In December, the sand will be green! The sensory table will be filled with strips of colorful wrapping paper and ribbon, small boxes, pompoms, and tape along with a few other surprises. The children will be able to tear, fold and squish the paper, stuff it into boxes, wrap the boxes and use their imagination to invent other uses for the materials. Try setting up a sensory bin for your child at home. This type of play is essential to your child's development and loads of fun for the whole family.

December is always a busy month. So, here are a few important dates for your calendar.

**December 7<sup>th</sup>** Parent Appreciation Night: 5:30-9:00 PM

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>**: Cookies and Carols: Join us in our classroom at 3pm to hear your children sing a few Christmas songs followed by some tasty treats. Please let me know if you will be attending and how many people from your family will be attending. Please remember that we will be having this gathering in our classroom which has limited space.

The center will be closed on December 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,



# PRESCHOOL II

Happy Holidays! This is the most wonderful time of the year and we are very blessed to be sharing the holidays with you and your family. Throughout this month, we will learn about Advent. We will learn that Advent is the time of waiting and preparing for the arrival of Jesus. We use Advent wreaths to help us think about Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. We will learn about the Holy Family and the special people that they are.

This month, we will work on using tongs to put snow in a bottle, to pick up multi colored snow balls and to sort Christmas candy into separate groups. This will help the children with eye -hand coordination, fine motor skills, color recognition, counting, sorting by attribute, creating different sets and cleaning up. There is so much developing in the children with every activity. These are easy to continue at home as well.

We are also going to put this skill to use as we make Gingerbread Houses. I will be sending out a sign-up sheet for the gingerbread house material donations.

Please remember our Parent Appreciation Night on December 7<sup>th</sup>. We keep the children for the evening from 5:30-9:00 and you get to have time for shopping or date night! We will serve Chicken Nuggets, Macaroni and Cheese and Green Beans for dinner.

Our Class will have our Christmas Carols and Cookies Party on December 22, 2017 at 3:30pm. Please sign up to bring in some yummy cookies for our Christmas Celebration!!

Please have a blessed Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





# VPK

It's hard to believe 2017 is almost finished. We only have three weeks of VPK this month, so we are going to make the most of them. Our main focus will be Advent, a season of waiting and preparing. For us, as Catholics, this is a good time to reflect on the importance of waiting in our lives. 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.

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 uppercase and lowercase letters by matching ornaments with letters on them. We will use play-doh and cutters to create different types of ornaments.

The week of December 11<sup>th</sup>, we will discuss Gifts and Christmas Cards. We will start the week by writing our letters to Santa. While we practice writing our names, we will also begin making cards for our family and friends. We will use recycled Christmas cards in our creations. We love to cut them up and use them for our own cards and decorations.

Our third week will be a unit on Cookies. We'll use all five senses as we touch, taste, see, smell and even hear when we bite into them. 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 measure, mix and create with this. We will read several books on the Gingerbread Boy and practice our one to one correspondence with a cookie matching game.

During these weeks, we will learn some Christmas songs and practice for our 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. Some of the stories we will enjoy this month are: Asleep at the Stable; The Polar Express; Counting to Christmas, and many more.

In our **Bright Beginnings** curriculum, we will introduce Advent with weekly visits 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.

*Important Dates to Remember:*

*Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of St. Nicholas. We will begin with a "Shoe Blessing" then place our shoes outside our door during naptime in hopes that we receive a visit from St. Nicholas.*

*Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> is our Parent Appreciation Night from 5:30 to 9:00. We will serve dinner to the children and have some fun activities for them. Watch for a sign-up sheet and more information.*

*Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 is our Christmas Program in the Church. This program will be VPK children only, due to the size of the class. Watch for more information.*

*Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> will be our Christmas VPK classroom party.*

*SHECC will be closed on December 25 and 26 for Christmas.*

*SHECC will be closed January 1.*

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



# BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner. This will be a busy and exciting month for us.

We have a lot of exciting projects planned. Please come in and see all of the children's artwork. The weeks of 11/27 & 12/4 will be **Advent**—we will be making Advent wreaths and calendars. We will also talk about what Advent is all about. The weeks of 12/11 & 12/18 will be all about **Christmas**. We will be making ornaments, cards, gifts, decorations, and pine cone trees. We will talk about the first gifts of Christmas. I will also read the Nativity book to the kids and the Charlie Brown Christmas Book. This will tell the children what Christmas is all about. The week of 12/27, we'll get ready for New Year's by making party hats, bell necklaces, and confetti. The children always love making bell necklaces and bracelets and so do I!

December 7<sup>th</sup> is Parent Appreciation Night from 5:30-9:00. This is a time for the parents to enjoy a night to themselves. We will be serving Chicken Nuggets, Green Beans, and Macaroni and Cheese for dinner. We have exciting activities planned.

Please be sure to fill out and turn in your paper if your children will be here for Parent Appreciation Night and Christmas Break.

I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God Bless you and your family.



# NOTES FROM CINDIE

Merry Christmas! The Season of love and charity is upon us. It is important to remember what this time of year is truly about. It is nice to give gifts to people to show how much you love and appreciate them, but remember, the most precious gift is the gift of yourself... your time to just sit and talk and visit with someone to show that they matter is the best gift of all. It is also a time to reflect on the blessing that you have received. I am so thankful for the opportunity to be the director here at our wonderful school. We have been blessed with classrooms full of children sharing their wonder and laughter with us as we care for them and we have been blessed with wonderful families that we are privilege to serve. We are also blessed with teachers that love what they do and enjoy watching the children learn and discover new things every day. Thank you for your trust in allowing us to care for your family.

There are so many events happening in December, it can become overwhelming for parents. Be sure to take advantage of SHECC's Parent Appreciation Night, December 7, 2017, from 5:30 -9:00 pm. This is a night when we watch the kids while you take time to shop, have a date night or dinner. All you need to do is stop by the front office and sign up in advance. We take care of dinner and entertainment.

SHECC's annual VPK Christmas Program will be held on December 13 at 6:30 pm. The VPK children will tell the story of the "The Nativity". Due to a scheduling conflict, there will not be a party in the hall afterward. Instead, the children will have "Cookies and Carols" in their classrooms on December 22nd. Please ask your child's teacher for details. Please let the front office know if you will attend.

There will be no VPK classes December 25-January 5 due to the Christmas Break. Sacred Heart will be closed December 25-26 and January 1 in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day.

I pray that you will all have a blessing filled Christmas and a bright New year. May the Peace and Joy of the Lord be with you. Merry Christmas!





# BASKET FUNDRAISER



SACRED HEART EARLY  
CHILDHOOD CENTER BASKET  
FUNDRAISER



FEBRUARY 4, 2018



DURING THE

SACRED HEART CWC HAM AND  
TURKEY DINNER



PLEASE DONATE A THEMED  
BASKET FOR OUR ANNUAL



BASKET FUNDRAISER



BY JANUARY 16, 2018.

