



DECEMBER/JANUARY NEWSNOTES

Weekday Preschool

MESSAGE FROM DEBBIE

Dear Families,

Wow!!! It is already the end of another year. I hope everyone is ready for a wonderful holiday season. Once school begins again in January there are many fun and informative events happening. Please make sure to check the calendar for dates and times of these activities. We will keep you informed as the days get closer.

Thank you to everyone who has generously helped collect food for those in need this holiday season. We will continue with the spirit of giving to those less fortunate with our annual "Giving Tree" These opportunities demonstrate caring and compassion and are a great way to begin to help children find ways they can help others.

Preschool children are just beginning to understand the point of view of another person. They are able to demonstrate empathy and concern for others. Here at Weekday, we believe this is a very important part of our curriculum. Preschool age children are pretty impressionable. Remember that almost nothing you say is lost on a child this age. So express your

own compassion -- out loud.

As preschoolers get more independent, their ability to show empathy grows. Your child realizes that other people have feelings, and he might take their troubles seriously. Your job is to help him figure out what to do in response:

When a friend gets sick or a local family falls on hard times, grown-ups know what to do. They send flowers, bake casseroles, and offer support. Get your kids involved in these projects. Ask them what they'd like to do to help out, or suggest arranging the bouquet, layering noodles in the lasagna pan, or collecting cans of food. And when you drive over to deliver the gifts, take your kids along. They'll find out firsthand how good it feels to brighten someone's day.

Teach your kids to see the abundance all around them and to think of people to share it with.

When your rosebush explodes in bloom, invite your child to snip a few buds and take them to her teachers. Is his shelf overflowing with books? Suggest he donate a box to the library or a local family shelter. Package up leftover soup or cinnamon rolls, and take them to an elderly neighbor.

Cheer someone up! If you see that your neighbor's newspaper is always getting soaked by the sprinklers, toss it onto her porch. Is a friend sad? Give her a hug. Teaching your kids to notice what's going on in the lives of people in their own backyard fosters empathy.

Give thanks. Compliment a someone on her great sweater, say "good morning" to a neighbor, and thank the pizza delivery guy. Sometimes a simple acknowledgment or expression of appreciation is all the boost someone needs to get through the day.

I am truly thankful for all of you.
Happy Holidays!
Love,
Debbie



THE GIVING TREE November 30—December 14

Would you like to be a Christmas "Angel" this year? Feel free to take an ornament off the tree in the office and return it to us with a new, **wrapped** gift for a child whose age and gender appears on the ornament. .. This is a wonderful way for your child to actively participate in the true holiday

spirit and passing that love and joy on to another child who is less fortunate. Please return **your wrapped gift** to the office **with the ornament tag attached by December 14h** The organizers have also said that it would be helpful to **write the gift description on the back of the ornament.** This year the gifts will again go to

over 1000 children at Camellia Avenue Elementary School in North Hollywood.



Dates In December

Giving Tree	Nov 30 -Dec 14
Room 11 Parent-Teacher Conferences	1 & 4
Room 12 Parent-Teacher Conferences	3 & 7
Room 11 Parent-Teacher Conferences	2 & 9
Bob Baker Marionette Show	5
No Lunch or Extended Day Today	17
HOLIDAY PARTY NO REGULAR SCHOOL	18
CHRISTMAS VACATION SCHOOL CLOSED	21 - Jan. 1

JANUARY'S JINGLES

School resumes	4
Spring Fling Panning Meetings	7-8
SCHOOL CLOSED MLK JR. DAY	18
Dad's and Grandpa's Day	23

FEBRUARY'S FROLICS

School Closed Presidents' Day	15
Language & Speech Screenings	18-19
2010-2011 Registration Begins	24

Children's Christmas Mart December 1—17

Northridge United Methodist Church is once again helping Sepulveda United Methodist Church (North Valley Caring Services) with their annual Children's Christmas Mart. This special "mart" helps children from families in need to shop for gifts to give to their parents for Christmas. If you would like to participate in "stocking" the store, bring your gift in to the office by Thursday, December 17th. You may also like to join the festivities in assisting the children on Tuesday, December 19th at 10:00 -4:00

when they pick out their gifts and wrap them. (If you are interested in helping, please let someone in the office know.)

Here are some "gift" ideas:

- Cologne
- Calendars
- Costume jewelry
- Slippers
- Stationery
- Scarves
- Organizers

- Socks
- Wallets
- Key Rings
- Hankies
- Cocoa Mix

Also needed are wrapping supplies such as paper, ribbon and tape.

The Church thanks you for bringing the true meaning of Christmas to a child—the gift of giving.



Spring Fling Planning Meeting January 7 and 8



Spring Fling is a wonderful family day with food, music, entertainment, pony rides, games and a silent auction. This year's event will be on May 23rd. This event requires planning and support from the families at the preschool.

This event is our largest fundraiser. It's lots of fun and your help will benefit the preschool. We need volunteers to help organize the event, most importantly the Silent Auction. We need to request donations from local businesses, make gift baskets, bid sheets

and description cards. We also need help organizing workers for the event, order prizes, and send out invitations. As you can see there is something for everyone. I'll see you at the meeting on the 7th or 8th!!

A Beautiful Season Advent and Christmas at the Northridge United Methodist Church



"Bells Will Ring"

Bell Choir concert—

Sunday, December 6th 3:00 p.m.

All four of our glorious handbell choirs will perform in this special concert as we "ring" in the season.

Christmas Caroling to the Homebound

**Sunday, December 20th
4:00 p.m.**

Join in caroling to the homebound followed by a chili supper in the Fellowship Hall for all families to enjoy—Bring a dessert to share.

Christmas Eve

Family Service

5:30 p.m.

This year's Family worship will be held at 5:30. Our children and their families will share their gifts of music and message through a delightful pageant.

Contemporary Candlelight Service

8:00 p.m.

If you enjoy Christmas music with a beat, this is the service for you. The service will feature music from Matt Brown and the Band.

Candlelight Cathedral

Christmas

11:00 p.m.

We have a rare opportunity to worship on the day of our Lord' birth. Bring one of your gifts to open during the sermon this morning. Special music will make this worth the trip.

**If you have any questions
about services or activities at
the Church please do not hesitate
to call the Church office
at 886-1555**

**HOLIDAY BRUNCH
DECEMBER 18th
9:00—11:00 A.M.**

**THERE WILL BE NO
REGULAR SCHOOL ON
Friday
DECEMBER 18th**

so that the staff at Weekday can hold a **Holiday Brunch** for you and your child. Please join us from 9:00 - 11:00 in Fellowship Hall. We



hope you can drop in and stay for a few minutes or a couple of for hours! There will be food and fellowship with other parents, children and teachers and holiday crafts for the kids. We know this is a busy time, but hope to see you there!!!

CALLING ALL DADS AND GRANDPAS

We are looking forward to seeing our children with their daddies and grandpas (or a substitute uncle) at our annual Dads and Grandpas Day Breakfast. Please join us on **Saturday, January 23rd** from **9:00 – 11:00.**

You will cherish this memory as you enjoy pancakes and fun at preschool.



Remember.....
**NO MOMS OR
SIBLINGS
ALLOWED!!!**

**Dads and Grandpas
Day
Breakfast**

**Sat., January 23rd
9:00- 11:00**

Holiday Traditions to Share

Each year we tell the Christmas story in the classrooms. We would also like to hear your family's traditions that you may have in your home. In the past we have had families talk about how they celebrate Hanukkah, Girl's Day in Japan, Kwanzaa, Diwali (the festival of lights in India)



and Christmas as it is celebrated in Holland. Please let your teachers know if you would like to come in and share your special customs with the class. We encourage each of you as families to join us in our celebrations. Please share your family traditions, recipes for holiday foods, and any special customs you celebrate.

The Gift of Laughter

Humor is an important part of our everyday lives. As a form of intellectual play, it grows more sophisticated with age. The kind of humor children express depends in part, on the level of cognitive development they have achieved.

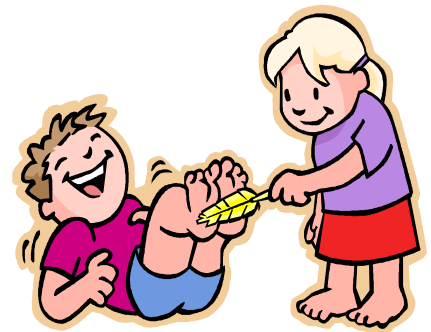
A child first experiences humor in the second year of life in the context of playing with objects. A 3-year-old usually thinks it's hilarious to give objects or events names that she knows to be incorrect. She probably will giggle if a rabbit is called a bird. Most 4-year-olds laugh at object primarily on the basis of their appearance. A drawing of a car with square tires, for example, might keep a

child laughing throughout the day.

Unexpected behavior also provokes laughter in young children. Seeing a grow-up jump rope or dress up in play clothes and wig can send a child into a fit of laughter. A description of an impossible event, such as the term "it's raining cats and dogs" also can produce giggles.

Most 3- to 5-year-olds don't understand many of the jokes, riddle, or puns that seem funny to older children. Younger children do enjoy changing the words of jokes and repeating them often. For example, "Why did the chicken cross the road?...Because he wanted to!" can break up a child. We adults may not understand the joke, but we can appreciate the reaction it brings to

our children. Humor is more than just a chuckle or a belly laugh. It releases pent-up energy and permits the expression of ideas and feelings. Growing up in stressful , and good mental health—which includes a sense of humor—allows children to cope with sources of conflict and distress.



A Night In Bethlehem Sunday, December 13th 3:00—5:00 pm

Come and get an idea of what life in Bethlehem was like when Mary and Joseph went there for the census to be taken. See

the sights of the market—and take home a piece of Christmas.

The wonderful event is open to everyone and will be held in the Fellowship Hall and on the Patio.



Pine Cone Christmas Tree

You'll need:
Dry Pine Cones
Green Glitter
Glue
Sequins



Paint the pine cone with glue. Before the glue dries, sprinkle with green glitter. Top with a paper star. When it dries you can glue on sequins or tinsel. Stand on the base for a Mini-Christmas Tree or hang by adding a tie.

Tip:

If you cannot find open pine cones. Place some in a 200 degree oven on a cookie sheet. They will open as they dry.

RUMORS FROM THE ROOMS

Room 9

'Twas the month of the holidays and all through the day

The children were learning in their own special way.

The teachers were eager to help them along

To discover new things, maybe even a song.

They ran and they laughed and they shouted with glee

And talked of traditions and decorating trees.

The room filled with ABC 's, math, and science galore

Kept them busy and shouting for more

We had great fun last month, to the Pizza Shop we went,

And made flannel pizzas to our hearts content.

Our sub Teacher Kim sure made it easy

and fun

Learning through books, graphs, and singing a ton.

We did so much writing; in books it's displayed.

Come read what great thoughts your children have made.

This month we'll discuss and happily explore

Our families, our holidays, our customs, and more.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and Kwanzaa we say

For you will celebrate in your own special way.

We invite you to share a tradition or two.

Join us and show the class what you do.

Three-year-old conferencing last month was great,

Sharing your child's progress, and no one

was late.

Four-year-old conferences this month will show

How much math and language and art they now know.

Teacher Rachna and Pam want to thank one and all

For your love and support, always BIG, never small.

May your holiday sparkle with love and with light

And, if you're leaving town, have a safe flight.

Love, hugs, and a very happy holiday season.

Ho, ho, ho,

Teacher Pam and

Teacher Rachna



Room 10

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!!" The holiday spirit is in the air, along with the stress all the preparations can bring. It takes a while to realize it, but the preparations are actually the most memorable part of the holidays. This is a great opportunity to share your own childhood holiday memories with your children as you cook and shop together. Believe it or not this is the "family folklore" that gets passed down through generations. Some of the children cut out coupons and glued them to a shopping list which can go with you as you do your holiday food shopping. They can also have fun identifying sight words by matching the coupons to the products on the shelves. Let them help in some small way as you prepare food, shop or wrap presents (remember holding your finger on the ribbon as Mom tied the bows?) Including your child in the preparations actually lessens the stress and creates their own wonderful childhood memories.

We love cooking in room 10. We look forward to making soup from a stone with teacher Reeta, and turkey rollups with Teacher Debbie. But, what's the use of cooking if you can't share it with others? So, we shared our Thanksgiving feast with rooms 9 & 13!

The children are working so hard each morning as they continue to practice signing their names. We can see tremendous progress already! Keep up the good work! The children have begun to work on their stories and will continue to do so throughout the year until they've created their own book of stories written and illustrated by them! Remember you are welcome to take home some of the story paper we use, if you think your child would like to work on a story at home. If so, we'd love to have a copy for their class file. Thank you for all your help with these projects.

We were so happy to have a 100% turn out for parent /teacher conferences! Thank you for taking the time to touch base with us and for understanding this very important phase in your child's development.

In January we will be experimenting with *ice in so many cool ways!* Beware, as later that month you may be surrounded by *Dinosaurs!!*

We are so blessed this year with such terrific children and such kind and generous families. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you do for us. Thank you for giving us your time in the mornings to read to the children or to give a frazzled teacher an extra pair of hands. Thank you for all your generous donations to our classroom and for feeding us everyday at snack time!

Our kind and generous families are the best gifts we could ever wish for. Most of all we thank you for entrusting your most precious gifts, your children, to us each day. We treasure each and every moment we get to share with them. We wish you love, laughter and peace with family and friends this holiday season.

Love and Warmest Holiday Wishes,
Debbie & Reeta

Room 11

This is such a great time of year. We have so much to be thankful and so many opportunities to celebrate. As teachers we are grateful for our wonderful families and all that you contribute to our school and to our classroom. I think that everyone has been able to be a "snack parent" and spend some time in the classroom with us. Bernie has had lots of weekend play dates and tells us that they have been the best ever! We have had several families share their family traditions, meals (yummm) and stories, and we hope for many more families to do the same. We appreciate the support that you have shown by attending school conferences and fund raisers.

We celebrate all the growth our students have made. Most children are now transitioning from parallel play to engaging in play with other students. They are all developing self esteem and competence by doing many new things for themselves. Pouring their own juice,

changing clothes, putting on shoes and sweaters, (Did you know they could do that?). They are developing strong small motor skills by fun activities like eyedropper painting, stuffing "pumpkin" bags with newspaper, cracking eggs for baking and using scissors to snip paper and playdough. On the playground we have seen a growth in the large motor skills such as throwing, catching and kicking balls, digging "gofer holes" in the upper sandbox, and building structures with the big wooden blocks.

We always encourage the children to use their words and tell others how they feel, so lately we have been using pictures and games to help them identify their feelings, and to give them the words to express how they feel. Words like excited, shy, and nervous, may be new for them, so whenever possible please help them label how they feel.

We are anxiously awaiting the first sprouts to appear in our garden. We prepared the soil and planted beans donated from Austin's family's garden, brussels sprouts, herbs and cauliflower. Everyone gets a turn to use the hose to water the garden. At first it was very hard to wait, but now they know that with patience their turn will come.

We are very happy to welcome Brandon Ahn and his parents Kenny and Kayla and big sister Ashley, to our Tuesday Thursday class!

We want to wish all our families a wonderful holiday season!
Teachers Judy and Stephanie



Room 12

My goodness time flies when you are having fun. Can you believe it is already December! We sure have been having fun in our room. Throughout the month we have been learning and sharing our thoughts and ideas of what it means to be thankful. What a surprise to hear they are thankful for TOYS, family, being a boy and Snuggles our guinea pig. We learned about fall colors and how we can see them in the leaves and plants in our neighborhood. We had fun patterning with leaves and turkeys. As winter rolls in we will continue to share and discuss stories of our families and our school family. The few weeks we have in December are going to fly right by so we ask if any of you would like to share a family tradition, be it cooking,



reading a story anything you special please let us know ASAP to schedule you in. We will be planting a winter garden. Take time to go visit the garden with your children and have them tell you what they have planted and have them show you what has changed since the last time you visit. We will be learning more about all the holiday traditions that occur in December through many songs and dances. The children enjoy being read to, and books make great gifts, if you would like some ideas of what books to choose please let us know. Nothing means more to the children when they spend time reading with you. We are looking forward to all coming festivities es-

pecially our Holiday Brunch on Friday, Dec. 18th. We look forward to meeting with you at our upcoming parent teacher conferences. It is always a pleasure sharing with you all of your child's accomplishments

We want to welcome our newest member to our MWF class Sammy and her parents Frank and Olga. A special thank you to Alisha's mom Sammi and Mason's mom Sheri, for their help with cutting out materials and bringing in some fun fall collage material. A huge THANK YOU to all of you parents that made our classroom feast such a huge success.

Have a wonderful Holiday.
Hugs and Kisses
Ms. Jenny, Teacher Katie and Teacher Teri

Room 13

We are having a great time in Room 13. This month our room transformed into a beautiful forest. We camped in the forest and we roasted marshmallows, had a cookout, backpacked, hung out in a tent and we even sat on logs for circle time. We enjoyed playing with the forest animals and the building logs on the manipulative table.

We have been working on our letters and numbers through many different avenues like counting on the calendar, playing different bingo games and also through puzzles and books. The children have been exploring the world of magnetic through magnetic puzzles, rocks and games.



At the art table there were many, many different and fun projects completed. We worked on our cutting skills while making pumpkins and leaves. We made cool spiders and squirrels and turkey hand prints and owls and bears. We used salad spinners and koosh balls and golf balls and glued and glued. Your child looks forward to sharing all of their art with you.

The children have enjoyed sharing their family picture with the class and telling their fellow classmates all about their family. If you have not sent a family picture in yet, please send one in. We have been talking about families and how they are all different but all great just the same. Some families are big and some are small but they are all wonderful because it is their own family.

In December, we will be talking about Christmas

and Hanukah and Posada. We would love for anyone to come in and share their family traditions through cooking or crafts. Whatever you would like to share with us, you are always welcome.

We are so fortunate to have the privilege to spend some time with you and your families at the Holiday Party on Friday, December 18th from 9:00-11:00. The kids have a great time eating and doing arts and crafts at the party. We hope to see everyone at the party.

We wish you and yours a very Happy, Healthy, Holiday season. We are thankful for each and every one of you.

Love,
Teacher Kathy, Teacher Colleen and Bugsy the Wonder Pig.

Room 14

It is our hope that your holidays are off to a great start - with Thankful Hearts and Happy Tummies!

Stop by our Room 14 garden patch with your children this month, and let them share with you the magic that is happening there - the tiny peas have raised their precious buds to the sky, and the lettuce and fennel seeds have cracked the surface, ready for their ascent. The young Brussels sprout plants are growing steadily - a big "Thank You" to Teacher Judy for sharing her Brussels sprouts stalk with us, so that we can imagine what is to come.

Thank you all for spending time with us discussing your amazing children during our parent conferences. If you would like any additional clarification, please don't hesitate to ask; we are parents too, and we know what it is like to be in the other chair. While our formal conferences are scheduled for twice a year, we can always make time for you, for quick questions or earnest sit-downs. Please remember, however, that our attention must be to our students during class time, so if you need us for longer than a moment, let us know so we may schedule time with you.

Make sure you find time this month to truly savor the little moments of the holiday season with your child. This year they will make precious memories of the holidays they will carry through their lives - the smells, the sounds, the sights, the tastes...! I am sure each of you have your own priceless childhood holiday memories - they are not about receiving masses of expensive presents, or attending abundant social gatherings, they are about the sweet and simple traditions that cement you as a family. Embrace the importance of traditions this year as you create invaluable memories for your children

and yourself. At no time of year is the adage more true - there is no greater gift than time - be completely in the moment with your child and the payoff for you both will be priceless.

In the short month of December we will be working on gifts for our families, learning a bit about the symbols of the holidays, and hearing the wondrous story of the birth of an extraordinary baby. Thank you in advance to all the families that have offered to share their family traditions with the class - we are really looking forward to those experiences. Please let us know if you would like to come and share your family traditions - it can be a book, a song, a treat, a game... We are here to help you in any way we can.

Some ideas for the holidays: Keep "writing" with your children - the stories they dictate at this time of the year can be especially passionate, and precious keepsakes. Have you written to Santa, yet? Draw with your children for fun - an art that is fading as our lives become so filled with social events, academic pursuits, and screentime. Remember the important word is fun! Art supplies can be a great suggestion to family members asking for gift ideas. A brand new big box crayons, a pack of multi-colored paper, a pair of scissors, tape and glue can lead to hours of mind-expanding, spirit-renewing creation! Make art and bonding memories together! Simple games, (Candy Land, Chutes and Ladders, Hi Ho Cherry-O...) are also great gift ideas for your children - they strengthen basic skills, while offering opportunities for family fun, patience, and pursuing the elusive art of graceful losing.

As we take dictation stories from the children, and they begin to ask how words are spelled, a word book and a beginning children's dictionary are great additions to your home library. Those with as many photographs as possible are most appropriate for young children; the ones in our classroom both happen to be DK's (Dorling Kindersley Publishing). "My First Dictionary" is ideal as there are only 1,000 words (not overwhelming) and it has clear illustrations of every word, most of them photographs. And "My First Word Book" is divided into

two-page spreads by theme - Day on the Farm, Around the House, etc., with color photos attached to each word. We introduced these books to the children last month at circle, and there was real excitement! (Another possible Christmas gift suggestion?) Obviously, we do not mean that your children will be reading a dictionary soon, but it is great to model the use of a dictionary when a question arises about a new word you come across in books you read together. A child's inquiry, such as: "What's a forest?" followed by a visit together to the dictionary, helps young children to treasure books as amazing resources for the information they crave.

A timely thought, as we enter a new year - the children are beginning to understand the basic concept of a calendar - as we spend a couple moments at circle each day talking about what month it is, the day of the week, and the number of the day. While this is an emerging skill, we are giving concrete visual association to the somewhat nebulous concept of waiting for an event (Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.). You may wish to begin looking at a calendar together with your children at home, especially as they look longingly into the future for special days to come.

In the month ahead, as you, and those you hold dear, celebrate the miracles of God's love, may your faith warm your heart and fill your spirit with blissful joy!

Holiday Hugs!
Teacher Alicia and
Teacher Lia
Violet Pig and Charlie
Fish

