

# The Early Childhood Corner



## From the Teachers' Desk

Dear parents,

We hope you had a good Thanksgiving and had some enjoyable family time over the holiday. Now we move into the last month of 2024. Our last school days will be Dec. 19 and 20. Child Care is open December 23, 27 & 27. It is closed December 24, 25, 31 & January 1. If your child will not need care, please remember to tell us so you can use some of your 12 days off with no charge.

The next few weeks of December are called Advent in the church year. This is a time of "getting ready" (not only our houses and lives, but especially our hearts) for Jesus' birthday on Christmas.

At school, we use Advent colors—blue (for waiting and hope) and pink (for joy). The Advent wreath is a circle (God's love is never-ending).



Every Sunday in Advent, another candle is lit so that as Christmas gets closer, the wreath gets brighter. The Advent chain, in the same colors, gets shorter as Christmas gets closer. The children place a new figure each day on the Advent calendar, working up to Christmas when the picture will be complete.

Have a blessed Christmas!

Mrs. Leuck  
Ms. Rajer  
Mrs. Stiemke  
Mrs. Zeuner

St. Paul Early  
Childhood Center

Volume 15, Issue 5

December 2024

### Special points of Interest:

- Christmas Service  
December 3, 6:30 pm
- No School Days
- Extra Clothing
- School closing  
information

## Child Care News

The month of November has flown by fast. We have been learning and working on a number of new things.

First, we had a theme on books. We learned the difference between authors and illustrators and created two class books that the children enjoy reading them on their own. We also spent time learning about same and different, opposites, the numbers 4 and 5, the color orange and triangles.

Other themes during the month included Harvest and Thanksgiving. We discussed the difference between fruits and vegetables, learned what a cornucopia was and made orange prints with real oranges. In our discussion about Thanksgiving, we learned about Native Americans and turkeys. We did the Turkey Hokey Pokey, made graham cracker turkeys, watched an authentic pow wow and played drums and rain sticks during music. Finally we thought about our blessings and described what we are thankful for.

The children have also been working on putting on coats and attempting to zip. We ask that you continue practicing this at home so it will be easier for us to get ready to go outside this winter. Please refer to the letter sent home about outdoor winter clothing. We want all children to have the necessary clothing to enjoy their time outside. We prefer water-proof mittens over cloth mittens. Please label all the clothing so we can keep track of what belongs to each child. Thanks for your cooperation!



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## Rate changes

As of January 1, 2025

Per hour or part of an hour

- \$5.50 for 1st child 3-5 yrs
- \$5.75 for 1st child 2.5-3 yrs or not potty trained
- \$5.00 for 2nd child
- \$4.75 for 3rd child
- \$215 a week full-time 3-5 yrs
- \$225 a week full-time 2.5-3 yrs or not trained

## Days Off

- You are given up to 12 days per year (September 1—August 31) that you can use as vacation from Child Care.
- Give us the date(s) by the Friday of the week before to use this benefit.
- You will receive notification of how many days you have used at the end of December and May.

## 3 Year Old Preschool in December

	Jesus Time Themes	Additional Concepts & Skills
December 2-5	An Angel Visits Mary	Advent blue
December 9-13	God Has a Plan For Salvation Jesus is Born	Christmas #5 star
December 16-20	Angels and Shepherds Good News is Spread	Christmas #6

Preschool  
Christmas Party  
Thursday,  
December 19

No School  
Dec.20 - Jan. 1

**Life Skills:** Prepare for Christmas - use a book, Advent calendar or chain.  
Find connections between Jesus' birth and Christmas symbols (star, candy cane, angel).

**Family Toolbox:** Recognize own name. Put away toys (PS)  
Print first name (capitalize fist letter only). Put away toys (4K)

## Extra Clothes

If your child has a set of clothes stored at the center, you may want to take a minute to check the type of extra clothing your child has at school in case of accidents. Now that the weather is cooler, you will want to substitute long sleeved shirts or pants if you had originally sent

short sleeves or shorts. The bags of clothes are kept in one of the bathroom cabinets. If you want to see what you have here, just ask a teacher to help you find your child's clothes.



## Child Care Clothing

The weather is getting colder, snow is on the way. Please make sure your child has adequate outdoor clothing as we go outside twice a day unless the wind chill is below zero. If boots are wet, leave them inside the door when you enter.

**Please label all hats, mittens, snow pants and boots.**

## Chapel

In December, we will be going to chapel on Dec. 18 (4K) and 19 (PS).

Parents are invited to join us at chapel - 10:00 am for 4K or 10 am for 3AM and 1:30 pm for 3PM. Come to the Child Care door and ring the bell. Meet us in the church.

We will then take the children to the bathroom and meet everyone in the 300

## 4K in December

Date	Jesus Time Themes	Additional Concepts & Skills
December 2-6	An Angel Visits Mary	Advent blue
December 9-13	Jesus is Born	Christmas Jj - Jesus #6
December 16-20	The Angels & the Shepherds	Christmas Nn - night star

## Snow Day Policy

If school is cancelled or Child Care is closed, we will send you a Lillio communication as soon as the decision is made. When the 3AM Preschool class is canceled or delayed by 2 hours, then the 3PM Preschool class is canceled too. (This applies to fog, building issues and snow days.) Pre-school and 4K do not receive refunds or reschedule days missed due to inclement weather.

wing like we did for the Fall Party.

All classes will have their Christmas party immediately following chapel.

**Please note that the 4K party is not on the last day of school, rather we will just have class on Fri, Dec. 20.**



## Library

All classes heard the books "Counting to Bananas" and "Old Mikamba Had a Farm" and "Apple Pear Orange Bear". We also told "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" with felt animals.

4K is scheduled to go to the library on Wed, Dec. 11. Drivers will be needed and we will leave at 10:50 am. Miss Britt will come from the library to visit the Preschool classes on Dec. 12.

4K  
Christmas Party  
Wednesday,  
December 28

No School  
Dec. 21 - Jan. 2

## Children in Church

We hear many of the children indicate they do not go to church or Sunday School. If you have avoided this because of the age of your child, here are some helpful suggestions when you are ready to try.

Here at school, your child is learning to sit and listen to stories about Jesus and is becoming familiar with what goes on in church as we go to Chapel. Try some of these ideas when you bring your child to church.

- ◆ Talk about church the night before.
- ◆ Sit near the front, if possible
- ◆ Use the children's bulletin, if available
- ◆ Point our pictures and symbols to children and explain them

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## Christmas Service



Just as you are preparing for Christmas, so are we. The children have been practicing finger plays and songs for the Christmas service. This will be held in church on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 6:30 pm. Extended family is invited.

Use the east entrance into the church. **Doors will unlock at 6:15 pm.** Bring your child to Room 100 which is on the far side of the large area you come into (behind the house). No special clothing is needed, just nice school or church clothes.

This is a worship service, so we ask that there be no clapping or flash photography during the service. Video is fine. Thank you!

Following the service, come to Room 100 to pick up your child and as you leave the building, there will be refreshments available.

We are asking those in the 3AM and 4K classes to bring 6-8 cookies, those in 3PM Preschool to bring a bottle of light colored juice or soda. Please bring these during the day of Dec. 2 or 3 so we have time to prepare the refreshment tables before the evening service.

As you busily prepare for Christmas, may your heart be calmed and filled with joy as you think of that tiny baby in the manger and what He did for you.

Have a safe and blessed Christmas!



Merry  
Christmas

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## WMELS Standards

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### Knowledge and Skills

#### Curiosity, Engagement & Persistence:

1. *Engages in meaningful learning through attempting, repeating, experimenting, refining and elaborating on experiences and activities.*

\*The Science Center has nature items as well as equipment to examine & work with.

#### Creativity & Imagination

1. *Uses complex scenarios in pretend play.*
2. *Explores movement, music and a variety of artistic media.*

\* Our kitchen area has clothes, food, tools and dolls to encourage dramatic play.

\* Creative play areas provide a situation for exploration such as a veterinarian's office.

\* These play areas are available for at least 2 weeks to provide more time to work with the materials.

\* Art activities use a wide variety of materials and media throughout the year.