



December, 2016

Dear Parents,

Happy Holidays! The month of December will be a busy one. We will be singing holiday songs, learning finger plays, decorating our classroom, hearing many Christmas stories, and exploring holiday celebrations that are different from ours. Anyone with clearances who would like to spend a morning or part of a morning with us is welcome. We will be very busy with our Christmas preparations and welcome the extra help.

Our concepts will include the review of shapes and numeral recognition. We will be talking about letters and their sounds. As we continue to learn our letters and numerals, please reinforce letters and numerals whenever you can. Most children can *recite* the letters in their names but are unable to recognize them out of order or in isolation. Bathtub foam and bathtub crayons are perfect Christmas ideas that can be used to practice letters and numerals while playing in the tub!

We continue to include social and emotional development activities throughout the week. We have been encouraging the children to interact with new friends and have been doing partner activities to help them in getting to know their classmates.

- Nov. 30 - Friends, and Sharing as Christmas Fun Begins
- Dec. 2 - We will hear a favorite Christmas story, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and will brainstorm ways we make others feel happy.
- Dec. 5 - *Mr. Willowby's Tree* and Evergreens
- Dec. 7 - *The Gingerbread Man* and *The Gingerbread Baby*. Lots of activities comparing and contrasting two fun stories.
- Dec. 9 - Sounds of Christmas. We will be hearing and playing all sorts of bells. Mrs. Shumaker will be sharing handbells with us.
- Dec. 12 - Reindeer Games
- Dec. 14 - Christmas Baking. *We will need three parents to help with cookie baking beginning at 10:15 AM.* Let us know if you are interested.
- Dec. 16 - Christmas traditions. Do we all celebrate the same way?



- Dec. 19 - Celebrating Christmas and Giving to Others. *We will need two parents to help with last minute Christmas preparations and set-up for our cookie exchange and carol sing with Mrs. Schramm and Mrs. Reigle's classes beginning at 10:15 AM.*
- **Christmas Break - Dec. 21-Jan. 2**
- Jan. 4 - A Happy New Year and a New Month!

Please note our school weather policy: If E-town Schools are closed, we are closed. If E-town Schools have late arrival we begin at 10:00 AM. However, if E-town schools are open and we decide to close, you will be notified by phone. *A Student Announce and Text Remind will be sent and the decision will be posted on Facebook.

Print a copy of our newsletter to keep close at hand in order to know what our daily topics are for each session. Reminder: children are encouraged to bring items to share that are related to our topics or educational in nature. We do not have a "show and tell" day assigned to each child. Toys should be left home for safekeeping.



Wishing you and your families a Blessed Holiday Season!

Happy Holidays! Kathy and Ann

December Ideas:

Learn some new Christmas songs. Dance to different types of music with your child. Talk about the music, "is it fast, slow, loud, soft, high, low?" Play CDs while riding in the car and sing along together.

Bake or cook with your child. Show how to measure different ingredients using a measuring cup or spoon. Talk about how the mixture changes throughout the process. Ask your child to help you "read" the recipe. Have your child make up their own recipe.

Keep practicing zipping and fastening coats and jackets.