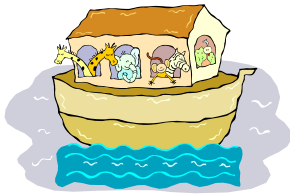




St. Mark Child Development Center



January, 2012 Newsletter



Ark Room

Happy 2012!! We hope you had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Welcome back to those who have been off for the break, we're glad to see you. We also welcome a new friend to the Ark Room, Jonathan Rasca.



January will be filled with snowflakes and pretend snow art projects, we could possibly see some real snow but we won't count on that (although Mrs. Rose would love it).

We can't believe it's time to send a few of our boys up to the Garden Room. We are so excited for those boys: Ryan, Dexter, Cole and Lucien, who have accomplished the big task of potty training. They did it and we are so proud of them!! We will miss them but we will see them sometimes. Many of our remaining children are working hard on toilet training and we'll continue working with them toward that big milestone!

Finally, "Thank you" to each of you that drove, brought cookies and went to the Carousel with us, we couldn't have done it without you. The kids had great fun and hopefully you did, too!

Mrs. Rose & Mrs. LaFrance



Garden Room

Wow, we can't believe it's January already - it seems the holidays went by quickly. Thanks to all of you who attended our Craft, Carols and Cookies event and to those of you who remembered us with little gifts of appreciation.

As we ring in 2012 we will welcome some new friends to our room from the Ark Room. A big "welcome" to Cole D, Dexter H, Ryan S, and Lucien M. We are excited for you to join us in the Garden Room.

Starting this month we will be reinforcing our shapes through art, group time activities and puzzles. Sharing this month will be related to our study of shapes.



January 3rd-6th Polar Pals This week we will swim with penguins, make fuzzy polar bears and talk about other animals that call icy places home.

Sharing: something square

Jan.9th-13th Things That Are Cold From ice cream and ice cubes to snowmen and snow we will talk about all things cold. We will paint with ice cubes and build snowmen and see what happens when cold things melt as they get warmer.

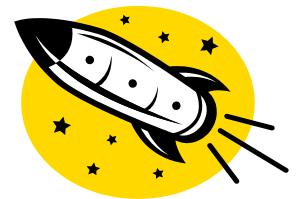
Sharing: Something Triangular

Jan.16th-20th Transportation Planes, Trains and Automobiles will be our focus this week as we fly paper airplanes, wheel paint and race cars around a race track.

Sharing: Something Round/Circular

Jan.23rd- 27th Space It's off to outer space as we explore the milky way, build rocket ships and count stars.

Sharing: Something Star/Crescent Shaped



Jan. 30th- Feb.3 Opposites From Big things like elephants to Little things like ants to Left and Right. We will talk about opposites and continue our shape study by talking about rectangles.

Sharing: Something Rectangular

Ms. Caty & Mrs. Watson



Safari Room

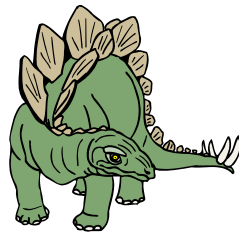
Happy New Year! We hope you and yours had a wonderful Christmas and are ready to head into 2012. It is hard to believe that that we are starting a new year, the last one flew by!

January brings an avalanche of learning and fun in the Safari Room. During the first half of January we will learn about the season (winter), the weather (cold & snowy?), and how animals and humans deal with winter (warmer clothing, hibernation & migration).



Art projects will include snowflakes, icy pictures and painting in tones of blue and white. Sensory activities will hopefully give us an opportunity to dig into some snow and ice. Science experiences will revolve around freezing and melting a multitude of items. Literacy activities will focus on letters W (winter), I (icy), and B (bears). We'll also use the book The Big Snow to learn about hibernation, camouflage and migration.

We'll finish the month roaring that D is for Dinosaur! We are off to explore the world of dinosaurs - Who ate plants? Who ate meat? What does "extinct" mean? Who was the biggest and who was the smallest? We will answer these questions and more during our two-week exploration.



Art will include name-o-saurus, dino prints, dino- eggs and dino masks. We will also read, sing and dance to Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp, as well as other dinosaur stories. We hope to take a field trip to the A.C. Gilbert Museum to visit their Dinosaur room. Watch for more information coming to your mailbox soon.

Sharing:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1/3 – 1/6 | Child's choice |
| 1/9 – 1/13 | Something you can use in the winter |
| 1/16 – 1/20 | Something about animals in winter |
| 1/23 – 1/27 | Something about dinosaurs |
| 1/30 – 2/3 | Child's choice |

Mrs. Summers & Ms. Courtney



Crayola

Room

Happy New Year! We hope your holidays were filled with wonder and lots of time to enjoy family, friends, and the season. It's hard to believe we're at the midpoint of our "school" year. Please help your child make the most of the time left by making sure they arrive promptly, well-rested, and dressed appropriately for the weather. Hopefully, this will contribute to a healthy classroom atmosphere.

January 3-6 Ring in the New Year!

We'll catch up with each other, talk about the New Year, and the tradition of making resolutions. We'll reflect on what we've learned and what we will learn in the time we have left together.

Sharing – something you got for Christmas

January 9-13 Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

Regardless of whether we get the white stuff, we'll learn about it – what is snow? What happens to water when the temperature drops? We'll do some fantastic experiments to find the answers to these questions. Art activities will include ice cube painting and ice "sculpting." Thursday the 12th for lunch day, we will furnish ice cream sundaes for dessert.

Sharing – your favorite ice cream topping

January 17-20 Caps, Coats & Mittens

We'll spend the week talking about the change in season. Activities will include taking winter walks, writing winter books, and reading books about winter. We'll take this opportunity to work on small motor skills we use to button, snap, tie, and zip. We will also be introducing and practicing sight words, so watch for more information on your child's page.

Sharing – something you can use in the winter

January 23-27 Animals in Winter

How do animals "weather" winter?

One of our favorite books, The Big Snow, tells the story. We'll read



about hibernation, migration, and camouflage as we study animals in the winter. We'll also learn about animals that spend their entire lives in cold climates.

Sharing – something about an animal that lives in a cold climate or relates to hibernation, migration or camouflage



January 30 - February 3 It's Black and White

This week we'll talk about opposites. We'll also celebrate Ground Hog Day and experiment with shadows (light and dark).

Sharing – a pair of opposites

Thanks for the great turnout for our Merry Melodies and Marvelous Munchies. We hope you had as much fun as we did!

Mrs. Garner & Ms. Stefani



Congratulations to Ms. Stefani! She gave birth to a baby girl on December 27. Mom & baby Giselle are doing well. We hope to post some pictures soon!

Mrs. Garner's husband, John, will be having heart valve replacement surgery January 4. Mrs. Garner will be taking some time off to be with him during recovery. When she is out, Mrs.

Summers & Ms. Joyzanne will be subbing in the Crayola room. We thank you for your prayers and good thoughts.



The staff would like to thank each of you who took the time to remember us during the holidays.

The cards, goodies and gifts are very much appreciated. We know it's a busy time and it means a lot that you took the time to think of us.

Special thanks to those who remembered Mr. Freeman and Theresa. We couldn't do our job without their help.



Parentline

1. **TAX INFORMATION:** For all those energetic, organized people who are already starting their tax returns, you will need the following information if you are claiming childcare costs. *Please use the information as printed, we have only one tax number and all programs at the church must use the correct number and name.*

Provider Name: ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Not St. Mark Child Development Center)

Tax I. D. Number: 93-0417819

We will put a statement that shows how much you paid during the 2011 year in your box later this month.

2. **UPDATES:** I am currently checking immunization information due to Marion County Health this month. If your child is missing or not up-to-date on immunizations, he/she will be excluded from care. This is one time when procrastination will really cause problems, because parents often find they must wait 3 - 4 weeks for an appointment for immunizations. If and when your child receives immunizations, please let me know so we can keep records up-to-date. This saves paperwork and headaches (mostly for me). **ALSO, any other changes (addresses, employment, phone numbers, etc.) should be passed on to a staff member so we can keep records current.**

3. At the beginning of the year, we ask each child to bring a change of clothing to leave at the Center. It might be a good time to check to make sure your child's clothing still fits and is appropriate for winter weather. Also, some clothes have gone home, but no replacements have come back. If your child has an accident or needs to change for some reason, it is always easier if s/he has familiar clothing (especially underwear). If you've borrowed clothing from the Center, please return it so we have extras on hand (we've usually written "CDC" on the tags.)

4. Another reminder that the sign-in books are very important. These are the records that are used by the Child Care Division to check our attendance and ratios. They also can (and have been) subpoenaed by courts in child custody cases and lawsuits. Please make sure you sign in and out legibly and initial the times your child is here. Please do not let your child sign in or write on the pages - we have plenty of paper and opportunity for your child to write on something of less importance. Also, be careful of which line you sign in/out on. Because of our ever

changing attendance patterns, your child's "space" may be in a different place.

5. If you have pictures you took at any of the holiday events (Thanksgiving feast, caroling, cookie sharing, etc) and you would be willing to share them please talk to a staff person or if they're digital, email to maureens1@live.com or summers2274@msn.com. We try to put together a portfolio of pictures "documenting" the year and we'd love it if you share some of your shots. Thanks.

6. I hate to harp on this, but we are not a "drop in" child care center. We offer a number of different schedules - class only, half day and full day options - and we staff accordingly. If your paid time is "class only" (9:00 - 12:00 noon) your child may be here from 9:00 - 12:00 noon. Please do not drop your child off at 8:25 or 8:35. We are not always staffed for these extra children and that means we are not in compliance (a problem if our certifier drops in.) unless we shift someone from prep time or break. We have adjusted staff schedules so they can finish their room set up by 8:45, gather their half/full day students for a toileting and hand washing time and be in the classroom ready to start at 9:00. If your paid time is 9:00 - 12:00 noon, please feel free to wait with your child in his/her classroom until the teachers and half/full day students arrive.

The same applies to pick up. Some of our staff leave or go on break at noon, and once again we do not typically staff for extra children at lunch. If you wish your child to arrive earlier or stay later, you need to make arrangements with the director, so she can change your child's schedule and staff accordingly (and you can be billed for the extra time).

Not sure of your child's paid time - check the sign-in book or ask the director. Thanks for your help on this. We run on a very tight budget and in order to keep child care fees affordable and still meet our expenses, we keep a close eye on staffing costs and the bottom line.



Director's Corner:

The new year is traditionally a time to take stock and make resolutions.

I know I always start the year with good intentions and I plan to eat right, lose a few pounds and exercise 3x a week - or at least I'm going to try! But life gets busy and there always seems to be an excuse - I resolve this year will be different because I'm going to take care of myself even if I get busy!

Parents are very busy people - busy working for, planning for and caring for the important people in your life: your children, your spouse or significant other, your parents, co-workers, etc. As the new year begins, take a moment to see if you're on your list of people to take care of. If not, you should be, you're important too. Remember that parents who feel good about themselves are better for children - you're teaching your child through example habits that will be important in their future.

May I suggest a few resolutions to consider in 2012?

1. Resolve to praise yourself. There are no awards or bonuses for being a parent, but there are a number of things you do well and you should acknowledge them.
2. Resolve to keep in touch. Find other parents to share thoughts and ideas with (not just gossip). Talking to others can give you some new insights, ideas and support. And resolve to take time to talk to staff, read the newsletter, bulletin boards and dry erase boards at the Center - this will help you keep in touch with us.
3. Resolve to take it one day at a time. Don't try to accomplish it all in one day. Remember, "Life by the inch is a cinch, life by the yard is too hard." Breaking things down into small segments will keep you from breaking down.
4. Resolve to set a good example. People remember 20% of what they hear, 30% of what they see, 50% of what they see and hear and 80% of what they see, hear & do. If you really want to teach your child you can't just talk the talk - you have to walk the walk hand in hand with your child.

5. Finally, resolve to eat right, lose a few pounds and exercise 3X a week - oh and pay your child care bill on time ☺ I hope 2012 is filled with many blessings for each of you!

Maureen Keough Summers

