



“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Luke 2: 11-12

From Lori – Christmas Greetings to all of our Asbury Preschool families. Advent begins a special time of year as we anticipate and then celebrate the birth of Jesus. Classes will have lots of Christmas fun as they share the Christmas story, create special gifts for loved ones, and sing lots of their favorite Christmas songs and accompany themselves with bells. You will also have an opportunity to assist the Backpack Buddies program with a food drive the week of December 5.

Thanks to all the parents who filled out evaluations over the recent weeks. If you have lost or forgotten yours, please stop by the office and fill one out. It's not too late to participate. Next year you will be filling one out for the National Association for the Education of Young Children as we go through our reaccreditation process.

There is a lot of excitement in the air during this time of year for families as they prepare for special holiday traditions and customs. For preschoolers, a good night's sleep and a fairly typical daily routine will help alleviate the meltdowns that come with overnight guests, sharing rooms or toys with cousins, and the general busyness of the season.

Child Development Notes

Helping Children Experience the True Spirit of Christmas

By Janet Bickel, Family Ministries Director

For families with young children, Christmas is an exciting time of year. It can be a wonderful opportunity for parents to begin and/or continue family traditions and to enjoy experiencing the wonder and joy that we see in our children as they “catch the spirit”. Our culture today makes it easy for families to get so caught up in the holiday spirit that we lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas. It is so tempting to want to make the Christmas season so wonderful for our children, that we overdo with too many gifts and too much excitement. Here are a few tips to encourage your family to have a special, yet balanced Christmas experience.

It's easy to make Santa and getting presents the BIG DEAL of Christmas. Be careful in asking your young children for a list of what they want from Santa. This sets a dangerous precedent for the years to come. Truthfully, too many presents are very overwhelming for a child. Some families have found creative ways to limit what Santa brings. At my house, the main present came from Mom & Dad, and Santa filled the stocking and brought a minor gift. Some families limit Santa to 3 presents, just like the Wise men brought Jesus 3 presents.

Make the Christmas season about doing for others. This is a great time for us to model the old adage “It is better to give than receive.” Engage your whole family in ways to do special, thoughtful things for others. Make cookies or fudge for neighbors. Have your children create Christmas cards or gifts and then give them to friends, grandparents, etc. Adopt a child through the Salvation Army Angel Tree program or another organization. Get creative in finding ways for your children to focus on giving instead of getting.

Share the Christmas story over and over again at Christmas. Make it the centerpiece of your Christmas experience. The birth of Jesus is one of the most wonderful stories we can share. There are so many aspects of this story that have the opportunity to fill our children with wonder...animals in the stable, shepherd boys, angels, wise men, a mom and dad who love their new baby, the majesty and awe of God. There are many children's Christmas books available that can help you imbed this story in your children's hearts.

Begin or continue family traditions. Use an advent calendar to unfold the Christmas story. Make a special family recipe together. Going out to get the Christmas tree...Whatever the tradition or activity is, make it special for this season. At our house, Dad (who doesn't cook!) taught our children to make an old family fudge recipe. It was something his grandmother and mother did when he was little, and it was important for him to pass it on to his children.

For parents, we can get so caught up in wanting to make Christmas an exciting time for our family, that we can overdue it and wear ourselves out. Make sure as you begin this wonderful season that you keep a balance and calmness in your own life. There is a lot to be said for keeping things simple. Just make sure that you make the important things the important thing!

Classroom News

Miss Susanne and Miss Jennifer's Toddlers – It's the most wonderful time of the year! We have lots of special activities planned for this month. We will be talking about the birth of Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas. Our toddlers love music so we will be singing lots of Christmas songs and listening to Christmas music-yeah! Before we all say goodbye for the holidays we will have a Christmas celebration on Tuesday, December 13th! Happy holidays! *Love, Miss Susanne and Miss Jennifer.*

Miss Kellie and Miss Rebekah's Twos - This is such an exciting time of year, and it is fun to experience it with the children! We will be very busy this month making special things for Christmas. We will enjoy decorating gingerbread cookies and will experiment with the wonderful smells and sounds of the holiday season. We will read stories and talk about the reason we celebrate Christmas. Our mornings will be filled with holiday songs, stories and crafts. We hope everyone enjoys this special time of year and has very Merry Christmas! *Love, Miss Kellie and Miss Rebekah.*

Ms. Maxine and Ms. Suzanne's Twos – We hope everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday. We certainly had a good time getting ready for "Turkey Day." We realize how much we have to be thankful for and tried to relay that feeling to our young children. It won't be long now before Jack Frost will come nipping at our nose! Soon yuletide carols will be sung by our tiny tots (our twos) and we will find that the wonderful season of Jesus' birth is upon us. It is a time to introduce the Christmas story to the children and help them understand the real meaning of this special time. It is a time to think of being with our family and friends to share in the message of love that the birth of Jesus

brought to us. We will celebrate with merry decorations and simple gifts we plan to make. May all our families have a very Joyful Christmas and a Peaceful New Year! *Love, Ms. Maxine and Ms. Suzanne.*

Miss Susanne and Miss Jennifer's Twos – It is my favorite time of year and we have so many fun things planned for December. We will be talking about the birth of Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas. We will work on many fun art activities to celebrate the Holidays. We will also talk about Hanukkah and learn some Hanukkah songs as we learn about others who have celebrations in December. We will be singing all of our favorite Christmas songs! Our month will end with a Christmas Celebration on Thursday, December 15th. So let's rock around the Christmas Tree and have some fun! *Love, Miss Susanne and Miss Jennifer.*

Miss Mary Ann, Miss Sandy, and Miss Lee's Threes – This is our favorite time of the year as we share the joy and wonder of the season with the threes. We will read the story of the birth of Jesus and retell the story with our nativity figurines. Our threes will be busy with holiday art activities, decorating our bulletin board with angels and making some special surprises for Mom and Dad! We are learning to give and share our love as we participate in giving a new pair of pajamas to children who are in need. Scholastic will pair the pajamas with a new book. We love to hear and feel each child's excitement as they tell us about putting up their Christmas trees or decorate their house with lights. Our year will end with a holiday party and some good food to eat. We wish you and your family a very blessed Christmas. *Love, Miss Mary Ann, Miss Sandy, and Miss Lee.*

Ms. Diane, Ms. Alison, and Ms. Lee's Threes – 'Tis the season in Ms. Diane's Threes! Our class will be busy getting ready for the holidays. We will put up our classroom tree for us to decorate as many times as we choose! We will make decorations while learning the "Reindeer Hokey Pokey" and eating "Moosletoe" cookies. During all of the fun festivities, we will also take time to learn about the real reason for Christmas...the birth of Baby Jesus. We wish our Asbury families a wonderful holiday season and Happy 2012! *Love, Ms. Diane, Ms. Alison, and Ms. Lee.*

Miss Corene and Miss Georjeanne's Threes – Yes! The holiday season is upon us. We look forward to the excitement of Christmas. Our class will explore the symbols of Christmas and we will celebrate Jesus' birth. We will continue to work on math concepts using numbers 1-10, shapes, and continue to work on our fine motor skills with lots of cutting. We wish our students and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! *Love, Miss Corene and Miss Georjeanne.*

Miss Corene and Miss Grace's Fours – We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We have much to accomplish in the few short weeks before Christmas. Our focus will be on the birth of Jesus and the symbols of Christmas. We will talk about Advent and the true meaning of Christmas. We will also be working with the numbers 1-10, shapes, and colors through some Christmas holiday fun. You can allow your children to help wrap gifts, use tape, sort gifts by categories, and counting gifts. Patterns can be included by looking at ornaments and colored lights. It's a wonderful way to review concepts in a fun way. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our Asbury friends! *Love, Miss Corene and Miss Grace.*

Miss Beth, Miss Verna, and Miss Julie's Fours As the wise men did centuries ago, we are anxiously awaiting the celebration of Jesus' birth. We begin the month by discussing Advent and then we will explore various holiday customs around the world. At the end of the month we will put on a play of our version of the Christmas story. We will do this during chapel and for our class families on December 15 and 16. Letters for the month include C and L. We want to wish you a blessed Christmas and a

joyous New Year. *Love, Miss Beth, Miss Verna, and Miss Julie.*

Ms. Marty and Ms. Letty's Fours – We'll begin this month discussing the Advent season and ways we prepare for Jesus' birthday—the best birthday ever! We'll have an Advent wreath to count the weeks until His birth. We'll have a service project that will help children in our community. The month will end with some Santa fun and we will be reminded that the reason for sharing gifts is because of God's great gift to us. We wish you and your family a very blessed holiday season. *Love, Ms. Marty and Ms. Letty.*

Miss Jill and Miss Shirlee's Fours – We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. It is hard to believe the Christmas season is upon us—the most wonderful time of the year. This will be a very busy time for our class. We have a lot to accomplish in a short amount of time. We will explore Christmas traditions around the world and also learn about other holiday traditions of different cultures such as the celebration of Hanukkah and Kwanza. The true Christmas meaning—Jesus' birth—will be shared in stories and songs. We have begun our seventh annual Teddy Bear collection for the children at Duke Hospital as we share in the joy of giving during this holiday season. We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! *Love, Miss Jill and Miss Shirlee.*

Mrs. Rodwell and Mrs. Brownlow's Transitional Kindergarten—"It's the most wonderful time of the year." December is all about Christmas as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ the Son of God. Five-year-olds have a little different take on December. As parents are busy planning religious celebrations, decorating, etc., little ones can become overwhelmed. We will start the month talking about evergreen trees. We will identify evergreen trees on our campus and compare them to deciduous trees. Our class will learn about Martin Luther starting the tradition of using evergreen trees in celebrating the birth of Jesus. Our class will then focus on "The Christmas Story". There will be stories, songs, and props to tell the story of Jesus' birth. HE is the reason for the season. Our students will also enjoy sharing Christmas traditions. We will decorate Christmas trees, make a present for our parents,

bake cookies, and decorate a “gingerbread house”. It is a wonderful time of the year for Christians! Merry Christmas to all of our families! *Love, Mrs. Rodwell and Mrs. Brownlow.*

Miss Judy’s Music Notes – Thanksgiving and “Turkey Days” are now over and we will begin focusing on the Christmas season. What a wonderful time of the year. We will be singing lots of songs about baby Jesus, playing bells and other instruments, and having a great time. We will also be doing our favorite song, “Jingle Bells,” which the children have been patiently waiting for all year! I would like to wish each of you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. *Love, Miss Judy.*

**Song of the Month
“Bells Are Ringing”**

Bells are ringing, Bells are ringing,
Baby Jesus born today.
Bells are ringing, Bells are ringing,
Baby Jesus born today.
Celebrate His birth in Bethlehem,
Celebrate His birth with Joy!
Bells are ringing, Bells are ringing,
Baby Jesus born today!

Mark Your Calendar

December

- 1: Preschool tuition due.
- 5-9: Holiday Backpack Buddies food drive.
- 10: Asbury Music Ministries Cantata program at 7 pm
- 11: Asbury Music Ministries Cantata program at 9:30 am
- 19-Jan2: Christmas Holiday break through January 2.
- 24: Family Worship Service 4pm
- 24: Candlelight Service at 6pm and 11pm
- 25: Christmas Day Service at 11am

For more worship schedule information go to www.asburyraleigh.org

January

- 3: Welcome Back!
- 16: No Preschool. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 23: No Preschool. Wake County Teacher Work Day
- 24-27: Preschool Registration for Currently Enrolled Families. Please view registration

procedures and download registration forms from the website at www.asburyraleigh.org/preschool or click on the link:

http://i.b5z.net/i/u/1413433/f/RegistrationProcedures_2012-13.pdf

Announcements

With all the Holiday baking and cooking during the month of December, please remember to save those Boxtops for Education, connect your Harris Teeter VIC card to our school #5751, and connect your Kroger card with our school too. If you need another UPC code for Kroger, stop by the office. You only need to link once each year. All money donated goes toward the Teel Padgett Scholarship Fund.

Playground Help: We love that our families use our playground after preschool to play and socialize. We need your help in keeping the playground clean. Trash and food is being left on the playground and needs to be cleaned up. We want our playground clean and safe for our students. Debris makes the playground look untidy and also attracts unwanted animals such as bees and squirrels. Please wipe off the picnic tables and check for trash around the tables. You may bring your trash into the building or take it with you. Please cover the sandbox and put the toys in the storage box.

Tuition Reminder

Tuition is due on the 1st day of each month and you have until the 7th of each month to pay without a late fee. If you mail your check in and it is postmarked on or before the 7th, it is considered on time. The late fee for nonpayment of tuition is \$2 per day after the 7th. Checks should be made payable to “Asbury Preschool.”

Teacher Workdays listed on the Wake County calendar are not factored into your tuition since we are closed on those days.

If you have any questions regarding tuition, please check your preschool handbook or stop by the office.

If you need a receipt for flex spending accounts or other company reimbursements, place a note with your tuition check and we will put a receipt in your child’s tote bag.

TRAFFIC SAFETY ON CAMPUS

We'd like to remind all of our families to follow the driving directions sent out previous memos. ALL traffic flows counterclockwise around the property whether you enter from Creedmoor Road or Rangecrest. Off of Rangecrest, there are directional arrows painted on the blacktop. Please inform those caregivers, grandparents, and neighbors who are also bringing your children to school of our traffic patterns. We have plenty of parking spaces all around the buildings so there is no need to drive the wrong way around the traffic dividers to grab a spot. **DRIVE SLOWLY** and cautiously and keep children buckled. We love our Asbury Preschool families and want everyone to do their part to make it safe for everyone!