



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

DECEMBER 2022 265TH EDITION

From the Director . . .

The holidays have arrived and December is one of the busiest months here at Circle of Friends. Every room is busy and lately, EVERY ROOM IS COUGHING! I would, again, like to remind all of our families that fever is not the only indication of illness. Additionally, RSV is circulating at dangerous levels and I have heard from two of our parents that work at local hospitals that pediatric units are filled. Just because your child has a "mild" case of something, does not mean that it would be a mild case for all of their classmates. I strongly encourage parents to inquire with your pediatrician if your child has symptoms and please have them tested when possible! I am very excited to have the pageant back in person this year, but we cannot and will not be able to have it if too many children or too many staff are sick.

I have a very bittersweet announcement to share. After 23 years of dedicated service to the Circle of Friends community, Miss Karen, Infant Teacher extraordinaire, is setting her sights on a well-deserved retirement and spending more time with her soon-to-be retiring husband, Dave, and their family. Karen was part of the team that opened COF back in 1999 and she has been taking tremendous care of our littlest friends ever since. She will be finishing her tenure here at the end of 2022.

The entire center community benefitted from Karen's leadership and passion for both learning and teaching. The smooth functioning of the infant room, and the continued success of our children as they made their way down the hallway, is evidence that Karen made it a priority to give generously of her time, love, and experience.

All of us here will miss Karen, and never forget her contributions to our school. Please join us in wishing Karen all the best in her retirement.

Please make sure to read the Special Events section below. There is very important info there about our Christmas Pageant and closings.

Lastly, you should have received an letter about our Angel Tree in the lobby. If you have any questions about it please feel free to ask any staff member or myself.

MANNERS MATTER

12/05/22 - Don't talk about your friends behind their backs.

(Don't gossip)

12/12/22 - Follow along when we read in class.

12/19/22 - After eating, be responsible for your trash.

12/26/22 - If anyone bumps into you say "Excuse me" even if it's not your fault.

THEMES:

- Christmas Around The World
- The Nativity (Pageant 12/14)
- I'm So Excited for Santa!
- Happy New Year!

Staff Birthday

Dec. 3rd - Miss Amy

Special Events: Mark your calendars!!

December 12th - Tri-county Association for the Blind will be here for a FREE vision screening for all children age 2 and up.

December 14th - Christmas Pageant at 1pm

December 15th - Christmas Movie/PJ Day

December 26th - Circle of Friends closed for the Christmas holiday

January 2nd - Circle of Friends closed for the New Year holiday

MISS KAREN AND MISS JILL'S INFANTS



December is a joyous, busy, and fun time of the year! Regular routines help keep to your baby happy, while you squeeze everything else in around eating and sleeping times. Happy babies mean HAPPY HOLIDAYS! Do your best to stick to those routines.

The entire center is starting to prepare for our Christmas program which is back for the 1st time since Covid! It will be held on Wednesday December 14 at 1p.m. in the gym. Mark your calendars, and try to join us for this fun and exciting event! The pre-K and preschool classes will be doing the First Christmas play. After that, you'll get to watch videos of the toddlers and babies doing some cute Christmas activities. Santa will also make an appearance and give each child a gift.

We welcomed our 8th and final baby to our class on November 28. Her name is Sawyer. Our big one year olds, Lacey and Teddy, keep busy with looking at books, playing with cars, blocks and puzzles. Ruth has perfected her walking, and she loves to play chase and peek-a-boo with Lacey! Noelle is getting pretty good at cruising along while holding onto things, and she loves feeding herself. Conrad can sit by himself now, and he loves when I read books. Ben and Romy love being in the exersaucers and having their "big" friends come over and talk to them. They are also working on rolling.

It's with a heavy heart, that I'm saying good-bye to my co-teacher of 7 years, Miss Karen! She's been at the center since it opened back on August 31st of 1999. She'll be retiring on December 30. I've learned so much from her about babies, and life in general! I'll be sure to pass her knowledge on to parents and co-workers for many years to come. We will all miss her very much here at Circle of Friends, but we wish her a relaxing and fun retirement!

We wish you and your family a wonderful and safe holiday season. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our little babies!

MISS AMY AND MISS KELLY'S YOUNG TODDLERS



Happy December!

Since this is the season to be jolly, we've decided to make this newsletter a little cheerier than the last one! We have another busy month ahead of us! First up is Miss Amy's birthday. Make sure to wish her a happy birthday when you see her! We will also be focusing a lot on the holiday season with themes including "Christmas Around the World", "The Nativity", "I'm So Excited for Santa", and "Happy New Year!". We also have some fun events planned, like a Christmas pj and movie day, etc. However, our biggest event is our annual Christmas pageant that will be returning after 3 years. That day will look a bit different so make sure you pay attention to any paperwork that is sent home. The pageant festivities will begin at 1pm on Wednesday, December 14th. But that's in the middle of nap?! It is! We will have a "brunch" at 10am that day and then nap from 11am-12:30pm. Again, we will send out more information as we get closer to the date, but feel free to ask us any questions you might have.

Our monthly reminders for December are:

- Make sure to pack seasonally appropriate coats, hats, gloves, etc. DHS has no restrictions about outside time when it comes to temperature. We as a center have a standard on not going out if the feels like temperature is 29 degrees or below. Of course, the teachers will also use their judgment. Just make sure your child is always prepared.
- We are also asking that every child comes in with a tote bag or backpack. This is something that is asked for all the classrooms. If we have something to send home that can't fit in the blue folder, then we can have things lying around the hallway floor. Please also make sure your backpacks aren't overpacked with things your kiddos don't need while they are in our care.

Lastly, our Star of the Month is Luna! Luna just turned two and brought in a very yummy treat to share with her friends. You can tell Luna is around teachers 24/7 (her mommy is also a teacher). She has an expansive vocabulary and is always talking up a storm to anyone who will listen. She is also very helpful guiding our younger friends with the routines of our classroom. We enjoy having Luna in our class, especially when, as Luna will tell us, "I'm being silly". Here's to our Luna!

We hope everyone has a great holiday season and enjoys this time with their families. It was also one of our favorite time of years for that specific reason.

Merry Christmas!! And remember: WITWT!

MISS DEBBIE AND MISS JENNIE'S OLDER TODDLERS

Focuses

Green

Triangle

Learn words to new songs

Rolling a ball

Making a ball from clay

Ask for help when needed

Clean up toys when asked

The meaning of Christmas



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!! We are so excited for all our Christmas activities. We have so much going on this month here at school and I'm sure you do at home also. We had a great Thanksgiving, talking about what we were thankful for and how we thank God by praying. We were glad that we could go back to our big Thanksgiving Feast in the gym with all our center friends. Thank you Mr. Baer, Miss Courtney and the church kitchen helpers for making that possible. All of our kids ate great!

This month we will be busy decorating our room, making crafts, doing some gift making and continuing to practice for our special program. Maybe you have heard your children singing Christmas songs at home. We have been practicing A LOT so we hope everyone can going us on December 14th at 1:00 to see our program and enjoy the play presented by the preschool and pre-K classes. Santa will also be here to give out presents. We will also be having a movie day on Thurs, December 15. Feel free to have your children wear their PJs, Christmas ones or just their favorites. While doing our activities we will be talking about the meaning of Christmas and learning the Christmas story. The true meaning of why we celebrate.

Our star this month is Isabella (Izzy). Her favorite color is pink and she likes pigs. At circle time she likes to sing the turtle song. She told us that her favorite show to watch is Old McDonald and at home she plays with her horse. Her favorite foods are spaghetti, peanut butter sandwiches and goldfish.

With the weather changing and getting colder please keep in mind that we still go outside everyday weather permitting. PLEASE be sure your child has a winter coat, hat and gloves. On snowy days be sure they have snow pants and boots too. PLEASE be sure EVERYTHING is labeled so we know what items belong to each child. Continue to read your child's daily paper to be aware of any

special activities happening the next day and for items needed. Thank you for all your help!

Have a wonderful Christmas and many blessings to you and your family!

MISS SHELLI'S PRESCHOOL

Focuses

Mental- Color white/ number 4 / star shape

Physical- Walking forward and backward on lines

Emotional- Feeling joy and happiness/ making others happy

Social- cooperative play with others

Spiritual- The true meaning of Christmas.



Hello and happy December!

It's hard to believe that it's the last month of 2022 already, and that we are preparing for our holiday pageant. Hopefully things will stay on track, and we will be able to perform our play live this year, instead of video taping.

The day of our pageant we will have a change to our daily schedule. We will be eating brunch around 10:00, and having a very short rest time from 11:00 until 12:00. We look forward to seeing you here for the pageant beginning at 1:00!

As I have already let you know, we will continue to spend most days practicing. I will not be sending home a fridge calendar during the first week and a half of the month. I will not be sending a fridge calendar home the week between Christmas and New Years either, due to the low attendance that we usually have.

The Thursday after our Holiday pageant we will enjoy our annual Christmas movie day! Everyone is invited to wear their pajamas on that day! Please wear sneakers with the pajamas.

We will also be spending several days, the week before Christmas, doing some holiday crafts that were requested by the children!

In looking forward to January, we will be resuming our alphabet, with the letter Jj!

I would like to remind everyone that if you have not switched the clothes, in your child's extra bag, please do so as soon as possible. I would also like to remind

everyone that we still go outside during the cold months. Please always make sure that your child has the correct outdoor clothing items for the day.

Our star of the month for December is Penelope! Penny's favorite color is purple and she likes to eat grapes! She likes to listen to the music that Ariel sings in "The Little Mermaid" and she likes to read about Belle in "Beauty and the Beast". Penny's favorite activity is playing with her Elsa dolls! Yes, Penny likes her princesses.

Have a great month and a happy Christmas!

MISS CATHY'S PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Happy holidays from the PreK room! I know, it seems as if you were just choosing your child's Halloween costume, and now it's almost Christmas! We are certainly busy in our classroom, but it's "fun" busy!

In addition to our regular classwork, crafts, Bible study, Bible verses, book times, playground/gym time, we also have play practice! Our portion of the school Christmas program is a Nativity play, the text of which is taken directly from the Bible. We generally rehearse three days a week with Tuesdays and Thursdays as "normal" school days. We are also learning several traditional carols which will be featured in the play. I hope you will all be able to attend this special event!

We went from outdoor temperatures in the 70s to COLD rather abruptly! Your children are doing a great job fastening their jackets, especially the zippers! If there are days ahead when it's cold in the morning but forecasted to be mild in the afternoon, it's perfectly fine to send in two jackets, heavy and light.

Parents, there is a rather serious issue I unfortunately need to address. In the past few weeks, there have been several verbal threats to others by children in our class. These threats have ranged from mild ("I'm going to tell your dad to pull you out of school") to harsh ("I'm going to get a gun and shoot you!"). In

school next year, threats could have significant consequences for your child which may include suspension or the involvement of law enforcement. According to a public school teacher that I consulted about this matter, a school's official response depends on the principal's policy regarding threats against other children. This is a serious matter that each family should discuss at home. As of now, I am pulling aside the child making the threat and quietly discussing it with them; if the situation does not resolve or escalates then other actions may need to be taken. I wish that I did not have to discuss something so negative in my Christmas newsletter article but this is an important issue. No one should feel threatened at school.

With that being said, I wish all of our families a blessed and joyous Advent and Christmas. Find time for moments of quiet during this busy, busy time! When my girls were little, we had "Tree Time" once or twice a week during December: the Christmas tree lit, soft holiday music playing, lights off, and cuddling together on the sofa. Tree Time! May you enjoy and delight in your own family traditions! Merry Christmas!

Until next time, Miss Cathy