



😊 Small Talk 😊

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethlehem Preschool December 2018

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Happy Holidays!!

The staff of Bethlehem Preschool would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday season.

At Bethlehem Preschool, we love celebrations and strive to include our families' traditions into our program. At this time of year, we encourage our families to share their holiday traditions with their child's class. This can be done through the sharing of items (books, food, games, etc.) or classroom visits to share family traditions and cultural heritage. Please see your child's teacher if there is something that you would like to share with the class.

Holiday Caring and Sharing Programs

Bethlehem Preschool is once again participating in the Bethlehem Community **Holiday Caring and Sharing Program**. The program is asking for the donation of **grocery gift cards**. If you would like to participate, please take a tag from a board around the building and leave the purchased gift card at the front desk or hand the card to a staff member by **December 13**.

We are also collecting new, unwrapped toys for **"Toys for Tots."** Please leave the toys in the box by the front door.

The Pre-k classes are coordinating the collection of non-perishable food for a local food pantry. Please deposit your non-perishable donations in the collection boxes found between the Pre-k classrooms. Thank you!

The Next Step: Becoming a Kindergartener

Please join us for our workshop, **The Next Step: Becoming a Kindergartener** in **January 2019**. This workshop is geared for parents of the Pre-K 3/4s and Pre-K 4s children who will enter kindergarten in the fall of 2019. Topics of discussion will include kindergarten screening, kindergarten standards, transitioning to a new school, and preparation at BPS for Kindergarten. Specific date and time will be announced in January.

BPS Closed

BPS will be closed on **Monday, December 24 & Tuesday, December 25**. We will also be closed on **Tuesday, January 1, 2019**.

Winter Weather Closings

BPS rarely closes for winter weather. If we are closed for any emergency, the closing would be announced **on TV, radio and internet along with other school-closing announcements**. We would be listed under **Bethlehem Preschool**. (Please note we are **NOT a part of a Bethlehem Central School District** closing.)

Fund Raisers

SaveAround Coupon Book \$25: We were very successful with our sale of the SaveAround Coupon Books this year! Thanks to everyone who sold them!! We still have a few books available for sale into December. They make a perfect gift for everyone or make a great gift for a holiday grab bag.

Extra Clothes for BPS

We are in need of boys (size 4T and larger) **underwear and pants** for our extra clothing box. If you have any to spare, please bring them in. Thank you!

Scholastic Books

We will place our December order for Scholastic Books **on December 10** before the holidays. This will allow the books to arrive by December 21. Please look on-line (www.scholasticbooks.com) for all of the available catalogs and use our school code (**GDTCJ**) to place your order.

Classroom Notes

Infant Room: The cold weather is getting closer and closer! Please remember to bring in warm clothes and snow gear. Please check your child's supplies and clothing box to make sure we have everything they need.

We have been switching up the toys and books to relate to the seasons throughout the year. The children are more interested in, and playful with, "new" toys. Try hiding some toys and bring them out again after a few weeks.

Help us prevent coughs and colds by washing your child's hands when they arrive at school.

Don't hesitate to speak to us about any questions or concerns you may have.

Happy holidays to all our families.

~ **Michele & Brianna**

Toddler Room: We can't believe fall has come and gone. Time is flying by!

This month, we will be exploring **Colors and Shapes**. We will look at the many colors around our classroom and do various colorful art projects. We are looking forward to our **Color Week**, where we will wear a different color each day. Look for a letter in your child's mailbox for further information.

Be sure to check your child's extra clothing box for warm and size appropriate clothes. We try to go outside at least once per day, so please remember to bring in boots, snow pants, hats and mittens. **Label Everything!**

Keep an eye out for a special holiday gift. We would like to wish everybody a happy holiday!

~ **Alicia, Tara & Jenny**

Twos Room: Oh, how the time flies when you're having fun! The children have enjoyed our stage, dressing room and snack area. If you haven't seen our scarecrows, take a look. Each child has their own hanging on the wall – look up high!

For December, we will work on **"Celebrations."** We will keep our stage and bring in different instruments. We will talk about what we celebrate at home. We will also work on more shapes and lacing.

Please continue to bring in snow gear. Also, check clothing boxes for appropriate seasonal clothing.

~ **Kristen, Tera & Cassidy**

Threes Room: December is here; it's almost time for winter cheer! The Three Year Old Room enjoyed a happy November, especially during our study of **"Thanks and Giving."** Our cranberry relish was a big hit at our harvest feast. Thank you to all of the family members who joined us for our special meal.

This month the class will continue to learn about woodland animals, cozy down with the study of **"Hibernation,"** and enter the fanciful world of **"Gingerbread and Gumdrops."** The children have been working on recognizing their names in print and identifying the letters in their names. Make a game of it at home. Have your child go on a name scavenger hunt and match the letters in his or her name to print on cereal boxes, in books, on toy boxes or other labels.

Please remember it is getting colder outside...if that's even possible! Be sure to send in warm clothes for indoor use (think layers,) outdoor play, and extra clothes boxes.

We're looking forward to another exciting month of investigation, exploration and imagination!

~ **Jared, Ashley & Vanessa**

Pre-K 3/4s: The first 3 months are behind us, and we are extremely proud of the learning, growth and sense of community in our

classroom. As the students are growing, our Kindness Chain is as well!

Last month we started a study on families and traditions. We want to invite you to join us for a story time to share a family favorite book with us. Please sign up on our calendar posted on our "Window to the World" bulletin board for a day when you can come in.

This month we look forward to starting two new studies: "**Hibernation**" and "**Snow.**"

Happy birthday to **D, I, P, and O.**

~ **Maura, Stephanie & Brenda**

Pre-K 4s: December already?! Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving. Thank you for all the wonderful Family Turkeys! They were very creative! And we hope you enjoyed our Harvest Feast.

This month we will be working on the **letters K, U and V.** The month is also full of family traditions! If you would like to share a special family tradition with the class, please arrange a time to come in. We would love to hear a favorite story, make a favorite food with you, or share a game your family enjoys playing. Thanks for sharing with us!!

Please restock your child's extra clothing box, especially with pants and socks (which get very wet in the snow!) If you have any 4T+ pants or underwear that you can spare, please bring them in for our school's supply.

Happy birthday to **B, T and R.**

Happy Holidays to all!

~ **Tara, Sherry & Angie**

Important Dates

Dec. 10 – Deadline for Scholastic Book order

Dec. 13- Deadline for gift card donations, food drive and "Toys for Tots" donations

Dec. 24/25 - BPS closed for Christmas

Jan. 1 - BPS closed for New Year's Day

Jan. 15 – BPS closed for MLK Holiday