

The Joyful News



Joyful Noises, Inc
Preschool and Childcare

Volume 13, December 2009

Happy Holidays! Wow! I can hardly believe how fast the time is going. Tis the season of hustle and bustle, Ho! Ho! Ho! and more importantly it's a time for families to get together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The holidays are a special time for children, they do not get stressed about shopping or cooking or planning, but simply enjoy all the glitter and sparkle of the season. I know this time of year gets busy for all, but be sure to take a couple of moments each day to stop and enjoy what a child is experiencing this holiday season. Let them look at the Christmas lights for just a few more minutes, or let them decorate one last cookie and smile when they want to turn off all the lights in the living room before they are tucked in for the night just to sit and watch the sparkling Christmas tree. Take these moments to remind them of the reason we celebrate Christmas ... or maybe let them remind you. Have a happy and safe holiday season!

-Rev. Maryanne

To All our Joyful Noises Families

May His Peace fill your home and His joy shine upon the ones you love.

God bless you with the gentle spirit Christmas brings and all the seasons lovely things.



Dates to Remember:

Tuition is due on or before the 1st of the month

Friday, December 11

Pre-K Wenham Museum Field Trip

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve—No School

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day—No School

December 28—January 1

Winter Break —No School

Enrollment Forms Coming January 12th

Watch for summer and fall enrollment forms. They will go into the children's folders on January 12th. Fill them out and give them to Maryanne. She will date them as she receives them for slot preferences. Forms for existing families due by January 20th. Open enrollment to the public is after January 20, 2010.

Now is the time... Tell your friends and neighbors who are interested in summer and fall placement to call for an appointment to visit our school. Tours are available at your convenience. It is a great way to see the classrooms and meet the teachers.

New births

Ms. Linda is a new grandmother and Ms. Tayla is a new aunt. Makenzie Lynn was born on November 23rd.

Thank you, Thank you

A special thanks to Robert Connelly's grandmother for the donation of all the white paper for the children to draw upon.

The Birth of Jesus

Because Joyful Noises is a Christian preschool, our focus during the month of December is on the birth of Jesus and not Santa. Our hope is to help the children think of others and not just what is going on under the tree. That is why we have the children help others by giving gifts to homeless families.



December

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Have news, information or pictures to share in the newsletter?

Please contact our coordinating editor Bethany Cass at

bethany.cass@milliman.com.

More Notes ...



Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thank you to our parents for all the food collected for the Haven for Hunger during November. It was a great success this year!

Cradles for Crayons

Thank you to all the parents who brought in winter clothing items. Your generosity helped me donate eight large trash bags to the non-profit group Cradles for Crayons. The donations will be given to needy children throughout the Boston area. Thanks again! - Ms. Tayla

Caring for our Homeless Neighbors

This year again we will be collecting donations for homeless families referred to us by North Shore Head Start. Lack of adequate shelters has forced these families with children to live at hotels along Route 1. The items in greatest need include **diapers (all sizes), wipes, underwear, socks, boots (all sizes), hats, mittens and sweatpants** for children from birth to school age. The deadline for these donations is December 11th. We will be storing them in "The Little Engine That Could", made by the children in Pre K.



Toys for Tots Program

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots program is in need of support this season. "Because of the economy, more families are in need, but unfortunately that's influencing what people donate". New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at State Police barracks across Massachusetts, as well as a variety of companies and organizations. Log on to www.toysfortots.org for a complete list of drop-off sites, or call the Greater Boston Toys for Tots at (617) 737-0500. Cash donations can be sent to: Toys for Tots, P.O. Box 319, South Weymouth, MA 02190.



"Finding Christmas" - A Creative Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 13th 4:30pm followed by dinner in the Emerson Center. Directed by Jan Stover and Jason Iannuzzi, including Chancel, Children's Youth, Bell Choirs & Drama Ministry. A free will offering will be taken to benefit the High School Learning and Serving Team.

Did you know?



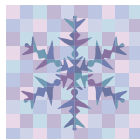
The Original St. Nicholas

In the early 14th century, Nicholas, the bishop of Myra (in southwest Turkey), secretly gave gifts of money to the needy. One legend says that he tossed 3 bags of gold coins in a window. They landed in the stockings—hung on the fireplace to dry—of 3 needy girls. St. Nicholas' Day is celebrated on December 6, in honor of this generous bishop. Today people in many countries continue to hang stockings, in hope that the spirit of St. Nicholas will visit them, too.



Snow Policy

It is our practice to keep school open whenever possible. However, adverse weather conditions and certain emergency situations may require the school to be closed, delayed, or dismissed early. Joyful Noises will be closed when the Tri-Town School Union closes school due to weather or emergency. The Tri-Town School Union manages the elementary schools in Topsfield, Boxford, and Middleton.



If there is a forecast of bad weather you can watch the following television stations or listen to the following radio stations to see if Topsfield schools are closed.

Television

WBX— Channel 4
WCVB—Channel 5
WHDH—Channel 7
WFXT—Channel 25

Radio

WBZ—1030 AM
WESX—1230 AM
WBUR—90.9 FM
WRKO—680 AM

We will also try to notify you regarding any school closing by email before 6:00am and will put a message on the school's answering machine.

Joyful Noises will open at 9:00am if the Tri-Town School Union reports a delay in opening Topsfield schools. This will allow for the church parking lot to be plowed and give time to the teachers to arrive at school safely.

In the event of a severe weather or emergency related warning made during school hours, the Director will decide whether to close school early and the Director will contact parents by phone to make pick up arrangements. If the school remains open, please use your own judgment when bringing your children to school. If Joyful Noises closes due to weather or emergency, parents are still responsible for payment.



Parents' Corner

Holiday Meltdowns

Young children are always prone to "acting up", but why does this seem to happen even more than usual this time of year? First, this isn't unusual behavior. A child "erupting" as a major holiday or birthday gets closer is a fact of life for most families. Period.

Why? When a holiday or birthday nears, it puts extra demands and stress on adults who often overlook that children also become stressed. This is because they get less relaxed time at home, while increased expectations of good behavior are placed on them in stores, among people they may not know well, etc. The following are several recommendations:

Be prepared. Give up false hopes that tension will disappear this holiday season, and be prepared instead. Just as you're in the habit of preparing for a relative's quirky behavior, so should you be ready for a child's meltdown. Transition times are crucial. Parents can ease a tense child by playing with him or her for 5 to 10 minutes before leaving for Grandma's. Elicit as much laughter as you can. This playtime is important—it'll help him/her feel more connected to you and regain his/her sense that life is good.

Remember, children full of tension simply have to let it out. Most children try to do their best to cooperate and be flexible. Then they hit "the wall" and they can't go another minute without "exploding". Children full of tension simply have to let it out. They're "wired" to release their emotion when they just can't think any longer. As stated, parents set themselves up for disappointment every time they think the behavior won't happen again. It will! The good news is that when children are done letting go of these bad feelings, most youngsters will again be reasonable, thoughtful, and flexible.

Tips on Toys this Holiday Season

The biggest threat to the health of children older than age 1 isn't some dread disease—it's accidental injury. More children are seriously hurt or killed by accidental injuries each year than any other factor. Fortunately, knowledgeable parents can prevent many mishaps. Consider the following suggestions concerning toys:

- > Read all warnings and instructions.
- > Consider a child's ability rather than age when purchasing toys—age warnings are *guidelines*, not guarantees of safety.
- > Avoid toys with sharp or rigid points, and dangerous edges.
- > Inspect toys for safe, sturdy construction.
- > Store toys properly after play to avoid trips and falls.
- > Avoid shooting toys that endanger eyes.
- > Avoid riding toys in hilly areas or inclined driveways.

Source: *Tips on Toys/Virginia Cooperative Extension*

Reading More Fluently

When Sally reads, she instantly recognizes most words. She reads sentences smoothly, understands what's happening in the story, and has good expression.

Sally is a *fluent reader*—her reading sounds like speech. The following are some ways to help your youngster read more fluently:



Be a good role model. When you read to your child, have him or her read along with you. Don't be surprised if your child tries to match his or her voice to yours. You can also alternate paragraphs or pages, or take turns reading for different characters.

Choose the right book. Your youngster should recognize *most* of the words. One or two unfamiliar words per page are OK as that will keep your child challenged. If he or she is having trouble reading smoothly, try picking an easier book.

Use expression. Punctuation marks are clues that tell us how to read something. Encourage your child to sound excited when he/she sees an exclamation point, and make his/her voice go up for a question mark. Teach your child to pause briefly at a comma and slightly longer at a period.

Check for understanding. If your youngster doesn't understand the book, he/she will sound choppy. And if your child is reading one word at a time, he/she will have a tough time following the plot. As your child reads, ask questions to make sure he/she understands the story.

Read-aloud Enjoyment

Some of the best times with your child may be when you share a story. Get the most out of reading aloud with these three easy tips:

1. Hold the book so your youngster can see the words and pictures while you're reading. Run your finger under the text, or point to interesting things in the illustrations.
2. Take your time and don't rush the story. Your child can tell if you're in a hurry. Reading slowly will help you read clearly—and give you and your youngster more time together.
3. Don't be afraid to stop reading a book if your child doesn't seem interested. Have a backup selection ready so read-aloud can continue.

Source: *"Reading Connection, Tips for Reading Success."*

Spanish



Hola!

In November (noviembre) we talked about life on the farm (La granja). We sang the song "Old McDonald Had a Farm" but changed the words to Spanish to name the animals (los animales). One of the animals missing from our farm was the turkey (el pavo), because of the Thanksgiving holiday. He was hiding! We also learned the song "We Give Thanks" (Damos las gracias) and I read the story Rosie's Walk (El Paseo de Rosie) about a chicken (la gallina) that was being pursued by a fox (el zoro)!

In December (diciembre) we will talk about how families in Mexico celebrate Christmas by having posadas. The custom of nativity scenes instead of a tree. We get the poinsettias we decorate our homes with from Mexico. Our color of the month will be green (verde).

I wish all my children and their families a very happy holiday!

Gracias,

Señora Suzanna

Toddler I Room



We have been busy learning about animals on the farm. The children made some cows, sheep, and ducks as well as turkeys. Old McDonald is a favorite song of ours. Many children can match the animal sounds to the correct animal and are enjoying singing along.

The books that we have been enjoying are I went walking by Sue Williams and also Animal Babies on the Farm by Kingfisher. We had a blast using a big rolling pin to roll out dough for animal cookies.

December will be fun and exciting. We will be making many holiday art projects including wreaths, ornaments and Christmas trees, as well as helping each child create special gifts for their family.

Congratulations to Eva for turning the big "2" on December 23rd. We would like to welcome Joseph to our new toddler class.

We wish you a healthy and joyous Christmas and New Year.

- Ms. Linda, Ms. Deb and Ms Dot

Toddler II Room



Vroom vroom, chug chug, toot toot, beep beep, on your mark get set go and we are off to a new adventure. We are traveling in buses, trains, planes and cars with this month's theme of transportation. We are also learning our colors and beginning to count when we do our projects. Books like I Wish I Were a Pilot by Stella Blackstone, We All Go Traveling by Sheena Roberts and The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper helped us support this theme. We talked to your children about where they went for Thanksgiving and if they took a car, train, bus or plane to get there.

Some of our favorite songs this month were The Wheels on the Bus, Little Red Caboose, and Airplanes. But the one requested most often was The Turkey Song which goes like this ...

It has been getting colder outside so please remember to send in warm coats, hats and mittens because we go out almost everyday and we want your children to be comfortable. Also, please check your child's extra clothing and make sure that it includes long pants and a long sleeve shirt that fits, they grow rather quickly at this age. As always, please label every piece of clothing even the mittens.

We are thankful for many things but especially for all our new Toddler II friends and their families that support us throughout the year. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

- Miss JoAnn, Miss Sue and Miss Cathy

TURKEY SONG

The turkey is a funny bird,
His head goes
wobble, wobble, wobble
But all he says
is just one word,
Gobble, gobble, gobble.



Preschool Room



The month of November was filled with discussions about "growing" food and "sometimes" food. We learned how "growing" food such as fruits and vegetables help us grow big and strong and how we do enjoy food like cookies and chips but they need to be eaten in moderation. The children painted with peppers and explored what corn niblets feel like through their fingers. Some fun stories we read were The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry and the Big Hungry Bear by Don & Audrey Wood, If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff and The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle. The children made their own "strawberries" with red play dough, counted chocolate chips and fed our hungry caterpillar "growing" and "sometimes" food.

As Thanksgiving approached the children learned about the very first Thanksgiving. They made pilgrim hats, Native American headbands and their very own teepees. The "Mayflower" sailed into our classroom! The children enjoyed painting a large cardboard box and using their imagination as they sailed the high seas. We explained how Thanksgiving was a time to think about all of the special people in our lives and give thanks for them. The children were asked what they were thankful for and their answers were written on their handprints, which we then made a wreath with. Every year we ask the children "How do you cook a turkey?" The answers are always so clever and funny. We sent the dictation home so you and your family could enjoy your child's thoughts on the subject!

As the month of December begins, we will introduce shapes of all kinds and learn about the different attributes that make them similar and/or different. We will discuss the upcoming holidays and the changing of fall to winter.

In November, we celebrated Carolyn's 4th Birthday! Thanks to all for donating your canned and boxed food and used clothing. It's a great way to teach your child about the importance of giving, especially during the holidays.

Have a safe & happy holiday season!

Miss Anne, Miss Jill, Miss Tayla, Miss Terry

Pre-K Room



We've been very busy preparing for Thanksgiving. Part of our preparations included making Pilgrim hats, pumpkin bread, cranberry relish, and cornbread in preparation for our feast where we will dress as Pilgrims and Native Americans. We began the month of November by learning about Native American Indians. We painted a large sheet as a cover for our tepee. We made headbands, dyed macaroni beads for necklaces, made shaker instruments, miniature teepees and canoes, clay bowls, painted with feathers, and did other related arts and crafts. We learned about the Pilgrim's hard voyage and how their Native American Indian friends showed them how to plant corn and vegetables and how to find native fruits and berries. The most important lesson we are learning is about being thankful to God and to count our blessings,

The children have been creating patterns and we have observed this skill carrying over into the children's play. We've been reviewing shape recognition, which constantly needs to be reinforced. We continue to add letters to our alphabet books. We've been working on our number concepts and we all do regular counting and number recognition activities during meeting, circle, and activity times. We are also all working on learning to write our names in lower case letters in preparation for Kindergarten. We celebrated the birthdays of Amber and Kate this month.

The boxes outside our classroom door were overflowing with your generous donations of food for the needy. Thank you! Some of the themes for December will be evergreens, trains [with a trip to the Wenham train museum], and Nativity.

Please remember to send labeled outdoor winter clothing-we go out every day except in the rain or bitter cold!

As the Pre-K teachers are counting our blessings, one that we are most thankful for is the privilege of working with your beautiful children and receiving their love in return.

Gratefully,

Ms. Judy + Mrs. W.

Chapel



Chapel will focus on the meaning of Christmas, the birth of Christ. You may hear your children singing new songs like the "African Noel" and "See the Little Baby". Words have been included so that you may sing along with your child. We will conclude the Christmas theme with the celebration of Epiphany on Wednesday, January 9th. Epiphany is the celebration of the wise men visiting Jesus and bringing him gifts.

African Noel

Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel (repeat)

Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel (repeat)

(sung an octave higher)

Sing we all Noel (clap) Sing we all Noel (clap)

Sing we all Noel (clap) Sing we all Noel (clap)

(sung an octave higher)

Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel (repeat)

Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel (repeat)

See the Little Baby

Chorus: See the little baby born in a manger,
on this Christmas morning bright as an angel.

See the little baby born in a manger. Sing No-e!!!
Sing No-e!!!

Verse 1: There were shepherds keeping their
watch, over sheep as the angels sang. There were
sages following the star. Sing No-e!!! Sing No-e!!!

Verse 2: "Come and see" said Mary and Joseph,
"Come and see what a wonderful child." Sheep and
ox all gathering around. Sing No-e!!! Sing No-e!!!

Joyful Noises Thanksgiving Feast

PICTURES OMITTED

Rev Maryanne's Corner

After 6 years of being breast cancer free, I had a mammogram last week and abnormal precancerous calcifications were found. I will again have to have minor surgery and radiation. So as I reflect on what I am thankful for this year, I must place health first—a healthy mind and a healthy heart and radiant vitality to release what no longer serves me and to wake up to 100% health which is an incredible blessing.

- Rev. Maryanne



"When you have come to the edge of all light that you know and are about to drop off into the darkness of the unknown, Faith is knowing one of two things will happen: There will be something solid to stand on or You will be taught to fly"

-Patrick Overton

Holiday Stress Tips



- ☺ Make people the priority, not "stuff". Who can remember what the presents were a year later?
- ☺ Stay in the moment. Enjoy it. It's the only now you'll ever have.
- ☺ Make allowances for difficulties and circumstances. Trying to please everyone will only add to stress. Schedule activities on a family calendar so everyone can see it. Spaces should be left blank for relaxing and spontaneous events.
- ☺ Don't do everything last minute! Make a to-do list and divide it by weeks so you can see what needs to be done well in advance. Putting things off now only adds to holiday stress later!

The Blessing of Health

The first wealth is health. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

At this time of year our conscious attention often turns to what we don't have rather than what we do—and for a very good reason. The season of nonstop shopping has arrived. With Thanksgiving only just behind us, the race to get ready for the next round of holidays begins. No sooner have we celebrated the season of plenty than, with the advent of the first official days of Christmas shopping, we enter four frenetic weeks of looking, finding, buying, and ordering—but not for ourselves. We feel overwhelmed by a season of lack.

So before we head to the mall, it would do our souls good to have a reality check, in the form, not only of counting our blessings, but of focusing on them. Money is going to have to buy a lot in the next few weeks, but it can't buy the gifts that count most: good health, a loving and supporting marriage, healthy children, the fulfillment of creative expression, and inner peace. We forget this, not because we're ungrateful louts, but because we get distracted with the razzamatazz of real life. Now is the time to remember. What if I gave you a choice. You're guaranteed all the above joys but not a BMW in the driveway. Or you are guaranteed the BMW in the driveway, with the cash to pay comfortably for the luxury home adjacent to it, but you'll have to throw the dice for the Real Life blessings. Which would you choose?

The blessing we'll meditate on today is health. We can't buy good health, no matter how much money we have. We can purchase the best medical treatment available in the world, but good health is not for sale. Health is a priceless gift from Spirit that most of us take for granted until we become sick. "One of the most sublime experiences we can ever have is to wake up feeling healthy after we have been sick," Rabbi Harold Kushner reminds us in *Who Needs God*. "Even if it is only relief from a headache or toothache, the health we take for granted most of the time is suddenly seen to be an incredible blessing." Today, realize if you have nothing else but your health, you are a wealthy person. If you have a healthy mind, a healthy heart, and reserves of stamina and creative energy to draw on, the world is literally lying at your feet. With your health you have *everything*.

But health is not just the absence of sickness. Good health is vitality, vigor, high energy, emotional equilibrium, mental clarity, and physical endurance. These are the gifts to pray for, not just that your credit charge purchases will be approved and you won't have to slink away in disgrace.

Take your vitamins. Thank Spirit for the health you enjoy, and ask for more. If there is only one spiritual lesson I can inscribe in your consciousness, it's to ask. Ask and you shall receive. Today, why not ask for the creative and physical energy you'll need, not just to survive the holiday season, but to enjoy it?

Joyful Noises, Inc Preschool and Childcare

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About Our Curriculum

At Joyful Noises we offer a non-denominational Christian theme based curriculum that fosters creativity and builds social and emotional security. Through safe, carefully supervised centers such as fine motor, large motor, blocks, dramatic play, language, science/math, art, sand and water and music and movement children not only learn problem solving, math skills and language skills; they learn how to choose, plan, think, be social, manage their feelings, share and develop empathy and competence.

About Our Newsletter

The Joyful News will be published once a month through June. School information and classroom articles will be included. Each class will let you know what happened during the month and highlight upcoming events. Bethany Cass is our Coordinating editor for the 2009-2010 school year and she can be reached at Bethany.cass@milliman.com.

Friendly Reminders

- ☺ Tuition is due on or before the first of the month. A \$5 a day late fee will start on day 6. Accounts still late by day 10 will result in a suspension from JN.
- ☺ Our Federal tax I.D. number is 04 349 6713.
- ☺ Please call the school office if your child is going to be late or absent
- ☺ Please tell Maryanne if you are going on vacation
- ☺ Physicals need to be updated annually. Please schedule a physical for your child over the summer if you haven't already.
- ☺ Remember that children must be screened for lead poisoning once they turn 9 months and annual until they are four.
- ☺ Please update any new phone numbers, beepers, cell phones, work numbers, etc.

The Congregational Church of Topsfield

invites you to worship with us!

Sunday Worship 9:30am

*Coffee Fellowship immediately following
the service at the Emerson Center.*

Nursery and Church School programs
available for infants through High School

Please Contact Rev. Virginia Emery 978-887-2101 ext 13.
virginia@topsfieldchurch.org www.topsfieldchurch.org
9 E. Common Street Topsfield MA 01983

The Resource Book

GREAT IDEA!

As a fundraiser and to allow parents to advertise to other members of our Joyful Noises family, we are accepting business cards for a *single donation* to Joyful Noises to be given to a charity at the end of the school year.

We will post these cards at the end of each newsletter as you see here!



"A Spiritual Love"

Baptisms
at your home, or special location
Weddings, Vow Renewals



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