

First St. John Lutheran Day School

2471 Seaman Street
Toledo, Ohio 43605
Phone: 419-691-6480
fsjdayschool@firststjohn.com

Christ Centered Learning
for Christ Centered Living

Day School Digest



December 2018

But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. Luke 2:19

November was a very busy month and I believe December will fly by just as quickly. The children are busy practicing songs for their Christmas programs, making decorations for their rooms, and crafting parent gifts. Families are busy shopping, baking and attending holiday gatherings.

Amid the busyness of the season, let us try to remember the “reason for the season.” Jesus came into a world filled with the darkness of sin. God wanted us to see the light and set a star in the sky to mark His Son’s birth. Shepherds saw the star and heard angels praising God. The star guided the wise men to Bethlehem to worship Jesus. We, as Jesus’ followers, are to let that light shine through us in our words and our actions. Our words can be used to tell others about Jesus this holiday season as we invite family and friends to Christmas services. We can offer words of encouragement to others throughout the coming year. Our actions include the offerings we bring to God. Just as the wise men brought Jesus gifts, so we can give Jesus gifts in the form of food or holiday gifts to those not as fortunate as we are. Teach your child the gift of generosity. Encourage your child to pick out a gift to give to Toys for Tots or a name on an Angel Tree, and ask Santa for one less gift. Most of all, share good times with family and friends!

Mary had many things to ponder in her heart; wondering why God sent her off to a foreign town to have her child. Then having shepherds telling her about the star and the angels. This miraculous birth of the Son of God to a human does seem unbelievable, but with God all things are possible. To me, Christmas is part of God’s miracle of forgiveness. Let us share His love with all we meet. Take advantage of some of the Advent church services to learn more about what this holiday really means and wish others a “Merry Christmas.”

The staff at First St. John would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and the best in the coming New Year!

Check the attached calendar and mark the dates your child will be sharing the Christmas Story through the words and songs of their Programs, Parties, and holiday closings.

Christmas Programs – 7 p.m.

Dec. 10 – Miss Dawn
Dec. 11 – Miss Jennifer
Dec. 13 – Miss Bonnie
Dec. 17 – Miss Michelle



Christmas Parties

Dec. 19 – Miss Dawn, Miss Bonnie
Dec. 19 – Miss Jennifer
Dec. 19 – Miss Michelle
Dec. 20 – Miss Jennifer

**Christmas Eve services at First St. John Lutheran Church
at 7:00 pm & 11:00 p.m.**

Outdoor Safety

Just a reminder to dress the children for the weather. The teachers like to take the children outside to run and play for short periods of time. Hats and gloves are needed on colder days. Boots are good when the snow flies to keep their feet warm and dry. **Please label these items so we can get them to their owners when dropped on the floor.**

Watch for an email or TV regarding school closings. We never delay classes. We are not following any of the local public schools, but will call school off on our own. We are listed on channel 13abc. Use your own discretion when deciding to attend school or not based on where you live. Classes may be closed but Extended Care will be open for our working parents; classes may be combined due to the low numbers that may attend.

If you have not yet returned the paper from the last newsletter requesting your cell phone carrier, please do so and we can still get you listed to receive text messages about school closings.

If Lucas County issues a Level 3 alert, all classes and the extended care program will be closed. We will be listed on channel 13abc and an email will be sent out.

Feed your Neighbor

Thank you to everyone who has donated non-perishable food items for our Feed Your Neighbor Program. We are continuing to collect non-perishable food for Christmas baskets, too. Pick up an extra can or two while out shopping as things are all on sale now!

Thanksgiving Feast Raffle

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who purchased tickets for our raffle during our Thanksgiving Feasts. Profits were over \$400 and will help defray the costs of the feasts and help with parent gifts. Congratulations to our winners: Liam & Neal Cathers, Makenzie Jeremy, Alyssa Moon, Lori St. Clair, Dylan St. John, and Zachary Zylka. THANK YOU!

Fundraising

Please continue to send in your **Big G Box Tops** as these generate income for us to purchase non-budgeted materials for the classrooms. Check out their website for special coupons and recipes. Many holiday baking ingredients have the Box Tops on them – check before you toss the box!

We just received a small check from **Office Max**; again thank you to those who shop there and participated in the Give Back program. Everyone who shops at Office Max/Office Depot can just say you would like to participate in the **Give Back to Schools** program and provide our name and school ID#70233029.

Kroger Community Rewards® makes fund-raising easy; all you have to do is shop at Kroger and use your Plus Card! For First St. John Day School to receive those funds you must first login to your account and select us as your organization of choice. Many of you shop there anyway, and now we can reap benefits from something you do each week!

Christmas Gift Ideas

Some interesting information in the article below concerning electronic screens and developing brains!

Consider these ideas when shopping for gifts...

We want to give our young children a chance to

develop naturally, with the brain God has given them. Find toys that keep their body moving and their hands busy. Playdough, sand, water, mud, and other tactile materials (think shaving cream or pudding) provide sensory experiences for the brain and hands and might even mean neater handwriting someday. Legos or beads give the children opportunity to put things together and take things apart (exercising those small muscles). Even a large empty box (think what can it be) can provide hours of play for a young child. Avatars (dolls, action figures, toy vehicles, animals or dinosaurs) are great for children. These objects fit into the hands of the children and enable them to work out complex emotional concepts in a manageable way. Sit down and play with your child and you will see what goes through his/her mind. Don't take the easy way out. Enjoy the great outdoors when the weather is cooperative; there are lots of wonderful programs through the Metroparks. When it gets too cold outside, play games that require interaction and communication among the players, dance to your favorite songs, or create a new game using materials around the house. A moving child is a learning child.



Screen Time and Developing Brains

There is no security on this earth; there is only opportunity.

-Douglas MacArthur

"Educational apps and TV shows are great ways for children to sharpen their developing brains and hone their communication skills—not to mention the break these gadgets provide harried parents. But tread carefully: A number of troubling studies connect delayed cognitive development in kids with extended exposure to electronic media," writes Liraz Margalit, PhD, in a ***Psychology Today*** article.

Margalit explains that "parents who jump to screen time in a bid to give their kids an educational edge may actually be doing significantly more harm than good—and they need to dole out future screen time in an age-appropriate matter...When a young child spends too much time in front of a screen and not enough getting required stimuli from the real world, her development becomes stunted...Much of the issue lies with the fact that what makes tablets and iPhones so great—dozens of stimuli at your fingertips, and the ability to process multiple actions simultaneously—is exactly what young brains do not need.

"Tablets are the ultimate shortcut tools: Unlike a mother reading a story to a child, for example, a smartphone-told story spoon-feeds images, words, and pictures all at once to a young reader. Rather than having to take the time to process a mother's voice into words...kids who follow stories on their smartphones get lazy. The device does the thinking for them, and as a result, their own cognitive muscles remain weak."

Source: "[What Screen Time Can Really Do to Kids' Brains.](#)" by Liraz Margalit, PhD., *Psychology Today*, April 17, 2016

Miss Jennifer's Class News

The month of December will go quickly in Miss Jennifer's room. We will be busy making angels and candy canes as well as a special project. Making Christmas cookies and cooking meals can be created at the dress up area. Cutting curling ribbon and decorating little trees will be at the sensory table. Christmas light alphabet order, felt tree decorating, Nutcracker number match, holiday stamps and cut outs will be games at the many centers in our room. Looking forward to this Magical Month:) Happy Holidays!



Miss Michelle's Class News

The month of December is all about Christmas. Throughout December we will be learning about the Christmas story. We will celebrate Jesus' birth through song, literature, classroom discussions, and even art. It is important for the children to know that Christmas is about Jesus. Some art projects this month include angels, gingerbread men, trees and candy canes. The children will learn about the religious symbolism behind the candy cane in addition to the Christmas story.

Miss Dawn's Class News

As we look forward to December another fun-filled joyful month awaits. The children are practicing songs for our Christmas program. We are learning about advent and the birth of Jesus. The children will enjoy a class Christmas party with a surprise visitor shhhhh..... Our dramatic play will be transformed into Santa's Workshop where the children can pretend to be busy elves making and repairing toys. Math will include activities such as candy cane sorting, Christmas tree counting and a memory mitten game. In our Science center the children will be learning about trees along with some stem activities such as making trees with straws and playdough and building gingerbread houses.

I hope everyone has a blessed holiday season and a safe and Happy New Year!



Miss Bonnie's Class News

December is always an exciting time of year for the children. Our class will be doing a lot of STEAM activities as these give the children more opportunities to explore why and how things happen. Our kitchen activities will include creating Santa Pancakes, Rudolph pretzels, and a special elf drink. We will explore which cookies absorb more milk and try a few different experiments with candy canes. But though all this we will learn about the Christmas story - that Jesus came down from heaven and was born to Mary and Joseph. We will share that story through our Christmas program on December 13th. See you all then.