

The Children's Center Connection December 2018



Holly Jolly Sing-A-Long



Get your voices warmed up! Our annual Christmas program is scheduled for Wednesday, December 19th. The children will present a "Holly-Jolly Sing-a-Long" in the Sanctuary. Our Expressive Arts teachers, Ms. Monica and Ms. Tonya, will lead Feliz Navidad and a signing song. A fun interactive audience song participation is also planned. The fun begins at 4:00 p.m.!

Holiday Cookie Baking & Decorating

Each year Chef Faith invites families to her kitchen to bake and decorate holiday cookies. The kitchen opens at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 15th. Chef Faith will provide a variety of doughs for tea cakes, sugar cookies, chocolate chip cookies and more. Our annual event is a great way to bake a quantity of cookies in a short time. Rolling pins and cookie cutters are provided. Please bring a container to take home your treats. There is no cost for cookie baking, but donations are appreciated. Sign up in the center office by December 14th to RSVP.



Important Dates

December 15
Cookie Baking
10:00 AM

December 19
Holly Jolly Sing-A-Long
4:00 PM

December 24
Center Closed
Christmas Eve



December 25
Center Closed
Christmas

December 31
Center Closed
New Years Eve

January 1
Center Closed
New Years Day

January 18
Center-wide PJ Day

January 21
Center Closed
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 23
Kindergarten Information
Fair

Holiday Schedule

Thursday, December 6	St. Nicholas Day
Saturday, December 15	Cookie Baking (10-2PM)
Wednesday, Dec 19	Holly Jolly Sing-a-long (4PM)
Monday, December 24	Center Closed
Tuesday, December 25	Center Closed
Monday, December 31	Center Closed
Tuesday, January 1	Center Closed



Christmas Eve Pageant with Live Animals

Calling All Angels



A fun and historic tradition at First Baptist Church is the Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m. The service features a live re-enactment of the Christmas story. The highlight is a procession with live animals: sheep, goats, a llama and a camel. If you are looking for a place to celebrate the season, you are most welcome to join us for this spectacular event.

Looking for a more up close and personal experience? We need children to play the heavenly host of angels. Costumes are provided by the church; families would need to provide white tights or pants and a white shirt. Children need to attend two practices outside center hours. Rehearsals are scheduled for Monday, December 17th at 6:30 and Saturday, December 22nd at 10 am.

Angels repeat only one line, "Glory to God!" and they have front row seats! The service is at 7 p.m. Please let us know if your child would like to participate. Siblings are welcome!



Green Gifting for Christmas

- **Look for locally made gifts**-Many gifts in today's marketplace come from halfway around the world. Local craft fairs and artisan shops are a good source for gifts that come without the added costs of transportation. Gifts made locally often have a story which goes with the gift, since the artisan and the origin of the gift are known. A neat local store, *Merchants Market*, is located at Legacy Village
- **Give battery-free gifts**-According to the EPA, about 40% of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Discarded batteries are an environmental hazard. Even rechargeable batteries find their way into the waste stream eventually.
- **Avoid toys that promote violence**-There is too much violence in the world, and the new wave of video games for children is disturbing. Remember the theme of Christmas is "Peace on Earth". There are many toys and games that are fun, and nurture children's creativity and sense of active play.

Be an Angel for Family Promise Gift Shop

Each year we gather gifts for local children in need. This year we plan to take gifts to Family Promise. Parents living at Family Promise can visit a temporary store on the premises to choose fitting gifts for their children. There will also be an opportunity for kids to shop for their parents.

What you can give: For children: mittens, socks, slippers, multicultural dolls, cars & trucks, board games, building blocks, books, footballs, basketballs, card games, art & school supplies, action figures, puzzles, learning toys, nail polish, baby items, bead and jewelry kits and sweaters of all sizes. For parents: calendars, daily planners, alarm clocks, and umbrellas.

If you'd like to participate, please bring the unwrapped item(s) by December 10th.
Thanks for making the holiday brighter for all the children at Family Promise!



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December 2018 Lunch Menu

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>3 Chicken fritters, roll, green beans and apples</p>	<p>4 Chicken noodle soup, carrots and melon</p>	<p>5 Fish on a roll, salad and apples <i>Dinner: Sloppy Joes</i></p>	<p>6 VIP KARTER Tacos, watermelon and carrots</p>	<p>7 Hot beef sandwich on a bun, carrots and pineapples</p>
<p>10 Creamy chicken and noodle, green beans and oranges</p>	<p>11 White chicken chili, corn, carrots and melon</p>	<p>12 Cheese tortellini w/ spinach pesto, spinach and apples <i>Dinner: BBQ or fried chicken, mac and chees and greens</i></p>	<p>13 VIP MS. BESSIE Fried chicken legs, spinach and apples</p>	<p>14 Hot turkey sandwich on a bun, carrots and pineapples</p>
<p>17 Chicken parmigiana, pasta broccoli and oranges</p>	<p>18 Beef vegetable soup w/ barley and melon</p>	<p>19 Chicken tender, mashed potatoes, corn and apples <i>Dinner: Spaghetti and meatballs (beef, chicken or veggie)</i></p>	<p>20 VIP PRIYA Grilled cheese, green beans and cantaloupe</p>	<p>21 Sloppy joes w/ roll, carrots and peaches</p>
<p>24 CENTER CLOSED</p>	<p>25 MERRY CHRISTMAS CENTER CLOSED</p>	<p>26 Ham and cheese sandwich, carrots and oranges <i>No dinner</i></p>	<p>27 Turkey sandwich, carrots and grapes</p>	<p>28 Pizza, cucumbers and apples</p>

Skim milk is served with lunch to children on the second floor.
Whole milk is served to children on the first floor.
Menu is subject to change.



A Festival of Lessons and Carols and The International Tea (with Cookies!)

Sunday, December 16th at 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Prelude music begins at 3:40 p.m.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus in the tradition of Kings College Chapel. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus are told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels. The singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music are interspersed throughout the service.

Come celebrate the season with The International Tea. Teas and treats from around the world will tempt your taste buds! This fun, family friendly event celebrates the melting pot of Christmas traditions in a delicious way! The International Tea will directly follow A Festival of Lessons and Carols in Spahr Center!



Why Books are a Great Gift

Are you wondering what to get your child for Christmas this year? Are you looking for an educational gift for a niece or nephew? Research shows that books might be the best choice.

Language is important for the developing brain. Over and over at workshops, trainers say that interaction between child and adult is the most important aspect of language development. A recent study validates those comments, especially about too much play with electronic toys with infants (Sosa, 2016). In the study, parents used fewer words with children and children vocalized less while playing with electronic toys. Parents used the most words with their children when playing with books. Parents used more words when they played with traditional toys than electronic toys, but less than when playing with books.



Knowing about this link between interaction with toys and brain development can help us with our holiday purchases. Don't be tempted by the toys with all the bells and whistles that seem educational and visually appealing; they may have limited interactive qualities. Look for quality books to read aloud with children.

Sosa, A. (2016). Association of the type of toy used during play with the quantity and quality of parent-infant communication. *JAMA Pediatrics*. 170(2), 132-137.

FBCCC Favorite Titles

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| <i>Brown Bear, Brown Bear</i> by Bill Martin, Jr | <i>The Snowy Day</i> by Ezra Jack Keats |
| <i>Good Night Moon</i> by Margaret Wise Brown | <i>Blueberries for Sal</i> by Robert McClosky |
| <i>How Do I Love You</i> by Marion Dane Bauer | <i>Harold and the Purple Crayon</i> by Crockett Johnson |
| <i>The Three Little Gators</i> by Helen Ketteman | <i>Press Here</i> by Herve Tullet |
| <i>Stellaluna</i> by Janell Cannon | <i>Moo, Baa, La La La</i> by Sandra Boynton |
| <i>Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb</i> by Al Perkins | <i>Trains</i> by Gail Gibbons |
| <i>Little Blue Truck</i> by Alice Schertle | <i>I Like Myself</i> by Karen Beaumont |
| <i>No, David!</i> By David Shannon | <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> by Maurice Sendak |
| <i>The Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything</i> by Linda Williams | |
| <i>Chicka Chicka Boom Boom</i> by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault | |
| Happy reading! | |