



A Place to Grow
412-963-8885 ext.302
www.stjosephohara.com

ST. JOSEPH PRESCHOOL

Newsletter

JANUARY 2018



JANUARY THEME



This month we will be reading several stories about snow and winter weather.

The Big Dippers will be working on matching and sorting activities, and pairs. We will also be reading some favorite fairy tales, and taking a field trip to BounceU in Warrendale.

The Shooting Stars will be exploring the letters I, J, K, L and M, learning about transportation, and studying the phases of the moon. You can help by encouraging your child to look at the moon each evening or morning. On February 1 we will take an imaginary trip to the moon. We will also take a field trip to the Carnegie Science Center.

LITTLE DIPPERS

With January's frosty weather, we will be investigating snow and penguins, and doing some mitten activities. We will also talk about trains.

DISABILITY AWARENESS PROGRAM

On Thursday, January 4, the Shooting Stars will have a visit from a representative of the Easter Seals Disability Awareness Program. This program is designed to help young children feel comfortable around people with disabilities. The hands-on presentation will give them the opportunity to sit in a wheelchair, try out crutches, 'read' Braille, practice sign language, and learn about Service dogs, etc.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

You can avoid the usual post-holiday letdown by planning some special activities. Give your child an event to look forward to. Spend an afternoon putting holiday pictures in an album. Have friends over to play with the new toys. Visit an elderly friend or neighbor on a snowy day. The best gift we can give our children is the gift of time.

NO SCHOOL

There will be no classes held on Monday, January 15 (Martin Luther King Jr. birthday).

REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018

Registration forms for next year will be distributed early in January to all currently enrolled Little Dippers and Big Dippers. Space will be reserved for these students until the end of January. After January 31, we will open registration to all other children. If you need additional registration forms for younger siblings or friends, please let us know. Forms will also be available on the website: www.stjosephohara.com.

Our classes will be as follows: 4 days/week for Shooting Stars (must be 4 years old by Sept. 1); 3 days/week for Blue Big Dippers and 2 days/week for Red Big Dippers (must be 3 years old by Sept. 1); and 2 days per week for Little Dippers (must be 2 years old by Sept. 1).



ILLNESSES

We would like to remind you that if your child is sick, please keep him/her at home until they are symptom-free for 24 hours. Children are unable to participate fully when they aren't feeling well, and keeping them home may help to prevent the spread of germs. Please be sure to call the Preschool office (412-963-8885 ext. 302) or e-mail terri@stjosephohara.com if your child will not be attending class. Thank you.

THINGS WE NEED...

- Glass baby food jars
- Styrofoam egg cartons
- 2 liter pop bottles (rinsed and dried please!)

THANK YOU...

- To Denny Duffy, Anne Giza, Karine Drappatz, Sarah Cicero, Joan Miller, Lauren Kepics, Jayna Ifft and Becky Kane for the donations for our Breakfast with Santa.
- To all who sent in treats for St. Nick Day. The children were thrilled with the goodies!
- To everyone who helped with the Christmas parties - providing treats, paper products, treat bags & refreshments, and helping with the games, etc.
- To the parents who kindly filled in on vacant snack days.
- To our wonderful playdough makers Colleen Galore, Justin McClafferty, Lynley Fusaro and Angie Stiles. The color for January is blue.
- To Cindy Gray, Mila Jeffrey, Denny Duffy, Denise Robertson and Colleen Galore for cutting for us.
- To Cindy Gray for making our Rudolph headbands for our Christmas Show!
- To Denny Duffy and Denise Robertson for preparing our peppermint patties for our Breakfast with Santa.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY



The feast of the Epiphany began in the Church of the Near East. Its name means “showing” or “manifestation”. The Wise Men of the East brought gifts to the Christ Child as an outward sign of their homage and expectations. It is a good time to reflect on the gifts that we as parents can share with our own children.

SPEECH/LANGUAGE/HEARING SCREENINGS

On Tuesday, January 16 and Wednesday, January 17, we are offering speech, language and hearing screenings at Preschool for our Big Dippers and Shooting Stars, conducted by the Easter Seals Speech Department. This screening is an **optional** service that will be held during class time. Each screening takes 15-20 minutes per child, and costs \$25.00. If you are interested in having your child screened, please complete the permission form (which will be sent home after our break) and return with the fee by January 16. Checks should be made payable to Easter Seals of Western PA. A detailed report will be sent home.

BOUNCE U FIELD TRIP (BIG DIPPERS)

The Red and Blue Big Dippers will be taking a fun and fitness field trip to BounceU in Warrendale on Thursday, January 11. Please plan on arriving at Preschool at **9:15am**. The cost is \$10.00 for each preschooler and sibling. Babies and adults are free. Permission forms will be sent home when we return from our break. Please remember to have your child wear their St. Joseph Preschool T-shirt or a green or blue T-shirt.

CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER (SHOOTING STARS)

On Thursday, January 25, the Shooting Stars will take a field trip to the Carnegie Science Center. Please meet at the Preschool at **9:20am**. The cost is \$10.00 for each preschooler, siblings two and over, and adults. Permission forms will be sent home right after our break. Please remember to have your child wear their St. Joseph Preschool T-shirt or a green or blue T-shirt. Memberships are not accepted for this trip.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We wish a very happy January birthday to the following children:

Luke Kohler - January 4
Lucia Galore - January 11
Jameson Kepics - January 31



Happy New Year!

January book orders are due on or before January 18. You can order online any time!