

St. Mary's Community Preschool Newsletter

January 2015

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Dear Parents/Caregivers!

Registration for the 2015 - 2016 school year is now open to families, friends and the surrounding communities. If you know anyone who is interested in a preschool for their child, please have them contact the school. Thank you for your support and generous donations throughout the year.

Mommy And Me Class

Kathy Wright, Facilitator

Mommy and Me Jubilee has come to an end for its winter session. We have enjoyed playtime with our friends and keeping cozy warm singing songs. Our spring session begins April 8, 2015. Call/text or email Kathy Wright, 845-216-6871 or CRider8680@hotmail.com.

Preschool Two Day

Sharlene Pizza, Head Teacher

The start of a new year brings exciting changes inside and outside the classroom. January is usually the time of year we start seeing the kids transition and neurons really taking off! The children are familiar with the routine now and eager to learn. They willingly come to the carpet to learn, sing, and interact with each other. We reviewed the letters we learned so far and introduced letters J through L.



Our letters were reinforced with enticing props like Jellybeans and cute Llama's!

We had fun recognizing the colors on the color wheel - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, white, and brown to name a few. The children began to notice shapes and how many sides and corners each has.

Other fun activities this month included creating our jungle page, painting and decorating our snowmen.

Let's not forget our time with Reverend Betty! This month we celebrated how we all have a 'little light' inside of us that shines brightly and how God wants us to use that light to shine on others! I hope your kids are still singing their song and shining their light all around your home!

We had a couple birthday celebrations in January too! Happy Birthday to Ryan and Royce!

January brought us lots of snow!! Speaking of snow, please remember to pack a pair of nonskid slippers that we can keep here for the kids.

As always, it brings us great joy to watch the students in the two day program grow socially and academically.

Sharlene Pizza, Head Teacher

Michele Kayser, Teacher Assistant

Preschool Three Day

Amanda Rabolli, Head Teacher

"Get Set For School" Curriculum

January was a month of snow! While we enjoyed some snowy days at home, we made the most of our days in school learning through play.

In Math, we practiced adding up our tag bags. The students were introduced to the concept of subtraction by listening to the "Dumplin' Song". The students took away a dumpling (tag bag) when the song prompted them to. We also discussed how to share objects: we passed cards to our friends in order to share. We talked about how we could share with a friend by cutting an object in half. The students practiced sharing by folded a paper square in half to make either two triangles or two rectangles and then cutting their shapes out. We also practiced with Play Dough by making a ball and cutting it in half. Another concept we learned in January was size comparison. We explored our classroom for items that were bigger and smaller than our big wood pieces. We also compared the size of shapes using our Mix and Make shapes. We found big and little triangles, squares, circles and rectangles.

During Language and Literacy, the students were challenged to use descriptive words. We played "Reach and Tell", where we reached into the Sound Around Box for a picture tile and then told the class about it. We further practiced describing objects using the pictures shown on the Line it Up cards. We discussed the sense of touch by feeling objects in paper bags. We used descriptive words to explain what the object felt like. We combined our newly learned skills by feeling our object and describing it and then looking at the object and describing it.

For Readiness and Writing, the students traced their practice stroke for letter G, S and J. We also traced the practice stroke for D, P, B, and R so we can be ready to write them in February. The students also traced the number 1.

We finished up our Celebration unit and began our Transportation unit in Word Time. We learned words such as "drive, ride, narrow,

wide, push, pull, truck, highway, together, apart, train and tracks".

We created our J is for Jellyfish, K is for King, L is for Lamp and M is for Mouse letter crafts. We also completed our letter worksheets throughout the month.

The students were assessed during the month of January in preparation for parent-teacher conferences. The students did well, and we look forward to meeting with the parents to discuss their progress.

Amanda Rabolli, Head Teacher
Michele Kayser, Teacher Assistant

Preschool Five Day

Ida Payne, Head Teacher

"Get Set For School" Curriculum

Happy New Year!!

Wonderful memories of the Christmas holidays are behind us. We welcome a new year with hope for peace and prosperity for all mankind.

We remembered Martin Luther King, Jr. this month who was a minister, civil rights leader, and humanitarian. He

fought, not just for African Americans, but for the struggles of all people in this country.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow - that didn't keep the PreK students from accomplishing a lot during the month of January.



Vocabulary: The students were introduced to words and their spelling, pronunciation and definitions in the **Health** category this month.

Handwriting: The children practiced writing Center Starting Capital letters - **C, O, Q, G, and S** in their Letters and Numbers for Me books.

Math: We continued the section on the basics of **Geometry**. Geometry is the study of shapes and space. The students learned to identify position or location using left and right. They had fun using their Mix & Make Shapes to sort objects with the same characteristics - straight sides, corners, and curves. By using play dough, children match objects to impressions by noticing shape, size, and orientation.

Language and Literacy: We continued the section **Concepts About Print** by exploring the many parts of a book. The students learn to hold a book right-side up, learn to identify the different elements (title, name of the author and/or illustrator), and locate the front cover, back cover, pages, and spine. They move their fingers over the pages as they follow print from top to bottom, left to right on a page. They discover pages have words and pictures. The students learn to distinguish between a written sentence, word, and letter. And finally, they recognize their own names and their friend's names.



We were happy to come back to school after a long break and resume our Wednesday visits to Chapel with Reverend Betty. The

children have so much fun listening to Christian stories and singing Christian songs - Amen!!

Ida Payne, Head Teacher

Cynthia Dinan, Assistant Teacher

Calendar Of Events

February 6 -Visit from Alpha & Omega Dental

February 5 &19 Parent Teacher Conferences

February 11 &12 Celebrating Valentine's Day

February 13-16 President's Day Weekend. School Closed

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St.Mary's Community Preschool offers a variety of early childhood academic programs:

Mommy & Me Jubilee
Preschool 2-day
Preschool 3-day
Preschool 5-day
Community Social Enrichment



For more information please contact Ida Payne /Head of School at ipayne@stmarysintuxedo.org or you may call the school at 845-351-2389.

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