



NEWSLETTER - JANUARY

From the Director's Desk:

Welcome 2023, goodbye 2022. We hope that everyone enjoyed their family time together over the Christmas Recess, and that the New Year holds only good things for everyone. It is amazing how quickly the New Year comes and goes. We are ready to kick off the new year at preschool with lots of study and activities around the theme of "Winter."

We will enjoy the season with experiments on freezing/thawing, creating beautiful snowy art, and learning about the habits of winter animals. We will be taking the children outdoors, unless it is too frigid, or we are "snowed in." Please have your children practice putting on their winter gear: jackets, hats, mittens, etc. by themselves. They feel so proud of what they can do---and it really helps our process of getting outdoors in a timely manner here at preschool. Another weather-related item:

IF THE OPENING OF SCHOOL IS DELAYED THERE WILL NO AM SESSIONS. PM CHILDREN SHOULD REPORT TO SCHOOL BY 11:30. IF WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE VERY BAD, SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT WILL CLOSED FOR SAFETY REASONS. PARENTS WILL RECEIVE AN EMAIL AND VOICE MESSAGE FROM SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT SCHOOL INFORMING YOU OF OUR STATUS. WE ALSO PLACE OUR SCHOOL STATUS ON THE SCROOL BAR ON CHANNEL 12 NEWS.

January Dates

- 1/3: School Resumes
- 1/3: Staff Meeting 8:15 a.m.
- 1/4: Parent PTA Zoom Meeting 7 p.m.
- 1/8: Parish Christmas Party
- 1/11: BACKWARD'S DAY
- 1/13: Christmas Faculty Party 6 p.m.
- 1/16: Martin Luther King's Birthday – No School
- 1/17: School Resumes
- 1/23-1/27: Scholastic Book Fair – Grandparent's Mystery Reader's Week
- 1/24: Pajamarama Day
- 1/25: Celebration of Grandparents 3's 9:30 a.m.
- 1/26: Celebration of Grandparents 4's 9:30 a.m.

Building Fine Motor Skills

Many of your child's daily activities -- like getting dressed, eating, and writing require control of small muscles in the hand. Such skills are called fine motor skills. When young children have the opportunities to practice these skills, they can do more things for themselves. A variety of activities can increase muscle strength and coordination, preparing children for more advanced skills, from using a computer mouse to playing a musical instrument. You can also help your child at home by allowing your child to set the table, hold knives, forks, and spoons, pour juice into a cup, get dressed, open and close containers, cut with child size scissors, draw, scribble, or write with crayons, pencils, and markers.

Reminder to Parents

Please remember to label ALL of your child's clothing and belongings with their first and last name so that we can return it to you when it is found at school. Thank you. Also, please dress your child in play clothes! They will be getting wet, dirty, along with paint on them. It is all part of learning.



Health Reminders

The return to school in January signals to us once again the importance of maintaining a healthy environment for children and for their teachers---especially during the COVID Pandemic and the cold and flu season. We do our best to keep toys and surfaces clean, following the guidelines required by the CDC, The NYS Health Department and The Office of Children and Family Services, our licensing agency. We also make sure that children and adults wash their hands frequently during the school day. We strongly request that parents also do their part to prevent the spread of illness and infection by keeping children home when they show symptoms of illness which may include:

- Unusual irritability and fatigue
- Fever
- A runny nose that includes green or yellow mucus
- A persistent cough
- An upset stomach

Teachers and the Director will call parents during the day if we observe signs of illness and we will request that children get picked up and brought home immediately, and not return until all symptoms have disappeared, they have been diagnosed by a Doctor, or have had Two At Home COVID Tests that are negative.

Please check with my secretary, Mrs. Rinaldi to make sure that we have current contact information for the adults listed on your emergency contact form. Please be sure to call or email us when your child is absent and we especially ask that you notify us immediately if your child is diagnosed with COVID-19 or another contagious disease.

Children should remain home until they are fever free for 72 hours – or in case of contagious illnesses such as the COVID VIRUS, chicken pox, conjunctivitis, strep throat, etc. A doctor’s written confirmation that the child may return to school is required along with a Two negative at Home COVID tests. Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. Remember our Health Care Criteria is that we only accept “WELL” children in school.



Threes

Welcome Back and Happy New Year. We are excited to begin 2022. We will talk about snow, Arctic animals, things we can do outside in winter. We will also talk about the weather and what we should wear outside in the cold.

Our themes for January are:

New Year's Day, New Year's Resolutions, Mittens, Snowmen, Eskimos, Igloos, Arctic Animals, Martin Luther King, Winter, snow, hibernation, Three Kings, Grandparents, Nutrition, the colors: blue/pink. Shapes: Oval/Circle. Community Helper: Construction Worker

Fours:

We hope everyone had a very joyous Christmas vacation. This month we will be enjoying winter themes of: New Years, Winter, snow, Arctic Animals, hibernation, Martin Luther King, Chinese New Year, etc.

Along the way we will reinforce beginning letter sounds and slowly introduce some sight words. Please continue to practice addresses, phone numbers and birthdays at home. Don't forget to review letter and number recognition skills.

Thank You

On behalf of the entire staff and myself I would like to thank all of you for your generous remembrances at Christmas. Your heartfelt wishes and holiday gifts were greatly appreciated. You helped to make our holidays merry and bright. We are so grateful.

