



KID'S TRIBUNE

Dec 2013

**Bright Beginnings
Child Development
Center**

Notable Dates:

December 7
**Christmas Gift
to Parents**
9am—12pm

**December 24 -
January 1**
School Closed
**Christmas/New Year's
Break**

**December 21 -
January 1**
School Closed
**NC Pre-K Christmas/
New Year's**

January 2
**Annual Registration
Due**

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Parents,

The holiday season is here! Hurray!! We love this time of year for so many reasons! The smiling faces, the holiday music, the giving spirit . . . you just can't beat the sounds and sights of the Holidays! In the weeks leading up to the end of the year, we try our best to keep things festive around Bright Beginnings! You'll notice the decorations around school, the music in our lobby and the wonderful holiday crafts your child brings home. We're definitely in the spirit here at Bright Beginnings, and we hope the little things we do from day to day help to make your holiday season just that much more enjoyable.

International Friendship Feast

You never disappoint! Once again, we hosted our annual International Friendship Feast, and once again, the attendance, the clothing, and most importantly, the food was fantastic! Every year it seems like more countries are represented at the feast, and every year, we discover new dishes and flavors that we've never tasted before! The fashion show was spectacular, as always, and we were all blown away by the children who displayed their talents in front of all the folks in attendance. What a great evening! We thank all of you who attended for taking the time to share a little piece of your native countries with us!

Parking Lot Security

Lately, we have noticed that during dropoff and pickup periods, a number of parents leave their cars unattended in our parking lots, with their doors unlocked, their purses and other valuable items accessible, and their cars running. Unfortunately, doing so makes you vulnerable to predators, especially during the Holiday season. In the future, please remember to turn off your vehicle and lock your doors when leaving your car for pickups and drop-offs.

Staff Changes

In 2014, some of the teachers will be switching classrooms in an effort to enhance the quality of our program. We have not finalized the changes as of yet, but we will announce them in advance. While change can be difficult at times for both students and parents, we assure you that the changes we make will be for the betterment of all of the children in our care.

School Age Parents

All school-agers must be "signed in" by their parent/guardian when they arrive in the morning for Before School Care and "signed out" by their parent/guardian when they depart After School Care in the

afternoon.

Food Drive

Once again, our annual Food Drive was a success. On behalf of The White Oak Foundation, a local non-profit organization serving the needs of our underprivileged neighbors, we thank you for all of your contributions!

*Have a Wonderful
and Safe Holiday
Season!!!*



- 2014
Center Closings**
- January 1 - New Year's**
 - January 20 - MLK**
 - April 18 - Good Friday**
 - April 21 - Easter Monday**
 - May 26 - Memorial Day**
 - July 4 - 4th of July**
 - Sept. 1 - Labor Day**
 - Sept. 12 -
Childhood Conference**
 - Nov. 10 -
Teacher Workday**
 - Nov. 27-28
Thanksgiving Break**
 - Dec. 23 - Jan. 1
Winter Break**

Classroom/Themes: Infant / "Holidays"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Shakes or bangs a toy to make it work	Demonstrates positive approach to learning	Cognitive	Ashton	None
Calms self when touched gently or rocked	Regulates own emotions and behaviors	Social Emotional		
Classroom/Theme: Toddler / "Pets & Toys"; "Friends"; "Holidays"; "Winter"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Counting friends and Winter objects	Uses number concepts and operations	Mathematics	Jamin	Ashton Brielle Shaun
Matching colors and toys	Uses classification skills	Cognitive		
Using spoon to feed themselves	Demonstrates fine motor strength & coordination	Physical		
Classroom/Themes: Preschool 1 / "Colors/Shapes"; "Holiday Fun"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Shape puzzles	Explores and describes spacial relationships and shapes	Mathematics	None	Martin Jamin
Holiday crafts with scissors and glue	Demonstrates fine motor strength and coordination	Physical		
Practice singing holiday songs and dancing	Participates cooperatively in group situations	Social Emotional		
Classroom/Themes: Preschool 2 / "Trees"; "Seasonal Holidays"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Create a story about a forester	Uses language to express thoughts	Writing	None	Teague
Transplanting a small tree	Demonstrates knowledge of Earth's environment	Science		
Holidays Around the World	Understanding of people and how they live	Social Studies		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 1/ "Building"; "Holidays"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Paper plate wreaths	Demonstates fine motor strength and coordination	Physical	None	Michelle
Stick letters	Demonstrates knowledge of the alphabet	Language		
Secret number	Use of number concepts and operations	Mathematics		

Classrooms (cont'd)

Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 2 / "Seasonal Holidays"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Hot or Cold 3D shapes	Explores and describes spatial relationships and shapes	Mathematics	Gabriel Kamryn	None
"Knowing our friends"	Demonstrates knowledge of alphabet	Literacy		
Build and decorate Gingerbread houses	Explores visual arts	The Arts		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 3 / "Buildings"; "Winter Holidays"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Create own buildings with boxes	Demonstrates fine motor strength and coordination	Physical	None	None
What goes on inside buildings	Uses appropriate conversational and other communication skills	Language		
Making Gingerbread houses	Demonstrates positive approaches to learning	Cognitive		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 4 / "Buildings"; "Holidays"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Counting and Comparing	Uses number concepts and operations	Mathematics	None	None
Dramatic story re-telling	Remembers and connects experiences	Cognitive		
Holiday cards	Demonstrates emergent writing skills	Literacy		

Feature Article

The following article is a re-print from an earlier Kid's Tribune. We can never teach our children too much about thankfulness.

Teaching Thankfulness - A Holiday Gift for Children, by Brenda Nixon

Some of the first words you teach your tot are "thank you." And throughout their young life children need prompts like, "What do you say to Aunt Becky?" Hopefully, over time, their response becomes automatic. But parents need to continue teaching an attitude of thanks even as children grow into teenagers. As you celebrate this busy holiday season, utilize every moment as an opportunity to nurture thankfulness in your child. Here are free and simple ways to incorporate it into your daily lifestyle:

Live the Lesson It has been said that we're always teaching - sometimes we use words. Remembering to say "thank you"

is proper. However, your child is watching you: the first and most influential teacher! So be sure to live a life of gratitude. When you model thankfulness, then your child will absorb that teaching.

Notice Nature Encourage your child to appreciate the inspiration that surrounds her. Marvel at the power of the wind, the

immensity of the ocean, the perfection of a snowflake, the endless night sky or the rugged beauty of a mountain range. I've reminded my girls of the saying of Goethe, "Nature is the living, visible garment of God."

Convert Attitude into Action A small gesture, such as a smile, can lighten the day of the waitress who hands your youngster a glass of milk. A hug for your child's teacher is another attitude action. When she empties the dishwasher, remind your daughter that this is her action of appreciation for home and food even if she doesn't think so at the time. Thankfulness can also be expressed through homemade goodies. To show appreciation for their classroom teachers, my girls and I made little holiday gifts for them. What ways can you convert your thoughts into action this season?

Discover Dictionary Descriptions Although we have our own words to explain thankfulness, it helps to see new definitions. Go to your public library and see what dictionaries say about the word. I like what *Webster's Dictionary* says about thankfulness, "Impressed with a sense of kindness received." This definition takes the focus off material possessions and puts it on the giver.

Gather Great Quotes My research for this article took me to Web sites that offer all types of quotes. A humorous one about thanks comes from Woody Allen: "I am thankful for laughter, except when milk comes out of my nose." Have fun with your child as you gather quotes about thankfulness.

Contrast Your Family with Folks Less Fortunate Help her see that there are those in your community who aren't as blessed: families without homes, people who are sad or lonely or those who must go to food kitchens to eat. When my daughters were young, one of our family traditions was to serve a meal to the homeless. Every Thanksgiving, my husband, two girls and I spent an evening at a rescue mission. After seeing hungry faces accepting a plate of food, my daughters heartily appreciated going home to their safe, cozy bedrooms. But they also learned about thankfulness when they saw and heard expressions of gratitude from those receiving the meal.

Make a Medley of Thankfulness Grab a pile of old magazines. Encourage your child to look through the pages and cut out pictures of things she is thankful for. Glue these on one page, overlapping pictures. Soon she'll have a visual reminder of the many blessings in her life.

Pen a Poem of Thankfulness Together, with your child, write words that rhyme with thanks, gratitude or thankful. See how many you can come up with. At any age, this can be a fun, language-learning exercise that stretches the imagination.

Practice Gratitude Permanently Showing thanks and appreciation does not end with the season. Help your child write thank you notes for her Christmas gifts. Preschoolers can dictate their gratitude as you write, or they can draw a picture of appreciation to give to their gift-giver. Also, find opportunities during the upcoming year to reinforce your lesson.



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