

Due West UMC Preschool

NEWSCETTER



JANUARY 2010 CALENDAR

- 1 Lunch Bunch fees and tuition payments are due and are late after the 6th
- 1-4 No School
- 6 Fun Science program—4 & 5s
- 6&7 Story Time—2s
- 7&8 Program with Pat Leonard—3s
- 11&12 Tumble Time—1 & 2s
- 11&12 Registration forms sent home
- 12&15 Spanish class—3-5s
- 13&14 Music Classes—1-5s
- 13&14 Edward Casey silhouettes
- 14 Laminating Day
- 14,21,28 & Feb. 4 Love & Logic Parenting Class
- 18 No School
- 20 Early Release for staff meeting & Tumblebus at 12:00
- 21&22 Doughnuts with Dads—3-5s
- 22 Registration forms due
- 25&26 Tumble Time—1 & 2s
- 26&29 Spanish class—3-Y.5s
- 27 Super Fun Show—3-5s
- 27&28 Chapel—2-5s



THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generous donations to our missions projects in December. We had lots of hats and mittens on our tree, which were given to the Cobb PTA sponsored “The Giving Tree” clothing distribution center. The books, videos, puzzles, and toys were divided between Toys for Tots, foster families, and MUST. The children in all of these places appreciate your generosity.

LOVE & LOGIC PARENTING CLASS

We are hosting a “Becoming a Love & Logic Parent” class for four Thursday evenings in January & February—Jan. 14th, 21st, 28th and Feb. 4th 6:30-8:30PM. This is a nationally recognized parenting program that will help you to help your child to become a productive and responsible adult while making better decisions along the way. “This is the manual they forgot to give you in the delivery room!” We hope that many of you will be able to attend this class because it will give you great ideas to help you and your children.

You should have received the information in your child’s folder, but you can get another copy of you need one. We are offering child care during these classes by registration only. We need to know the names and ages of children coming so that we can have the right number of adults to care for the children. Please send in the reservation form in your child’s folder no later than Tuesday, January 12th so we can have the materials ready for you and space for your children.

DOUGHNUTS WITH DADS

All dads (or another significant adult) of children in our three, four and young five year old classes are invited to join us for a half hour of fun on January 21st or 22nd from 8:30-9:00 AM. We’ll provide the doughnuts, orange juice, and an activity for you and your child to do together. All you have to do is come and enjoy some time with your child in his/her classroom.

- Thursday, January 21st for Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Micale, and Mrs. Davalos’ classes.
- Friday, January 22nd Mrs. Moskal, Mrs. Dreyer, Mrs. Kelley, and Mrs. Armentrout. We hope you can come! (Grandpa, Mom, or a friend is welcome if Dad can’t come.)



JANUARY TUITION PAYMENTS

Your next tuition payment is due on Jan. 1st. You can pay it before we leave on Christmas break, mail it to the church, or bring it with you the first day your child has school (Jan. 5th or 6th). It will be late after the 6th.

RECEIPTS FOR 2009

If you would like a receipt for the amount that you paid the preschool in 2009, please write a note and send it in your child's folder. We'll be happy to provide that letter for you if you need it for your company or tax purposes.

SUPER FUN SHOW

We are hosting a very fun and interactive program for the 3 through 5 year old classes on Wednesday, January 27th at 11:00. The four and five year old classes have already paid for it in their activity fees. Mrs. Dreyer's and Mrs. Moskal's classes have also paid for it. Parents in Mrs. Crane and Mrs. Morrison's classes are welcome to bring your child to the program. The cost is \$5 per child.. We'll send a note home in January to remind you. We hope you can come because it really is a super fun show!

EDWARD CASEY SILHOUETTES

Edward Casey is a silhouette artist who formerly worked for Disney World. Silhouettes are a unique art form and silhouette artists are increasingly rare. Edward cuts the silhouette free hand as he looks at the person. He will be at the preschool on Jan 13 & 14 to make silhouettes of your children. You are also welcome to bring in siblings who are not in preschool. He can do a silhouette of two children together. We will send home all of the information the first week we are back in January.



STAFF MEETING DAY CHANGE

Beginning in January our staff meeting day will be on Wednesday. We are changing it so that it doesn't always affect the same group of children.

REGISTRATION FOR 2010-2011

The registration forms for next year will be distributed to everyone January 11th & 12th. They will be due January 22nd along with the registration payment. I will do what I can to give everyone the class that they want. If we can't, we'll let you know what the procedure will be. Current students get first choice and you can request a form for any siblings that are not currently enrolled. We'll send home a registration form for them when we know what openings we have or tell you that they are on the waiting list.

If you have questions about next year's curriculum or activities, please give me a call (770-590-0982) or email (kcoffeen@duewest.org) and/or look in your parent handbook. Registration for church families, alumni siblings, and community families will be held on Sat. February 6th. Tell your friends! Encourage them to give me a call for information or to schedule a tour.



REQUESTS AND REMINDERS

1. Please be sure that we have your current phone numbers (home and cell) and address. Always keep your cell phone turned on when your child is at school.
2. Please be sure to drive slowly while you are on church property. Help us keep our children and adults safe.



Help Turn Our Preschool Green!

Due West Preschool is off and running on a recycling program and would like your help to make it a success. We are collecting the items listed below and we will receive a rebate for sending in these items. Therefore, the more we collect the more we will receive. You can send them in to school in your child's tote bag. You do not have to do anything special to them. We only ask that you keep the juice boxes separated as they tend to be sticky. We will do the rest!

No longer will all the plastic packaging from Scott brand bath tissue, paper towels, napkins and moist wipes, and Huggies brand diapers be considered waste. We can send them in to be recycled. TerraCycle tries to make its upcycled products appeal to the target audience of the original product. For example, Capri Sun drink pouches become pencil cases and lunch boxes, while Frito-Lay products are made into items such as binders and portable speakers. Kleenex packaging becomes a desktop organizer. Beginning next year you will begin to see many of these products available at major retailers such as Target, Wal-Mart, and Home Depot.

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Brown at ruick1@att.net or 678-662-9196 or Karen Coffeen at 770-590-0982.

Recycling List: Huggies, Kleenex, Scott (Plastic Packaging); Capri Sun & Honest Kids Juice Pouches; Bear Naked Snack Wrappers; Clif Bar Wrappers; Nabisco Product Wrappers; Mars Products (Candy Wrappers All Sizes); Frito Lays Products (Chip Wrappers All Sizes)



NEWS FROM THE TEACHERS

Mrs. Harris' Baby Bees (Infants & Young Ones):

December is one of our favorite months. We have sung songs and talked about baby Jesus. We loved crawling through the tunnels, running under parachutes, shaking the jingle bells and clapping our hands in our special Tumble Time and Music classes.

Please remember to change out your child's clothes in their zip lock bags and return them to stay in our class for any accidents that may happen.

Take time to celebrate what this season represents and enjoy your time with family and friends.

Mrs. Morrison's Ladybugs (Ones M/W):

It's hard to believe it is already December. This month we have been working on our Christmas decorations, our Christmas trees, and learning Christmas songs. The children have been enjoying Tumble Time with the music, dancing, and indoor play equipment. Please remember to send in hats, gloves, and warm coats for those days we can go out and play. I hope you and your family have a safe and Merry Christmas. Thank you for everything you all do. Happy 2nd Birthday, Drew.

Mrs. Ashford's Ladybugs (Ones T/Th):

Shopping for that perfect gift can be tough. Receiving gifts seems to be easier. Every once in awhile, a gift leaves you spellbound and in awe of the gift giver. God excels at being an awesome gift giver!! A few years ago he did that for you. Thank you for sharing that gift with us – it's your wonderful one! A gift, a blessing, because of their birth. Just like God's overwhelming, awesome gift and blessing: because 'Jesus was born' (Matthew 2:1).

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Mrs. Ashford, continued

Our hands on, one year old-friendly celebration of God's gift focuses on the baby, the mommy, the daddy and the animals. To celebrate baby Jesus, your wonderful ones have found Him in our storybooks, brought the animals to kiss Him in the Fisher Price nativity, interacted with nativity puppets, found Him in the manger by the tree in big church and sung the "Happy Day" song (Happy Birthday) to Him. Yes, they know Jesus; surely, that makes the angels smile!! We know Jingle Bells too – sing it with your children and enjoy their glee and laughter when they sing "hey!" Mrs. Dunn and I wish all the Due West families the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of His love this Christmas and always. May you and your children continue to find baby Jesus and all the gifts God has given you. Merry Christmas!

Mrs. Schaefer's Bears (Young Twos):

Wow, it seems as though December has flown by. It was a special month because we celebrated the birth of Jesus. We spent the month reading about Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and the animals that came to see the baby. During Story Time with Mrs. Jones the children also got to be shepherds and angels at the Birth of Jesus. We did some wonderful crafts that the parents will cherish for years to come. We made angels from our feet and hands, painted green wreaths, and red stockings for our colors of the month. Thanks to all our moms who helped out with our Christmas celebration. In January, Mrs. Schaefer would like her children to start drinking water from a regular paper cup at snack time. They can still bring sippy cups for lunch if they would like. Mrs. Schaefer, Mrs. Luders, and Mrs. Kubek wish you all a wonderful holiday and pray that you will experience the true joy of this season.



Mrs. Burns' Fish (Older Twos):

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Another short month with a lot going on. After all it is December, the month that we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We started the month off reading about Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the animals that came to see the baby and the most interesting part to the class, the star that lead them all to the Baby Jesus. The class may have broken a school record this month. We had a birthday party every Tuesday and Thursday, including the birth of Baby Jesus. We couldn't have enjoyed the parties without the parents' help. Thanks for all you do.

Ms. Crane's Bees (3's T/Th):

What a wonderful month we have had. We have been learning about the real reason we celebrate Christmas – the birth of Jesus. We acted the birth out in a play during story time. The children were so sweet as angels, shepherds, wise men, Joseph and Mary.

In Spanish we sang Feliz Navidad, and in music we sang all the great Christmas songs.

We added another student to our class. Quincy is a wonderful addition to our Due West family and we are so lucky she has joined us!

Thank you to everyone for your wonderful food for our Christmas special snack. The kids had a great time.

Mrs. Alexander and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are so blessed to be able to have your children in our lives. Thank you for sharing them!

Mrs. Morrison's Turtles (3's T/Th):

It's already December, where has the year gone? It's hard to believe it will be a new year. This month has been busy, we have been working on Christmas gifts for mom and dad, singing Christmas songs, and reading wonderful Christmas stories. If your child gets up Christmas morning singing Happy Birthday, it's because we have been singing it to Jesus in circle time. We would like to welcome our new student, Hanna, to our class.

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Mrs. Morrison, continued

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Please remember to send in warm coats, gloves, and hats so we can go outside on the days that are not raining.

Mrs. Dreyer's Fish (3's M-W-F):

It has been such a joy to experience the Christmas season through the eyes of your 3 and 4 year olds. You could just feel the excitement all month. We started the month acting out the story of Jesus' birth in story time. The Christmas story was discussed all month in class using felt boards, books and crafts as well as in Spanish, music and chapel. What fun we had singing Christmas carols and making ornaments, decorations and a special gift for our parents! Our alphabet letters in December were g and h. We enjoyed grocery shopping, making gingerbread children and sharing our special hats. We also discussed the color green as we cut out and decorated Christmas trees. We used all of our shapes this month making our Christmas trees and our gingerbread children but we emphasized the star and the meaning it has in the birth of Jesus. Thank you so much to Mrs. Drum, Mrs. Finn and Mrs. Musheno for planning the Christmas party! The children really had a great time! We celebrated two birthdays this month Happy Birthday Gavin (12/2) and we can't forget Happy Birthday Jesus! We hope you all have a very special holiday season and we look forward to seeing you in 2010!

Mrs. Moskal's Turtles (3's M-W-F):

This month is going by so fast! The children are very excited about the Christmas season. We have heard all about their Christmas trees and decorations. With all the excitement, they have been very attentive to the wonderful Christmas story. They acted out the story during Story Time, were told the story in Spanish and were good listeners during Chapel. Through felt boards, story books and nativity play sets, they have heard the amazing story several times in our class. We have had fun making Christmas

Mrs. Moskal, continued

gifts, ornaments, talking about patience through books and practice, working on our letters H, I and J and singing Christmas songs.

We enjoyed all our guest readers this month – Ryan Deaver's grandparents from California, Mrs. Belden, Mrs. Bentley and Mrs. Harmon. Thanks to Mrs. Baesman for our play dough this month. Many thanks to Mrs. May, Mrs. Belden and Mrs. Hambrick for planning our wonderful Christmas party. It was a great way to end our last day of the year. The children had a great time celebrating. It has been an awesome year and we love your amazing children!

I hope your family has a blessed holiday season!

Mrs. Kelley's Busy Bees (4's M-W-F):

Merry Christmas. I hope all of you have been enjoying this holiday season! As you know, the children are becoming very excited. The books of choice during quiet reading time have been the toy magazines that Mrs. Deiters and I put on our book shelves. Needless to say, quiet reading time isn't quiet at all! We hear a lot of "I want..." We have also had a few visits from one or maybe many of Santa's elves. They sure are mysterious little people. A few of the children are sure they have been seen and most have said they have heard their bells flying away. ☺

We began the month with a wonderful field trip to the Bethlehem Walk. Thanks to all our fantastic parents that chaperoned. I would also like to thank Mrs. Bailey for organizing drivers – it was not an easy task!

Story Time this month was awesome with the theme being the Nativity. All the children were able to be a part of this mini production and they did a great job. Spanish and Chapel were fun and also focused on the Christmas Theme.

Our classroom craft activities have been focused on some very special Christmas gifts for Mom and Dad. We are very proud of their work and I know you will agree!

Mrs. Deiters and I want to wish all of you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.
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Mrs. Kelley, continued

It is such an exciting and special time of year and I can't tell you how much we have enjoyed your children. They fill our mornings with so much love and happiness and we thank you for sharing them with us.

Mrs. Micale's Monkeys (4's M-Th):

December – such a short but exciting month! The children returned from Thanksgiving Break with bright spirits and joy! We began the month by learning about the advent season. We made Advent wreaths for our room and have been “lighting” one candle each week. We also made advent chains to help us count the days until Jesus' birthday. The last chain should be removed on Christmas Eve and you will have an ornament to hang on your tree. The children also worked very hard on special gifts for Mom and Dad. I hope you will enjoy and treasure them. Our main theme for the month focused on the birth of Jesus. We have read stories and learned songs and finger plays about that special night. One of the highlights of the month was our field trip to “Bethlehem” at Mountain View Methodist Church. It is so exciting for the children to experience the sights and sounds as it might have been the night Jesus was born. The children especially enjoy signing the census and seeing the live nativity. Other highlights of the month included making gingerbread men and playing reindeer games. We learned the letters Mm, Nn, and Rr and reviewed numbers 1-10. The month concluded with a special snack and Christmas celebration. Thank you Mrs. Mendoza, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Smith for making this a special time for the children. I feel so blessed to have spent this special time of year with your precious children. There is nothing greater than seeing Christmas through the eyes of a child. Mrs. Alfonsin and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Happy Birthday to Lilly – December 9th

Special thanks to Mrs. Himes, Mrs. Merchant, Mrs. Barrier, Mrs. Kirkman, Mrs. Holden, Mrs. Roberts, and Mrs. Mendoza for helping with our

Mrs. Micale, continued

craft projects.

Special thanks to Mrs. Kirkman, Mrs. Barrier, Mrs. Walling, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Beaty, Mrs. Wailes, Mrs. Himes, Mrs. Mendoza, Mrs. Merchant and Mrs. Holden for driving and supervising out Bethlehem field trip.

Mrs. Davalos' Butterflies (4's M-Th):

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year! Wow, how time does fly! December has come and gone and we really worked on teaching the true meaning of Christmas. We read books, made advent wreaths, Christmas ornaments, and talked about the birth of Jesus. The children loved all of the crafts and presents we made to help decorate your homes. We hope they are cherished for years to come.

It was great that so many of you could come to the Bethlehem Walk. It truly brings to life the story of Jesus' birth and what life was like in his day. Thanks to all who helped drive and supervise.

Although most of the month was spent preparing for Christmas, we also worked on the letters Mm, and Nn. The children are getting very good at sounding out the blends and making new words with the sounds. We also are reviewing the letters learned daily. Along with this we continue to sort, pattern, graph, and count. The children surprised me the other day by helping me count to 50. They love to count things. After this year, we hope that they can also recognize the numbers 1 - 10 and can count objects to 10. We are getting close!

After the break we will really start working on phone numbers and addresses. This would be a great thing to practice over the holiday. All three of my kids learned their address to a song. (We used Rain, Rain, Go Away, but any chanting type song they like works).

Thanks to all of you. We truly appreciate the support we get from all of you. Thanks to Mrs. Leonard, Mrs. Campisi, and Mrs. Carter for making the Salt Dough for our ornaments. Thanks also to everyone else who volunteered!
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Mrs. Davalos, continued

We also want to thank Mrs. Kunkel, Mrs. Crawley, and Mrs. Martin del Campo for volunteering to plan our Christmas Party. Congratulations also to the Martin del Campo family on their new baby girl! What a wonderful Christmas present.

Have a safe and restful holiday.

Mrs. Armentrout's Frogs (Young Fives):

The weather outside is frightful...but your children are so delightful! Just take a look at our door and see. I cannot believe that January is just around the corner!

The month of December started off learning about Advent and the birth of Jesus. We are dressing Santa in class with a piece of clothing getting him ready for Christmas! The kids are having fun guessing what he will put on next! We also had fun finger-painting Rudolph in a blizzard!

Next we made gingerbread boys and girls. We had to run around the school to find them! We even got to taste them to see if we liked them. They were a BIG hit.

Our Story time and Chapel were very special stories this month about the birth of Jesus. The children really loved being part of the play "The First Christmas" in Story time.

The letters and environmental books we worked on this month were "G" and "R". You all are doing a great job on the homework!!

This past week we had fun playing reindeer games in our Rudolph headbands. The kids have all worked very hard on getting everything ready for the Holidays.

In science we had a chance to make pepper run, and the magic crystal trees were a successful hit!

We celebrated three birthdays this month Jack's on the 19th, Ryan's on the 22nd, and Gib's on the 28th. Happy Birthday!

Thank you to all the parents who worked on the great Christmas party! The kids had a great time, as did Mrs. Tinney and I.

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

PARENTS' PAGE

Choosing Books for Your Preschooler

By Kate Jack

Build on the library you started for your baby.

The preschool years are a period of rapid language development. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, your 3 year old should have an active vocabulary of 300 or more words. At about age 4, that vocabulary will have grown to around 1,500 words, and it will expand by another 1,000 words or so by age 5.

Now is a great time to add to your child's book collection, with picture books, activity books, and bedtime books that introduce new words and cater to his interests.

Developmental Edge

Need help deciding which books to choose? Below are some basic recommendations from reading specialists, librarians, preschool teachers, and experienced parents.

Picture Books: Tell Me a Story

Whether read aloud or "read" alone, picture books offer your young child the chance to answer her never-ending questions about the world around her. She's ready to listen to simple stories with basic plots, but illustrations are still the main attraction for this age group. Look for bright, big pictures and be sure to talk about them as you read.

It's important to provide pre-readers with plenty of exposure to books. Your child will gain satisfaction from learning and gain motivation that will provide the foundation for her school years. When choosing picture books, look for the following characteristics

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Favorite Characters

From Bob the Builder to Dora the Explorer, from Franklin to Barney, from Madeline to Miss Spider, favorite characters serve as trusted tour guides to kids of this age. Topics range from emotions to weather to ABCs. It's also fun to look for characters that have the same name or age as your child — it will help him relate to the story.

Favorite Subjects

Does your child have a case of the "why"s? It's important to take her questions seriously. And when you don't have an answer, there's likely a children's book that does.

Like music? Look for *Charlie Parker Played Be Bop* by Chris Raschka or *Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin* by Lloyd Moss. Need to talk about last night's tantrum? *When Sophie Gets Angry — Really, Really Angry* by Molly Bang shows that anger is okay. Want to explore the human body, the ocean, or even space? Try *The Hidden World Collection*.

The key is to find basic stories that relate to your child's experiences. This way, children learn the connection between words and pictures on a page and what they see in real life.

Rhyming Text

From Mother Goose to Dr. Seuss, catchy text makes for great entertainment. Look for rhythmic and/or rhyming text that's fun to read aloud and relatively easy to memorize so that your child can join in when she's ready. Nursery rhymes and poetry collections are good places to start.

Classic Tales

There is a reason that the tales you grew up with are still around. From *The Story of Babar, the Little Elephant* by Jean de Brunhoff to *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter, classic stories introduce universal themes in the most comforting and creative ways.

Activity Books: Busy Hands, Busy Minds

Pop-up, Lift-the-flap...Scratch-and-sniff and more. Activity books provide vital learning skills and endless entertainment for this age group. Hunt-and-find books, such as the I SPY series, encourage visual discrimination, while sticker books and oversized books show that reading can be fun. These titles can hold kids' interest, so they're a good choice for rainy days or long trips by car or plane.

Bedtime Books: Sweet Stories for Sweet Dreams

A nice, soothing bedtime story can provide some welcome downtime after a busy day at school or day care. Two books to try: *10 Minutes Till Bedtime* by Peggy Rathmann, which introduces the numbers 1-10 while encouraging healthy bedtime rituals, and *Night Lights: 24 Poems to Sleep On* by Denys Cazet, a sweet poetry collection.

Extending the Fun

Try to teach your child that books matter to grown-ups too! Even though your daughter might be going off to school, it doesn't change the importance of the example you set at home. Children love to imitate; let her see you reading the newspaper in the morning or a good novel at night. Point out street signs. Talk through recipes. Read billboards together. Welcome your child into the wonderful world of reading.

Produced in partnership with [Scholastic Reader](#).

