

Due West UMC Preschool

NEWSCETTER



JANUARY 2012 CALENDAR

- 1 Lunch Bunch fees and tuition payments are due and are late after the 11th
1-9 No School
10&11 Registration forms sent home
11 Desert Program with Pat Leonard—4s
11 & 12 Story Time—2 & 3s
11&12 Spanish class—3-5s
14 Mothers & More school fair and safety Day—W. Cobb Library 12:00-2:00pm
16 No School
18&19 Music Classes—Infants—5s
19 Laminating Day
23&24 Tumble Time—Infants- 2s
24 SCRIP orders due
24 Early Release (12:00) for **staff meeting** & Dance classes start at 12:00
25 Super Fun Show—3-5s
25&26 Spanish class—3-Y.5s
26&27 Doughnuts with Dads—3-5s
27 Registration forms due
30&31 Chapel—2-5s
31 Western Day—4s



THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generous donations to our missions projects in December. We had 124 hats and mittens on our tree, which were given to the Cobb PTA sponsored “The Giving Tree” clothing distribution center and MUST. The books, videos, puzzles, and toys were divided between Toys for Tots and MUST. The children in all of these places appreciate your generosity!

JAN. TUITION PAYMENTS



Your January tuition payment is due on Jan. 10th or 11th when your child comes back to school. It will be late after the 11th.

STAFF MEETING DAY CHANGE

Beginning in January our staff meeting day will be on a TUESDAY. Early release is at 12:00. We are changing it so that it doesn't always affect the same group of children. We do not have full staff meetings each month, so please check your calendar for the correct dates.

DOUGHNUTS WITH DADS

All dads (or another significant adult) of children in our three, four and five year old classes are invited to join us for a half hour of fun on January 26th or 27th 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 26th is for Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Deiters, Mrs. Kehoe, and Mrs. Davalos' classes.
- Friday, January 27th is for Mrs. Moskal, Mrs. Dreyer, Mrs. Micale, and Mrs. Armentrout.

We hope you can come! (Grandpa, Mom, or a friend is welcome if Dad can't come.)

RECEIPTS FOR 2010

If you would like a receipt for the amount that you paid the preschool in 2010, 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.



STUDENT OPENINGS FOR 2011-12

Please let your family, friends, and neighbors know that we have a few openings for the remainder of this school year. The classes with openings are: Infants M/W, Young Ones T/Th, Threes T/Th and M/W/F, and fours M-F. If these openings are filled by Jan. 27th the parents can register their children as current students and not have to come in and stand in line on Feb. 4th!

REGISTRATION FOR 2012-2013

The registration forms for next year will be distributed to children in the infant-threes classes on January 10th & 11th. They will be due no later than January 27st along with the registration payment. You will be asked to mark a first and second choice and the classes will be filled as we receive the forms. I will do what I can to give everyone the class that they want. Every child is guaranteed a spot, but I cannot guarantee the number of days for threes and fours. Current students get first choice and you can also 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 your child is in a four year old class and you'd like to register for the young fives class, please let us know and we'll send you a form.

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 ([http://duewest.org/pages/Community/Weekday Preschool/](http://duewest.org/pages/Community/WeekdayPreschool/)). If you have questions regarding your child please talk to the teacher or me. Registration for church families, alumni siblings, and community families will be held on Sat. February 4^h. Tell your friends! Encourage them to give me a call for information and to schedule a tour.



MOTHER'S AND MORE

SCHOOL FAIR and SAFETY DAY

We will have a booth at the Mother's and More School Fair and Safety Day on Saturday, Jan. 14th 12:00-2:00pm. The fair will be at the W. Cobb Library and there will also be a bounce house, police vehicle, ambulance and the Safe Kids organization. This is open to all area families, so I hope you can come and tell your friends.

SCRIP ORDERS

Thank you for your support of this fund raiser. Isn't it nice to be able to help the school and get something worth what you paid? We will continue to send in an order each month for the rest of our school year. Please remember that these cards can be used for places that your family already shops—stores, restaurants, gas stations, etc. So all you have to do is plan ahead for what you're going to spend, buy the cards through the preschool and you'll be helping yourself and the school without spending any extra money. It's a win-win situation!

SUPER FUN SHOW

We are hosting a very fun and interactive program for the 3 through 5 year old classes on Wednesday, January 25th at 11:00. The three (except T/Th class), four and five year old classes have already paid for it in their activity fees. Parents in Mrs. Deiters class are welcome to bring your child to the program. The cost is \$5 per child. We'll send a note home to remind you. We hope you can come because it really is a super fun show!

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!

Thank you for your support of our recycling program. You've been really great about sending things in that you've saved at home as well as putting food in your child's lunches from the companies that we can send in to recycle. Please continue to save the following items at home over the holidays for us:

***Capri Sun/Honest Kids Juice Pouches** -

***All chip/pretzel bags** - any brands any sizes

***M & M Mars Products** - Wrappers any sizes (Includes Skittles & Starburst)

***Nabisco Products** - Outer Wrappers only

***Kashi Snacks** - Outer Packaging (Wrappers/Boxes)

***Elmer's Glue** - Empty glue bottles & tubes

***Tyson Frozen Chicken** - tops/side panels of boxes or the zip off part of a plastic bag.



NEWS FROM THE TEACHERS

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

December is always full of blessings, just take the time to look and listen.

Everywhere you look there are reminders of what this season is about. Our preschool classes decorate their doors with the children's creations as part of the celebration of Jesus' birthday. We go to music and sing songs about Jesus and his love. We read and listen to stories about His birth. Our preschool parents are always stepping up to help out others in need like our hat and mitten tree. This is what the season is about. How great to be a part of such a loving and caring community. Thank you for letting us be a part of your child's life. They bless us in so many different ways.

We want to send prayers and good wishes for our classmate, Zamyriah. She touches so many people with her loving heart and happy spirit, and I'm sure she is continuing to do so wherever she goes.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday!

Mrs. Augur's Ladybugs (Ones):

December was a very quick and busy month for the ladybugs. Mrs. Novis and I are so proud of our little singers. They did a fantastic job during the Music with parents program. Thank you for coming and singing along. The children really love to ring the bells. This month, we celebrated the birth of Jesus. The children made all sorts of holiday crafts ornaments, stockings, reindeer, Santa, and baby Jesus. We celebrated Zoey, Lainey and Mrs. Novis' birthdays. We had wonderful holiday parties where we sang Happy Birthday to Jesus and the birthday girls. The children are working hard to use their signs. Jesus was the sign this month. We learned about the colors red and green. We are working very hard to get the children to sit and eat at the table, please encourage this at home. The children have begun to help us count the ladybugs and they love to tell us what noises animals make. We want to remind you to please keep your children at home if they are sick. It helps to keep viruses from spreading. At this age, it is easy to spread germs to a friend accidentally. Children must be fever free for 24 hours. It is also the policy to keep children home until they have been vomit free for 24 hours. You can find all of this information in the handbook or feel free to ask. We are very grateful for all you do. We hope you had a wonderful holiday, and we will see you next year. *"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ..."Ephesians 3:17b-19a*

Mrs. Schaefer's Bears (Young Twos):

Merry Christmas! This has been another short month with a lot going on. After all it is December, the month we celebrate the birth of Jesus. During Story Time with Mrs. Jones, the children got to be shepherds and angels at the birth of Jesus. We spent the month reading about Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and the animals that came to see the baby. We did some wonderful crafts that our parents can cherish for years to come. The most important thing the children learned to do was sing Happy Birthday to Jesus! (next page)

Mrs. Schaefer, continued

Thanks to all our moms who sent in our special snacks so we could celebrate Jesus' birthday as a class. A great big THANK YOU to our families for taking time out of your day and coming to share in our Christmas music program.

In January, Mrs. Schaefer would like all 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. Kubek, and Mrs. Ashford wish you all a wonderful holiday and pray that you will experience the true joys of this season. God Bless.

Mrs. Ashford's T-Th Goldfish (Older Twos):

The Christmas season is all about waiting. Anticipating the unknown can be exciting! Preschoolers are not so good at the waiting part, but are very good at the getting excited part. The Bible tells us Jesus was worth waiting for just because, "He was Born." Waiting is God's way of reminding us that anything worth having is worth the wait.

During December, we talked about all kinds of waiting; waiting for friends to come to school, waiting for our turn, waiting in line (this involves waiting in carline and waiting one's turn to visit a certain man in red garments). Helping us with all of this was our class elf, Rainbow Trout. He showed up in some of the craziest places to remind us to keep waiting.

Projects kept us busy too. We made adorable angels who flew around our room waiting to find Baby Jesus. We hunted all over school looking for Baby Jesus on door decorations, bulletin boards, in books, and in big church (the sanctuary). Did you have some new ornaments for your tree? Our fine motor skills were tested with stickers, small glue brushes, crayons, paint droppers, and we even painted with Christmas tree branches.

Thank you for attending our Holiday Music Class. We are so blessed to get to know all of you, and your extended families. What a fun way to celebrate the Christmas season.

Mrs. Ashford, continued

Congratulations to Emma D. and Kaelyn who are now three!! Happy Birthday!

Mrs. Rochler and I hope all of our Due West families found the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of His love this Christmas. May you and your children continue to find baby Jesus and all the gifts God has given you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

Christmas IS the most wonderful time of the year! We have had so much fun telling the story of Jesus' birth! The children love hearing about Mary and Joseph and how they traveled to Bethlehem and are amazed that Jesus was born in a barn! With animals! It is amazing! We have done so many fun activities this month. We have painted the nativity and Christmas trees. There have been Gingerbread, Snowmen, and Reindeers! We have made or our own "Jingle" necklaces and some special gifts for mommy and daddy too! Our children were the stars of the show as they reenacted the Nativity with our Storyteller, Mrs. Jones. They loved it! They enjoyed singing Christmas carols with Mrs. Partin and loved Chapel time with Mrs. Coffeen. This year was a big year for everyone's first "Elf on the Shelf" and Mrs. Pass and I really loved hearing all the "Elf" stories. The children had a blast at their Christmas party and we are so blessed to have wonderful mothers to come in and help us! The pizza and "Happy Birthday Jesus" cake were a big hit! Mrs. Pass and I are both blessed and honored to share such a special time of the year with these amazing children. It is very fun to live all the mysteries of this season through the eyes of a child!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!



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

It has been such a joy to experience the Christmas season through the eyes of 3 and 4 year olds. What fun we had singing Christmas carols, making ornaments, decorations and a special gift for our parents! We started the month acting out the story of Jesus' birth in story time and talking about it all month in class using felt boards, books and crafts as well as in Spanish, music and chapel. You could just feel the excitement all month. Our alphabet letters in December were h, i and j. We wore our favorite hats to school, made igloos out of marshmallows and a special puffy paint and celebrated Jesus' birthday! We also discussed the color green and all of our shapes as we cut out and decorated a Christmas tree for our Itsy Bitsy Spider song. Thank you so much to Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Gordy and Mrs. VanBramer for planning the Christmas party! The children really had a fantastic time! We celebrated two special birthdays this month. Happy Birthday Jack and Happy Birthday Jesus! We hope you all have a wonderful holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you in 2012!

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

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

The children enjoyed making our class gingerbread house, reading the Gingerbread Man book, and putting together their number books. Hopefully, they are enjoying their books at home. Many thanks to Mrs. Leonard for

Mrs. Moskal, continued

coming into class and helping the children decorate the gingerbread houses. We celebrated Grayce's birthday (12/23) on our last day. Thanks to Mrs. Bates for our play dough this month. Thanks to Mrs. Kunkel, Mrs. Bates and Mrs. Sims 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. Morrison's Caterpillars (3's M-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. At Story Time with Mrs. Jones, the children reenacted the Christmas story. The girls were the angels and the boys were the shepherds. They greatly enjoyed participating. Thank you to Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Ellerbee for helping with our Christmas party. In Circle Time, we are working on patterns and matching. In January, I would like to start Mystery Readers. If you would like to help with this, please send me a note and we will pick a day and time that works best for you. Dads, please mark your calendars for Doughnuts with Dad on January 26th. If Dad cannot come in, we would love to have Mom, a grandparent, uncle or special friend attend with your child. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please remember to send in warm coats, gloves, and hats so we can go outside. Happy Birthday to Lacey and Drew.



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

December is always such a short, busy month at preschool. We spent most of our time reading the Christmas story and learning about Jesus. What a special and exciting time of year! The children went to a special "Story Time" where they acted out the story. They went to chapel to sing, read, and learn about Jesus, and they went to music to sing about Christmas! We also did lots of fun crafts for fun and for giving! We hope everyone enjoyed these lasting keepsakes!

We also continued to learn several new letters and numbers. We had it snow in cotton balls and paper. After the pretend snow, the children used tweezers to pick up the cotton and we counted how many balls fell. The children sang our nursery rhyme; Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star and created beautiful stars for their keepsake books.

Much of what makes this preschool so wonderful are the parents. Donating your time, your talents and your generosity! We so appreciate the thoughtful snacks, the volunteers for special activities, laminating, and donating needed items.

Our class had its first birthday celebration. Happy Birthday to Tyler!

We hope everyone enjoys their break.....we'll see you in 2012. *Don't forget to practice letter recognition and letter sounds :)

Mrs. Kehoe's Busy Bees (4's M-Th):

The month of December has been a whirlwind! The children have had so much fun making their parents their Christmas presents, singing holiday songs, and learning more about Advent and the true meaning of the Christmas season.

This month, we learned about the letters Nn, Rr, and Ss. The children made a paper bag Owl puppet for Nigel the Night Owl (Nn), Rudolph the Reindeer for our class door (Rr), and a shiny Sammy Snake (Ss). They practiced the sound, motions, and printing of each letter. Our nursery rhyme this month was "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star". We discussed how stars helped to guide

Mrs. Kehoe, continued

the wise men to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Our Bible story in December was "The Birth of Jesus". Mrs. Jones came at the beginning of the month and recited the story of Jesus' birth and all the children were assigned parts of a play. It was really a memorable activity for the children. Also, we enjoyed another version of Jesus' birth by Mrs. Coffeen at chapel. We also discussed our word of the month, patience. We talked about how God wants all of us to be more understanding and sensitive to one another. If we ask God for his help, he will share the gift of patience with us all. In math this month, we have continued to review the numbers 0-7 and practice writing and learning to recognize the numbers 8-10. We have also been working on buttoning and zipping skills. Most of the class was awarded their ribbon for these skills. If your child is still having trouble with zipping his/her own coat, practice makes perfect! I am SO proud of our children for learning all their shapes and colors! Remember, to help your child with memorizing their address and phone number, if still needed. When he/she knows it, please tell them to let me know and I will ask him/her to recite it for an award for their ribbon!

We had a very special field trip to Bethlehem Walk on December 9th. All of the children, as well as Mrs. Kelley and I, loved our visit to the streets of Bethlehem. The students loved the storytellers, sword making, bread tasting and seeing all the animals roaming the streets. Thank you to all of our wonderful parents who helped to chaperone this field trip. I hope you enjoyed the experience as much as we did! A special thank you to Aimee Mitchell, Tonya Kolman, and Natalie Swearingin for volunteering to host our Christmas celebration. As always, a wonderful time was had by all! I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!



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

What a wonderful time of the year! Mrs. Alfonsin and I feel so blessed to be spending it with your children. Our class has spent the month of December concentrating on the season of Advent and the birth of Jesus. The theme has been reinforced with books, songs, fingerplays, and crafts. We also enjoyed a special Story Time with Mrs. Jones. The children were each given a part and participated in a play depicting the night Jesus was born. Mrs. Coffeen also shared the story with the children at Chapel. Our field trip to the Bethlehem Walk was also a very special day for the children. It was very exciting to experience the sights and sounds of "Bethlehem" as it might have been on the night Jesus was born. Thanks so much to everyone who drove and chaperoned this trip. We ended the month with a Christmas celebration on the last day of school before the break. Thank you for helping your child select a gift for someone less fortunate and teaching our children the joy of giving to others. A special thanks also to Mrs. Eaton, Mrs. Parker, and Mrs. Rice for planning our Christmas snack and party activities.

In addition to all our Christmas activities, we learned the nursery rhyme, Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. In phonics, we worked on the letters Mm, Nn, and Rr. For math, we concentrated on the numerals 7 and 8. We celebrated one birthday this month. Happy Birthday to Olivia N. on December 14.

Mrs. Alfonsin and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you in 2012!

Mrs. Armentrout's Frogs (Young Fives):

The weather outside is frightful...but your children are so delightful! We 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!

Mrs. Armentrout, continued

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 magic crystal trees. They were a tree-mendous success! We also found out that black has all the colors in it by bleeding a black sharpie on a coffee filter.

We celebrated 4 Birthdays this month. Eryn's on the 9th, Jacobs on the 14th, Finn's on the 22nd, and Harper's on the 22nd. Happy Birthday to you all!!

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.

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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:

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.

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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](#).

