

# Put a little PEP in your Life!

## December 2024 Newsletter

### **A Letter from the Director...**

Dear Park's Edge Preschool Families:

As the 2024 year is ending, it's a great time to reflect on all the wonderful accomplishments we have achieved this year. In June we celebrated our 25th Anniversary with a huge celebration. In July we went through our validation visit and were awarded our NAC Accreditation through August 2028. September all new windows were installed in the infant/toddler classroom, new paint in both upstairs and lower-level classrooms, new window treatments and all new carpets throughout the entire building to complete the project. Thank you to all the families for making alternate arrangements to allow for all these projects to be completed. This month, we are excited to announce that we have purchased a new bus that will be on the road in December. Lots to be thankful for this year.

A huge thank you to Emanuel Church's Mission Committee for providing 300 servings of sloppy joes, carrots, apples and cookies

(decorated by the preschool children). It's everyone's favorite time of year, the one night that we all look forward to not having to cook dinner. We cannot wait to hear what's on the menu next year!

Conference night was a success. We had over 40 families attend. It is a great opportunity to connect with your child's teacher without interruption. The teachers work hard preparing your child's portfolio and Portage Assessment tool to discuss at conferences. If you were unable to attend, you are welcome to take home your child's portfolio and setup a phone conference if needed. Please make sure to fill out the NAC Parent Survey if you haven't done so yet, we need 90% back to report to NAC. Your responses are tallied, and in-service training is created around the results.

Lots of celebrations are happening this month. Thursday, December 5 from 5:30-7pm is our All Center Christmas Party. All classrooms will have fun 'make and take' activities and Santa will be here too. The sign-up sheet will be at the

front desk for time slots to meet with Santa. To round out the night, we will have cookie decorating in Kurth Hall. Thursday, December 12 at 4pm will be Jesus' Birthday Celebration. This is our all-center Christmas program. All age-groups (infants too) will be a part of telling the story 'Angel, Angel, What Do You See?' and singing our favorite Christmas songs. Pastor Josh will be delivering a special children's message to complete the program. Everyone is welcome, grandparents too! Cupcakes will be served in Kurth Hall after the program. A sign-up sheet will be at the front desk.

We hope that everyone has a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Kristin Burr  
Director

## Happy Birthday!

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Leo S.       | 12/01/2020 |
| Luke S.      | 12/02/2017 |
| Atlas N.     | 12/03/2023 |
| Luka S.      | 12/07/2021 |
| Evelyn M.    | 12/07/2022 |
| Charlotte T. | 12/13/2016 |
| Clara K.     | 12/13/2020 |
| Ariya W.     | 12/16/2019 |
| Henry G.     | 12/17/2021 |
| Finnegan A.  | 12/24/2020 |
| JoJo S.      | 12/29/2013 |
| Lucas G.     | 12/29/2019 |
| Stefanie J.  | 12/30/2021 |



## Important Dates:

### **Thursday, November 28th – Friday November 29th-**

PEP Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday.

Regular Tuition Applies.

### **Thursday, December 5th-**

PEP's Family Christmas Party 5:30pm-7:00pm.

Sign up for your picture with Santa at the front desk.

### **Thursday, December 12th-**

Jesus' Birthday Celebration (All Center Christmas Program)

4:00pm-5:00pm held in the church sanctuary.

### **Monday, December 16th – Friday, December 20th–**

Santa's Workshop!

Children can purchase gently used gifts for loved ones.

Workshop located in Kurth Hall.

Three gifts of \$6.

Sign-up sheets will be available in your child's classroom.

### **Monday, December 23rd – Wednesday, January 1st–**

Whitnall School District Closed for Winter Break.

Sign up for care in the classroom.

### **Tuesday, December 24th – Wednesday, December 25th–**

Merry Christmas!

Center closed for the Christmas Holiday.

Regular tuition rates apply.

### **Tuesday, December 31st–**

Center closes at 3pm for New Years Holiday.

### **Wednesday, January 1st–**

Center closed for New Years Holiday.

Regular tuition rates apply.





## Love Bugs

What do you call an old snowman? Water

November was a busy month in the Lovebugs. We finger painted, turned paper towel rolls into a tool to create masterpieces, used a bag for painting and made adorable turkey footprints.

This month, we will continue to paint with our fingers and introduce crayons for the older children.

As always, our babies are busy hitting milestones and working hard at growing their little minds and bodies. Malakai is getting stronger by the day and is working on sitting up on his own! He has a smile for anyone who steps foot in the room. Sweet little Cole is growing quickly and is rolling from front to back. He loves his bottles and enjoys his time relaxing in the bouncer.

Adalynn, our child of the month, is trying hard to crawl on all 4's. Adalynn is the group social advisor. She is always smiling and playing with the other babies. Owen has a smile that lights up the room and he is working hard at holding his own bottle. Funny guy Levi loves to laugh and is also working hard at holding his own bottle.

Way to go babies!

We hope you all enjoy your very first Christmas!

Thank you for sharing your babies with us and we wish you all a merry Christmas.

Happy New Year!

Ms. Terri



## Beautiful Butterflies

Our Butterflies are entering the final month of 2024 strong. December is a time to welcome and embrace a new season. A time that brings reflection, resilience, and Hope. A festive time!

This month we celebrate Atlas's first birthday! He will be our baby of the month for December! Atlas has the biggest smile in the world and is rarely seen without it. He likes music, bubbles, painting, and adores being out in nature.

Our babies amaze us every single day with how quickly they are growing and learning. The little ones have been waving hello and goodbye and saying "hello" and "yellow". They've been little artists this month using bingo markers, large crayons, and paint. As always, they are practicing their self-help skills by holding their own bottles, cups and utensils. Another fun thing to witness is how great the children are at identifying their own coat, hat and shoes. They also love helping their friends find their socks or shoes if they go missing.

Please continue to provide proper weather clothing as the weather is getting colder. We go outside in winter months. Please provide shoes for walking, as well as a blanket as children turn one year old, they sleep on cots. For our parent engagement activity we ask that you please tell us your favorite holiday and winter traditions!!!

As times and seasons change, be sure to hold on to the little things, for they indeed are the big things!!!

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!

Ms. Julie and Ms. Holli





## Darling Dragonflies

“What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.”-Dr. Seuss

In November the Dragonflies learned manners, emotions, about community helpers and how they help us and others and having an attitude of gratitude. Our Dragonflies learned that having good manners and recognizing emotions are vital for creating strong connections and improving communication skills. The highlights of November: our class had enjoyed watching the season fully change by watching the leaves fall from the trees and jumping into big piles of them! We also did lots of art!

In December our class themes will cover:

Science is crucial for toddlers as it helps them understand the world around them, fosters curiosity and encourages critical thinking which lays a strong foundation for future learning. It also promotes exploration and discovery, making learning fun and interactive at an early age. We are planning lots of fun science experiments for the week!

Snow and Ice; by engaging with these elements can spark curiosity, promote sensory exploration, and encourage imaginative play. It also provides opportunities for discussions about weather, seasons, and the environment.

Our 5 Senses; by tapping into our senses, it helps us explore and make sense of the world around us through sight, taste, scent, touch and sound.

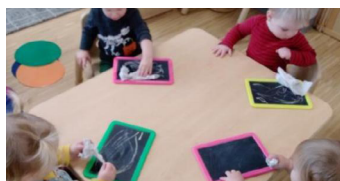
Celebrating Jesus’ birthday which introduces the children to the values of love, kindness, and giving. Understanding this celebration helps them connect with family traditions and fosters a sense of community.

Our goals for the Dragonflies this month are to continue implementing manners into our everyday dialogue and activities. We are also focusing on using utensils full time except when eating finger foods. We encourage parents to promote spoon and fork usage at home as well!

Reminder for parents: As the weather is starting to get even cooler, please bring a winter coat with snow pants or snowsuit with gloves/mittens, snow boots and hats!

Have a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Ms. Jacque, Ms. Brooke and Ms. Tori



## Busy Bees

November blew by and we had a fabulous time!

We had some awesome highlights for November. Our Bees had so much fun making leaf piles outside and jumping into them. We practiced our manners and learned how to say “please” and “thank you”. We ripped paper using fine motor skills to pull the paper apart.

We hope everyone had an amazing Thanksgiving filled with family time, and most importantly lots of turkey. We are so excited to start the holiday season and to decorate the room.

Winter is upon us. We had our first taste of snow at the end of November. We will be needing snowpants, boots, and waterproof gloves very soon. Please make sure to label them so they don’t get mixed up!

We have been improving our coat flipping skills, so please keep practicing at home. We also encourage the kids to put their own snowpants on, so that could be something fun they could try out at home as well.

We can’t wait for all the fun themes of December. We will be learning about mad science where we will have fun experiments all throughout the week, snow and ice, the five senses, Jesus’ birth, and finally happy new year’s! Please keep an eye out for our family events that are happening throughout the month. There will be sign-up sheets at the front desk.

I hope everyone has a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Ms. Emily, Ms. Haley J. and Ms. Jacinda



## Sunshine Room

With the first snowfall, November comes to an end. The kids were so excited to play in the snow but unfortunately it didn't stick around for long. We had some great excitement happen in our room with our new teacher Ms. Nay-nay or Ms. Nadine. She's very excited to get to know all of your children, as well as you. So, stop in and say Hi!

November was filled with lots of laughs and new beginnings. Many new friends joined us from the Busy Bee's. We are so excited to get to know them all and watch them grow. With all of these new changes we've been working very hard on following our class routine, as well as being kind, gentle and loving to one and all. We spent a lot of time learning new skills such as balancing, cutting paper and matching emotions. This month we are going to continue working on our fine motor skills, gifts for our parents and self-help skills like putting our winter gear on; each week we will add on another piece of gear.

With the weather changing drastically we want to make sure everyone has the appropriate clothing for day-to-day activities indoor and outdoor. Please make sure there's a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and a sweatshirt in their cubbies. Along with snow pants, boots and appropriate coats for outdoor activities. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Shanda, Ms. Alexis or Ms. Nay-nay. You can always talk to us in person, on the app, or call during nap time between 1-3.

Thank you! From the Sunshine Crew

Ms. Nay-nay, Ms. Shanda, and Ms. Alexis



## Fantastic Frogs

"Joy to the world the Lord has come! We have had a very full month in the Fantastic Frogs room this November, and we are looking forward to a great month celebrating our Lord and Savior Jesus in December!

The first week of November was all about manners. To encourage the children to always practice good manners, Ms. Sandra helped them make and decorate their own "My Good Manners Chart", where they could put the stickers, they earned by being good helpers around the class and using kind words with their friends and teachers. Needless to say, the Frogs got to put up a lot of stickers! We also got to see how sharing and science come together, first by working on partner paintings with primary colors, then by doing a combination experiment with colored water. There were lots of purples, greens, and browns.

This month we were also joined by some new friends from the Sunshine classroom: Pierce, Liam, Liliana, Emily, Kennedy, and Beau! They have been having a lot of fun exploring their new room. As part of Community Helpers week, all the Frogs got to practice being responsible with Mr. Ben's book return racing game. They used their large motor skills to run a book of their choice "home" and back to the "library" and got a little reading in too!

Coming up in December, we will start with Mad Science week, practicing our sorting skills with magnets and following multi-step instructions to create colorful lemonade. As the snows are starting to fall, the Frogs will be getting outside to play and make snow angels, especially during Snow and Ice week. Make sure to have your child grab their boots, snow pants, hats, and gloves!

Most importantly, the Christmas season has begun! All of Park's Edge will be celebrating Jesus' birthday on December 12th, and His spirit will be alive in our classroom all month long. We always strive to follow the example of Jesus and to be kind, loving, and gentle in the Frogs class, and we will be spending some extra time sharing the beautiful story of His birth with the children.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Ms. Sandra, Mr. Ben and Ms. Nola





## Shining Stars

Hello-ho-ho and happy December! Christmas is just around the corner, and we are excited to see what winter brings (hopefully some snow!). November brought us lots of change, including some new friends from the Frogs room, as well as Ms. Mariah! We cannot wait to begin this journey together.

November was all about manners, feelings, and community helpers! During our manner's week, we worked on our table manners. For feelings week, we learned some new feeling words, like excited, grumpy, upset, and surprised! During community helper's week, we learned all about our community and what it means to be part of a community. Our favorites we learned about were firefighters, teachers, and babysitters. And last but most certainly not least, we dove right into Thanksgiving week. We learned all about what it means to be thankful, and all about turkeys! We created some Park's Edge Thanksgiving Day Parade floats and showed them off all around the center.

December has snuck up on us, can you believe it's already the end of the year?! We can't wait to celebrate one of our most beloved holidays with you. Thursday, December 5th will be our family Christmas party, bring your loved ones to come check out what fun make-and-take activity we will be making in our room! We will also be celebrating the birth of Jesus on Thursday, December 12th, come join us in the church for a beautiful Christmas program. We are ready to mix it up with some mad science for our first week of December! Following that, we will fall into snow and ice week, where we will learn about the different forms of water. After that, we will get a feel for the five senses, where we will discuss the importance of using all five senses. We will then celebrate Christmas together during Christ is Born week and end the year learning about the New Year.

We hope you have a happy December, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! See you next year!

Ms. Mariah, Ms. Hannah and The Stars Crew



## Purple Moons

November was full of excitement as we branched off from the Shining Stars and opened our Purple Moon room!

We had a great time experimenting with all the new stuff in the room and learned lots of new things. Ms. Maria brought her super cool microscope and showed us a leaf, pollen, and a pencil shaving up close!

We learned about manners, emotions, and community helpers. We loved helping frost the cookies for the Frazzled Family Dinner. We were so excited when the first snowfall arrived! We loved all the snow angels and snowballs we got to make. We even ate some snow.

We were so grateful to spend Thanksgiving with our family and friends and enjoyed all that delicious food!

Now that winter is upon us, please make sure your child has snow pants, a coat, gloves, hat, and boots with them each day. We cannot play outside without them.

An extra sweater/sweatshirt in the cubby will help keep us warm on those chilly days.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Ms. Maria during nap time 1:00-3:00 pm. You can also reach out through the ProCare app.

Happy Holidays!

Ms. Maria





## Slithering Snakes

What often falls in the winter but never gets hurt?

Snow

Welcome to our first official month of winter! While this season will bring with it many challenges, the slow process of dressing for snow and wet cold clothes to name a couple, we are choosing to look on the bright, hopefully warm and cozy side! Christmas and all its many seasonal joys, sledding with your friends and family, as well as warm days inside exploring the meaning of Christmas and the ways to spread cheer. Please remember as the temperature drops, and snow piles up to send your child with appropriate clothing, coat, hat, gloves, and boots. We will be making sure to return hats and gloves to either coat pockets or cubbies and will be placing wet clothes and boots on the racks in the hallway. We here are hoping for a winter of relatively mild temperatures and an abundance of snow!

December will be a month busy with activity and events, a perfect time to reach out to you all and share our cheer. December fifth will be our center wide Christmas party, with a special appearance by the king of crimson himself, Santa Claus. We may or may not have heard from reliable sources that Santa this year will be represented by someone other than Mr. Cody, which will hopefully minimize the whispers of "That's just Mr. Cody". We will also be putting on our seasonal Christmas play, a chance for all of our students to spread the love and message of Christmas. And finally, we will be open during your child's winter break! We are looking forward to the opportunity to see some children who have left us for kindergarten and beyond, as well as an extended period of time to enjoy our classroom and outside. Our sign-up sheet for this time will be on the table under the chalkboard near our door, and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to share them. We are looking forward to a fantastic month and cannot wait to see you!

Sincerely,

Ms. Nicole, and Mr. Cody



## Themes with Christian Sub Themes

**12/02-12/06: Mad Science**

Prayer: I am thankful I have an imagination and can use it to create and learn. Amen!

**12/09-12/13: Snow and Ice**

Job 37:5-7 "He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour.'"

**12/16-12/20: The 5 Senses**

Psalms 34:8 "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!"

**12/23-12/27: Christmas: Jesus is Born!**

The story of Jesus' Birth

**12/30-01/03: Happy New Year!**

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".



## A Pastor's Note

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

God with us.

Join us these next four weeks as we prepare a place for Your Son to lay His head.

Prepare our hearts to receive good tidings of great joy.

God with us.

Guide our steps on the way to the manger.

God with us.

Fill our hearts with the spirit of Christmas.

God with us.

Even in times of trouble,

Lead us to sing, Christ is born

And His light shines in the darkness,

Shines into our weary souls.

God with us

See us through,

So, we may sing,

Joy to the World.

Amen.

-Pastor Josh