

Put a little PEP in your Life!

January 2025 Newsletter

A Letter from the Director...

Dear Park's Edge Preschool Families,

Happy New Year to everyone, bring on 2025. We are excited to 'roll' into the New Year with a new bus to transport the children to and from the Whitnall school district and of course field trips during the summer.

Thank you so much to all the parents who made this time of year extra special. We all enjoyed all the treats that came in as well as the kind words, it meant a lot to all of us. Our center-wide Christmas Party was a huge success. Each classroom had a fun make and take activity. The guest of honor, Santa, reported that all the children were wonderful and looked forward to delivering their presents on Christmas morning.

Jesus' Birthday Celebration was the highlight for me. This year I had a different viewpoint of the program than in years past. Standing in the front watching as each group came down the aisle and onto the stage was so fun. My favorite part was looking at the audience and

seeing all the parents, grandparents and siblings beaming with pride watching the program. I love it when the last of the children arrive up front and you see how many children we have in our program. So much to be thankful for. Thank you to Emanuel Church for allowing us to use your beautifully decorated sanctuary and Pastor Josh who delivered the children's message about Joy.

At our January staff meeting we will be setting our goals for 2025. We are starting the year off right by revisiting our 5 Core Values which are: 1. Children First 2. Professionalism 3. Teamwork 4. Positivity 5. Commitment. We will have a culture team meeting prior to the staff meeting to discuss goals as a team that we want to see implemented throughout the year. The culture team are the eyes and ears in the program to ensure that we are upholding our core values. We look critically at our Parent Surveys and tally the results, and that is the tool used to set center wide goals. I look forward to sharing those goals with you next month.

Friendly Reminder: With the weather getting colder and snow coming, please make sure that you leave work with enough time to get to the center by 6pm. Our center is only licensed from 6am-6pm Monday through Friday. Thank you in advance. We have ordered magnets for this year's events and we will be putting them in mailboxes as soon as they arrive. This lists all our Professional Development days, special events and holidays that we are closed.

Happy New Year!
Kristin Burr
Director

Happy Birthday!

Charli A.	01/02/2019
Ryker M.	01/04/2020
Noah C.	01/04/2022
Declan P.	01/04/2023
Maxine W.	01/14/2020
Cohen R.	01/19/2019
Mason D.	01/22/2015
Layla K.	01/22/2020
Atticus R.	01/22/2020
Claire R.	01/23/2022



Important Dates:

Thursday, January 2nd-

Whitnall School District Resumes Classes.

Friday, January 17th-

Half Day Whitnall School District.

No 4k Classes.

Monday, January 20th-

No School Whitnall School District.

Sign up for care in downstairs classroom.

Monday, February 3rd-

Tuition Rate Increase will go into effect for 2025.

We will provide updated tuition agreement forms mid-January.

Love Bugs

What are a snow leopards' favorite type of candy?

Snowcaps

December was a festive and merry time in our Lovebug room. Our babies flexed their art skills and painted with a paint brush to work on grasping. The tiny artists made snowmen, Christmas lights and mistletoes with their little feet!

As always, our little ones are working hard at hitting their milestones. Every day they show us something new and amazing. Let's see what our babies were up to in December.

Some December highlights and milestones:

Our child of the month Malakai is starting to clap for all his friends. He also loves to ham it up for the camera each day.

Levi has mastered crawling and is roaming all over the classroom.

Owen can army crawl and always has a smile for anyone that comes in the room.

Adalynn can push buttons on pop up toys and loves to show off her skills to her friends in the room.

Cole is chatting it up and smiling at his friends.

Way to go babies! We cannot wait to see what the new year brings to each and every one of you.

Happy New Year!

Ms. Terri



Beautiful Butterflies

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a very merry Christmas, and we wish you nothing but health and happiness in the new year. Our Butterfly babies are learning and growing up so fast. Thank you for sharing your precious little ones with us.

In January we will once again be focusing on self-help skills. We encourage babies to hold their own bottles and sippy cups and to feed themselves with utensils. The babies love to pull at their socks, so we give friendly reminders to keep socks and shoes on, especially when the weather is colder. When going outdoors we encourage children to recognize their own belongings and tell them that hats, mittens, and boots stay on while outside.

All our Butterflies are on their own individual schedule, however as they continue to grow, we encourage consistent routines of feedings, naps, and bedtime. We love working with you on your child's development. Please share with us any skills you want us to incorporate with your child's learning in this new year. We are always willing to talk with you at nap time, pick up or through the app.

George will be our baby of the month for January. George smiles, claps, and is always chatting and telling stories. He has been pulling himself up and moving around fast! He likes stacking blocks, playing with large Legos and is fascinated with bubbles! We can't wait to see what George continues to do this month.

May you all have a blessed new year!

Ms. Julie and Ms. Holli



Darling Dragonflies

May this year bring you lots of smiles, fun, and discoveries. Happy 2025!

In December, our class themes engaged us in exciting science experiments, teaching us all about the magic of snow and ice. We had a blast using our five senses to explore the wonders of winter and being in tune with our bodies. The holiday season was filled with laughter and cheer as we celebrated Jesus' birthday and enjoyed a festive Christmas party together. It was a wonderful time being together!

We are ringing in 2025 teaching our Dragonflies about New Year celebrations and how fun and joyful an experience they can be! We will snuggle up and explore how some animals hibernate, venture through the jungle ecosystem, dive into the world of transportation vehicles, and delve into the magic of lights and shadows. It's going to be an amazing adventure-filled month of learning and discovery!

Our goal for the Darling Dragonflies for January is to be retouching on the theme of manners. Teaching manners is important because it helps them learn how to be kind and respectful to others. When we show them how to say "please" and "thank you" they start to understand the value of being polite. This not only makes their interactions with friends and family better but also helps them feel more comfortable in social situations. Good manners can lead to positive experiences and friendships as they grow up. Plus, it sets a strong foundation for their future behavior and relationships.

Ms. Jacque, Ms. Brooke and Ms. Tori



Busy Bees

Happy new year! 2024 was a blast and we are excited to see what 2025 has in store for us.

December was merry and bright! We had so much fun learning about our five senses. The children loved testing their senses with smelling different scents and tasting new foods. During science week we did an experiment with pop rocks, that was a class favorite.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas party and Jesus' birthday celebration! The children worked hard on our song for Jesus' birthday. Seeing the kids excitement as they found their parents in the crowd was a very wonderful thing to watch.

We are so excited for our themes this January! We will be learning about Happy New Year and what new a new year means, Bears and Hibernation, Jungle Animals, Transportation, and Shadows and Light (I feel a flashlight dance party coming on). We will be making firework paintings and sparkling playdough!

We have been working very hard on flipping our coats and have been getting better! Please still practice snow pants at home as we will need them soon!

I hope everyone had an amazing holiday and we can't wait to hear about your celebrations!

Ms. Emily, Ms. Haley J. and Ms. Shanda



Sunshine Room

Where would you find a snowman dancing?
At the snowball!

We are sad to see December go but are ready for the new year! We had so many good laughs, crafts and treats this month. We learned some new skills and refreshed a few; cutting paper, flip over method for putting on our jackets, putting on our gloves, and squeezing and pouring. We are going to continue our fine motor skills next month by learning how to zip up our jackets.

Some of our favorite activities this month were making fun crafts such as cutting out ornaments for our tree, presents for our parents, frosty snowmen and our fork bears! We had so much fun using different materials by incorporating our hand-eye coordination, fine motor and cognitive learning. We also got to eat and make many delicious treats! We made our very own orange juice! It was perfect for the season. Each Friday we got a special treat. We plan to continue this for the new year.

With the first snowfall we want to make sure everyone has the appropriate clothing for daily activities indoors and outdoors. Please make sure there's a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and a sweatshirt in their cubbies. Along with snow pants, boots, hats, gloves, and appropriate coats for outside. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Alexis or Ms. Nay-nay. You can always talk to us in person, on the app, or call during nap time between 1pm-3pm.

Thank you! From the Sunshine Crew.

Ms. Nay-nay and Ms. Alexis



Fantastic Frogs

Happy New Year! We have officially entered 2025, how exciting! We are looking ahead to what we hope will be a wonderful year full of joy and blessings. We have a full year of themes planned and can't wait to implement them into the classroom. We hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. A special thank you to all the parents who came out to see our "Jesus' Birthday Celebration". The children did an amazing job playing their drums.

Some of our featured highlights this past month were the science experiments we did during the week of "Mad Science". The children made homemade lemonade. They squeezed lemon into a pitcher, added water and sugar and stirred everything together. Then they picked out their favorite-colored skittle and dropped it into the lemonade. As they waited patiently to see what would happen, they noticed that the lemonade was slowly changing colors. The lemonade had changed to the color of the skittle they picked out. What excitement on their little faces as they started to tell the teachers what color their lemonade was turning into. They couldn't wait to taste it. If you haven't gotten a chance to look at our display of learning board for this activity, please stop in and take a look. In it you will find what they learned, said, and materials the children used to make the science experiment.

We have some awesome themes planned for the month of January. They include "Animals that hibernate", "Arctic animals", "Transportation" and "Shadows and Lights". During the week of hibernation, the children will learn which animals sleep in winter and where they sleep. One of the books we will be reading is "Bear Snores On" by Karma Wilson. A story about a bear who is sleeping in his cave and one by one, different animals and birds find their way out of the cold and into his cave to stay warm. While the animals brew their tea and pop their popcorn, the bear continues to sleep and snore. This has been one of the children's favorite books to read during hibernation season. We will also create shadow silhouettes of each child during the week of "Shadows and Light". The children have been learning the different names of Jesus, and during this week we will learn what it means to shine our lights and represent Jesus, the true Light of the World.

Now that the cold season is here, we are asking if you can please bring snowpants, snow boots, hats, and gloves for your child. We do have extras just in case but find the children are more comfortable wearing their own clothes. We go outside a lot, especially when it snows. Also remember to check your child's art folders, located by the parent board in the classroom.

We hope everyone has a safe and warm month.

Ms. Sandra and Mr. Ben



Shining Stars

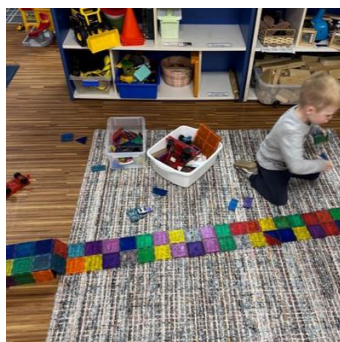
Hello and Happy New Year! We are more than ready to see what 2025 will bring us. But first, let's take a look back at December. We started off December strong with Mad Science week where we explored all sorts of different experiments and even made a volcano! We then slid into ice and snow week where we learned all about the winter elements, and how Wisconsin has it the worst (at least Ms. Mariah thinks so). We then got a taste of the 5 senses Christmas style, where we tried gingerbread cookies and candy canes! And to wrap up 2024, we learned about Jesus' Christmas Story and made some beautiful angel art.

We will be kicking off the new year with learning about what it means to celebrate the new year. Following that we will crawl into hibernation week where we will discover all the different animals who hibernate and why. We will then swing into jungle week where we will learn all about the jungle climate and animals. After that, we will take a ride into transportation week where we will explore all sorts of different vehicles. And to end January and transition into February, we will learn about the science behind shadows and light.

Please remember to bring all of your winter gear so we can enjoy the beautiful snow! Also, we are working on our table manners and cleaning skills. We are focusing on pleases, thank you, and making sure our toys are being put away in their correct spots. We emphasize the importance of taking care of our things and respecting our classroom.

We hope you all had a Merry Christmas and enjoy a Happy New Year!

Ms. Mariah, Ms. Hannah, and the Stars Crew



Purple Moons

Happy Holidays! Our December was filled with many fun activities and events. The children had a great time seeing Santa and singing for Jesus' birthday. They are still singing "Hark the Harold Angels Sing" daily in the classroom. It is a delight to hear.

Our month had us making puffy paint snowmen, decorating our classroom Christmas tree, making snowflakes, having an indoor snowball fight (with cotton balls) and even taste testing pickles! We learned how to say pickle in German, "Gherkin". We also created a graph of the type of pickles we liked and disliked that is posted in the classroom. If you have not had a chance to see all the great artwork in the classroom, please take some time to stop in.

Winter seems to be in full swing, so we ask that everyone has extra weather appropriate clothes. Please have a sweatshirt and a long pair of pants to keep for the week in your child's cubby, along with a jacket, snowpants, gloves, hat, and snow boots. The children LOVE playing in the snow! Let's make sure they are fully prepared for outside activities. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Maria. You can always talk to me in person, on the app, or call during nap time between 1-3.

Thank You,

Ms. Maria



Slithering Snakes

Did you hear that Rudolph and Dasher got sponsored by a coffee company this year? It actually makes sense, because they're Santa's Star Bucks.

Hello, and welcome to a bright and shiny new year! We hope your holidays were joyful and brimming with cheer and goodwill. We would like to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude for all the well wishes and gifts Ms. Nicole and I received this year. We are endlessly grateful to have families and children who take time this busy holiday season to think of us, so once again, thank you very much.

December was a month packed with events and activities, delightful yet incredibly busy. We are fortunate in the Snakes to have the chance to host everyone in Kurth Hall during these events and afford our children the chance to interact and demonstrate for the younger kids the wonderful manners and kindness they show us every day. We would love to hear which of our events (Santa's visit or Jesus' Birthday) was your favorite and why, as your feedback will help us both improve and clarify any changes we can make to better these events. While it is certainly fun to put on events, we are grateful to have had the end of December to relax and enjoy time with the children we don't get to see every day. We spent as much time as possible enjoying the snow, as well as doing all art projects that entered our minds.

January offers everyone the chance to define the tone of their new year, and we'll be certain to shape a year of awesome activities and opportunities to explore the world around us. Mr. Cody hopes to hone in on nature and discover all we can about the woods around us, and Ms. Nicole will improve the classroom and create an incredible environment to learn in. We will be beginning to shape our summer program this month, so if there are any field trips or activities that your family enjoys, we would love all suggestions! Also, in January we will be focusing on literacy and updating our collection of books. We will be incorporating more writing activities into our lessons plans and asking families for book suggestions or any special ways that they promote literacy.

Thank you for taking time to read our newsletter, and we look forward to a year of growth, both personally and academically!

Sincerely, Ms. Nicole and Mr. Cody



Themes with Christian Sub Themes

12/30-01/03: New Year's Celebration

Psalms 118:24 "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it".

01/06-01/10: Animals that Hibernate

Genesis 2:19-20 "Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals".

01/13-01/17: Welcome to the Jungle

John 1:3 "Through him all things were made".

01/20-01/24: Transportation

Psalms 121:8 "The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore".

01/27-01/31: Shadows and Light

Psalms 63:7 "For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy".



A Prayer for a New Year

May the New Year bring you joy, peace, and abundant blessings. Here's to looking back in gratitude for the past year and looking forward to new beginnings!

Wishing you a year filled with opportunities, good health, and prosperity. God's blessing to you and yours!

-Unknown

Happy Anniversary!

Happy two-year Anniversary to the lovely Ms. Kasey. Ms. Kasey started her career at PEP two years ago as a teacher in our Fantastic Frogs room. From the Frogs she moved over to work with our younger friends in the Sunshine room. Kasey went on Maternity leave last May and is now back as a floater in all our classrooms. Her easy going, gentle demeanor lets her blend in flawlessly in any environment she is in.

Ms. Kasey is working towards her associate degree in Early Childhood Education at WCTC. She has her preschool credential, and she has a certificate in ASL.

Three words to describe Kasey would be loving, calm and patient. There is a reason Kasey is a favorite teacher amongst the students. She is so warm and loving towards all the children. She can stay calm in a two-year-old storm, easily navigate the stress of a preschool classroom and be gentle enough to care for our littlest humans. She has the patient of a saint, and we have yet to see her riled up.

When Ms. Kasey isn't at work, she is spending time with her adorable baby boy Malakai whom she is utterly obsessed with. If she manages to put her sweet boy down for more than a minute, she will most likely pick up a good book to read.

Thank you, Ms. Kasey, for your commitment to PEP and for caring so beautifully for all our children.

