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***Director’s Message***

Happy New Year 2018!!  We hope your Christmas was filled with love and joy as you celebrated with friends and family.  There are no words to express our gratitude to all of you for your thoughtfulness, generosity of time, gifts and support to our program.

The New Year brings a new change at Little Lambs. We are opening another three year old am class on January 2nd . Miss Kim, who already teaches our 4 year olds MWF, and who taught our 3 year old pm class last year, will be teaching our new class.

 Our theme this month is SNOW and of course our color is WHITE.  As we head into the coldest part of the school year, please remember to have your child dress warmly; as we will go out whenever we can.  Once we get a nice snow fall, we are planning to have a “Fun in the Snow” day. The children will go out for playtime and enjoy building and playing in the snow.  We are supplied with the snow toys and ready to go.  Parents will be given advance notice so that your children will be prepared with snow pants, boots, hats, gloves and scarves. With so much outerwear, please remember to label your child’s clothing; as it will be very helpful for us. We started our “Fun in the Snow” day a few years ago, and with snow already here, we are looking forward to making snow angels, snowballs and spraying the snow with color.  I’m not sure who has more fun, the staff or the children or both??

 Spanish will begin for our KE students around the middle of January. We are fortunate to have Miss Stacie on staff and she will be working with our KE children and teaching them Spanish. Our children will be enriched with Spanish culture, food and the language.

 Parent Teacher Conferences will be in January, and a letter from your child’s teacher will be going home to set up times and options. This conference will go over the skills your child has been working on since September. In June, you will be given the progress report again, but there will not be a formal conference. If at any time you want to speak with your child’s teacher, know we are always available by phone or in person.

 God Bless, Val

**Tips for Early Literacy Learning: From Knowing Your ABCs to Learning to Read**

**By Amy Mascott (revised by Val Wojnicki)**

**Hooray! Your child can sing the alphabet like a pro! Now what?**

* **3 year olds – have your child start naming the lower case letters, no sound necessary yet, just name the letters. Once your child has mastered letter name recognition, of lower and upper case, what can you do to help him/her get on the path to literacy? Here are some important tips to consider.**
1. **Focus on the letters of his/her name. Our names are, and always will be, our identity. Names are the most important words for children, so it makes sense to begin literacy learning with the child’s name. Acknowledge the “child’s letter”—the first letter of his or her name—by pointing it out whenever and wherever you see it. Then do some letter scrambles using blocks, magnetic letters or letters on index cards. Mix up the letters of the child’s first name and work together to put them back in the proper order. Remember to say each letter as they place them in order. Repeat this often with your child’s name. Remember to have one capital letter.**
2. **For older children 4 or 5, place the letters in order from a-z. Begin with lower case as this is what dominates our print rich environment. Say the letters name. Begin with just a few at a time. Place them on top of an alphabet strip so they can visually match them. Move to upper case.**
3. **Introduce uppercase and lowercase letters. Did you know that the following letters look the same both upper and lower: Cc,Kk,Oo,Pp,Ss,Uu,Vv,Ww,Xx,Zz. It’s imperative that you talk about uppercase and lowercase letters early on. Do not call them big and little letters but upper or capital and lower case. Play games that involve matching uppercase and lowercase letters.**

**Keep in mind that developmentally, children 3, 4,5 are everywhere on the progression. Always feel free to ask me if you have any questions about emergent literacy skills. I have studied it for years, taught graduate students for Long Island University and have taught children to read for over 40 years. Val**

**JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS**

 ***Shape:*  Square** ***Color:*White**

***Show and Tell Theme: Teachers’ newsletters will have the theme and schedule.***

We will be conducting parent conferences soon. Watch for the letter from your child’s teacher for details.

 **All Conferences** will take place in the Religious Education wing or in the back room behind my office, when available.



***Closings and Delays***

**We subscribe to an automated calling system so that you get a phone call to advise you of any school closings. If your number has changed, or you have added another number, please let us know asap.**

**I have sent home the procedure for closings and delays. There will always be additional copies in the foyer and it can be found on our website: stmaryslittlelambs.org**

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**In observance of MartinLuther King Jr.,NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY THE 15TH**

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 ***St. Mary’s Little Lambs Preschool***

***496-7221***

***January 20 18***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Monday*** | ***Tuesday*** | ***Wednesday*** | ***Thursday*** | ***Friday*** |
| ***Themes:*** **Let it Snow!****Winter Weather****Dr. Martin****Luther King. Jr.** | **Show and Tell Theme: To Be Announced by Teachers** |  |  |  |
| ***1******Happy New Year!*** **No School** | ***2******Little Lambs’******Classes Resume*** | ***3*** | ***4***. | ***5*** |
| ***8*****Color Week****Wear Something White** | ***9*** | ***10*** | ***11*** | ***12*** |
| ***15*****Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday****No School** | ***16*** | ***17*** | ***18*** | ***19*** |
| ***22*** | ***23*** | ***24*** | ***25*** | ***26*** |
| ***29*** | ***30*** | ***31*** |  |  |