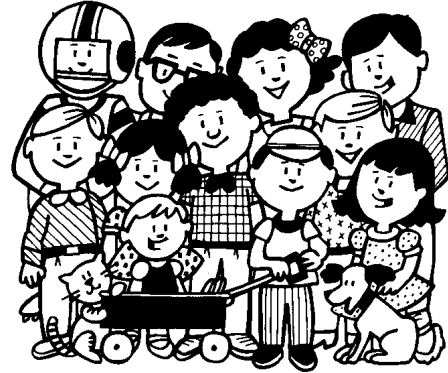


YELLOW SCHOOL NEWS



Yellow School at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
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December 2016

Just as at the North Pole, the children and teachers at the Yellow School are getting ready for Christmas. We're singing, baking, creating and, most importantly, learning about that special baby who was born in Bethlehem.

All the children will be creating decorations to decorate the school and the school tree, which will be purchased by the kindergarten children during their field trip to the Christmas Tree Farm.

Each of the three-year old classes will bake a gingerbread man. No one knows quite how it happens, but every time we bake them, those gingerbread men somehow get OUT of the oven and run away. The children search the school and finally find them – right on their tables ready to be eaten, as all good gingerbread men should be. We'll see if it happens again this year.



The pre-k's and kindergarten children are learning about ballet in general and *The Nutcracker* in particular. The children learn that many of the movements done in ballet are movements we use each day (stretching, jumping, bending) and that many ballet moves are HARD to do! We will watch excerpts from *The Nutcracker* on video and will learn that the ballet can tell a story with no words at all. We will also have a docent from the Houston Ballet come to show us costumes and tell us more about the ballet and some "behind the scenes" secrets.

You might want to consider taking your children to see *The Nutcracker* this Christmas season. This is the first year of a brand new production by the Houston Ballet.

The Houston Symphony also presents a wonderful Christmas concert

for families each year. Call 713-224-7575 for tickets and information.

During the month of December all the children (3s through kindergarten) will participate in our musical version of a Mexican Posada, acting out the story of Mary and Joseph going from inn to inn looking for a place to stay. There will also be props in each room for the children to use to dramatize the trip to Bethlehem, the birth of the Christ Child and the visits from the shepherds, angels and the three kings.

The pre--ks and the kindergarten children are working hard on their Christmas program which they will present in the Chapel at the church on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 10:00.

A FEW REMINDERS

Looking ahead... When the weather is cold, please send your child to school with mittens rather than gloves. We want the children to be self-sufficient and gloves are very difficult for young children to manage.

Our playground can be quite chilly in the morning. Please make sure your child has a jacket to wear even if the weatherman says it will warm up during the day. Also, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD'S NAME IS IN HIS/HER JACKET.

SAFETY TIP - Many jackets have string ties on them that are potentially dangerous. They can get caught in playground equipment and cause an injury. Keep that in mind when purchasing new outerwear; if your child's jacket has strings, please remove them or tie them up.

SOME FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONGS

Children, Go Where I Send Thee

Children, go where I send thee,
How shall I send thee?
I'm gonna send thee one by one
One for the little, bitty baby
Born, born, born in Bethlehem.

Additional verses:

I'm gonna send thee:

Two, by two.... two for Mary and Joseph,
One for the little, bitty baby, born, born,
Born in Bethlehem.

Three by three.... three for the weary
wisemen, two for Mary and Joseph, etc.

Four by four.... four for the lambs and
shepherds, three for the weary wisemen,
etc.

Five for the herald angels, etc.

I Am the Star on the Christmas Tree

I am the star on the
Christmas tree
Way up on the tippity top!
I mind my business and I
hold on tight
So I don't go flippity flop!



Another favorite is **Deck the Halls with
Boughs of Holly!**

CALENDAR

Dec. 4 – Family Christmas Festival
Dec. 6 and 8 - Chapel
Dec. 6 and 8 - Grandpas
Dec. 6 - Pre-ks and Kindergarten to sing at the Women's Christmas Coffee, 10:30
Dec. 7 - Pre-ks and Kindergarten to sing for "The Gathering"
Dec. 9 – *The Heart of a Mom*
Dec. 15 – Kinder-Pre-k Christmas Program in the chapel at 10:00
Dec. 15 – Last day of school. **ALL CHILDREN COME TO SCHOOL IN THE MORNING.** Watch emails for more dismissal information
Jan. 3 – School resumes
Jan. 3 and 5 – Chapel
Jan. 3 and 5 - Grandpas

IMPORTANT EXTENDED DAY INFORMATION

Extended day forms for second semester will be available online December 1. As always, children will be enrolled on a "first come, first served" basis. Send completed forms and checks back to school as soon as possible. **You must re-register your child. Please do not assume that because your child(ren) attended extended day during the first semester, that they will automatically get that spot again.**

FOOD DRIVE UPDATE

We had a very successful Food Drive. Thanks to all of you, the children collected 479 items to donate to MDPC's Food Pantry!

If you have any gently used books you'd like to donate, we give those to the Food Pantry throughout the year.

PARENTING TIPS

It's that time of the year when the marketers are pushing and children are inundated with messages about things that they "just have to have!" As we gear up for the holiday season, I invite you to reflect on the following excerpts from *Mitten Strings for God* by Katrina Kenison: "What messages do our own excesses send to our children? In our efforts to create special occasions for them, are we losing sight of what's really important?"

It takes conviction to say, "This is enough" - whether it be enough holiday presents, events, guests at a party or simply enough activities for next Saturday. It is hard to feel confidence in our own choices, in our own sense of limits, when everyone around us seems convinced that bigger is better...but we can choose simplicity over complication. Here's a start:

- Downscale holiday celebrations. Keep the focus on family, rituals and traditions, and on simple activities. Give fewer gifts and take more time to enjoy them.
- Set a limit on holiday activities.
- Don't feel guilty about skipping holiday events. Your children need you and your attention, not more activities. As our children watch us manage our own lives sensibly, they will learn to set limits, too.
- As you are busy with holiday baking, decorating and other preparations, remember that the process is more important than the product. Keep it simple and your children will enjoy it more.

In simplicity there is freedom – freedom to do less and enjoy more.

10 Christmas gifts for children

1. To know that we give them our love and guidance, but not their thoughts and feelings. We provide the environment in which to nurture their own thoughts and feelings.
2. To know that their parents delight in them, that they are individuals unlike any others.
3. To see loving relationships in their lives, so they may learn to also have loving relationships.
4. To have courage.
5. To have the opportunity to fail, for through failure we have the opportunity to know success and through success, we develop self-esteem and self-worth.
6. To have a sense of humor and the ability to laugh at themselves.
7. To expect and appreciate discipline, for life is made up of discipline and boundaries and we must all learn the limits - though sometimes we must test them.
8. To know good work; to have the joy of knowing they have done a job well.
9. To understand what is fair.
10. To know hope, peace and joy.

When purchasing gifts for your children remember that the best gifts are ones with which the children can create. Computer-type games and battery operated toys have their place, but the tried and true blocks, balls, Legos and other building toys – even empty boxes – are toys that hold children's attention and give them the opportunity to create, enjoy and learn. Board games are wonderful fun and great learning tools. Paper of various kinds, scissors, colored pencils and chalk and science kits are also good choices.

May you experience the awe and wonder of Christmas through the eyes of a child.

May you have a Christmas season full of joy, peace and love.

*MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY
HOLIDAYS TO YOU
ALL!!*

