

UPCOMING EVENTS

* Jan. 1st- Jan. 4th
Closed- Winter Break

* January 5th
Welcome to the New Year

January 15th
Winnie the Pooh
Celebration

January 29th
Virtual STEM Science Fair

UPCOMING BIRTHDAY'S

William B.	1/2
Isabelle B.	1/3
Sloane B.	1/10
Michael F.	1/27

DID YOU KNOW...

January is...

- * National Bath Safety Month
- * National Blood Donor Month
- * National Braille Literacy Month

1/8	Bubble Bath Day
1/14	Dress Up Your Pet Day
1/16	Appreciate a Dragon Day
1/18	Winnie the Pooh Day
1/18	Dr. Martin Luther King Day

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"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"

-Jeremiah 29:11-

Welcome back to school for the New Year 2021!!! We hope our families and kiddos had a relaxing and stress-free holiday, lots of good times and good food shared with family and friends, family traditions, music, fun outings, and just time to relax and reflect on all that we accomplished and were blessed with...we are truly grateful.

Now that we had a relaxing winter holiday break, we are ready to dive into the second half of our school year. For the month of January, the children will make friendship posters and decorate cupcakes in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. We will also explore how other countries celebrate the New Year.



Alan Alexander Milne, creator of Winnie the Pooh, was born on January 18, 1882. Winnie-the-Pooh first appeared by name on December 24, 1925, in a Christmas story commissioned and published by the London newspaper Evening News. A.A. Milne released his first volume of stories about the Hundred Acre Wood, titled "Winnie-the-Pooh." In 1926. In celebration of his birthday, we ask everyone to wear their favorite character shirt and bring their favorite Winnie the Pooh Book to share with their friends for the teacher to read to them on Friday, January 15th.



FULL STEAM AHEAD for our 4th Annual and STEAM Science Fair on Friday, January 29th (virtually) from 9:30 to 11:30. STEAM is an acronym that stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math...seems like something preschoolers would be too young to embrace, but the contrary is true!!! Our teachers engage our children in STEAM learning every day, even our littlest babies.

Our infants enjoy hands on activities such as touch and feel sensory bags, our Toddlers are filled with excitement as their teachers make Glow in the Dark Water Bottles... the kiddos marvel at it as they observe, shake and explore, and our Pre-K 3's & 4's who create "snow" with white hair conditioner and baking soda and watch and feel the chemical changes that occur as the "snow" develops when they knead the ingredients. Activities like these occur in our classrooms every day. You engage in STEAM activities with your children every day at home as well... When you take nature walks with the family and marvel at the wonders outside. When your children help you with cooking, you measure and mix with them. When you go to the grocery store - try new fruits and vegetables, talk about different foods and packaging, and the texture and aromas of the foods. The most enjoyable STEAM activity of all is when you engage in water play with your kids...filling and emptying containers. You will be amazed and delighted at the science experiments your children will demonstrate at our Science Fair. More information will sent out at a later date.

Thank you! Thank You! Thank You!

To all our parents, extended family members, and Grace Episcopal Church members for joining us live for our Christmas Program. Thank you to all our Grace families for your generosity towards our teachers, staff, events and our community outreach programs. Your generous response helped ensure that needy children had some Christmas presents. Without your help, it might have been a very bleak holiday for them! You embody what Grace Episcopal stands for...kindness, caring, and helping those who are less fortunate. It is so much appreciated. We welcome any suggestions you have for changes or additions.

Thank you for your support of our church and school!



JOIN US

Help our neighbors in need --

BIM FOOD DRIVE(-IN)!

SUNDAY - JANUARY 10 1-3:00 PM

**Drive in to the W. Bellfort parking lot, pop
your trunk, and we'll collect donations
right out of your trunk.**

(Please do not exit your car!)



**Braes Interfaith Ministries asks Grace to collect
food - *especially pasta, mac&cheese, vegetables*
(no green beans), sweet potatoes, & tuna -
in January.**

Financial Gifts can be offered, by
check via USPS,
or online via credit card at
graceinhouston/giving

CLASSROOM NEWS



INFANT 'A' BUTTERFLIES



Hello Butterflies Family!

First, we would like to say thank you to all our Grace Families for staying with us, for all your continued support, kindness, and love during 2020. December was an exciting month full of Joy, Love and Cheer! Our Babies were very busy increasing and recognizing literacy by reading a lot of books about the holiday season. They really enjoyed the Teddy Bear reading a story "The Night Before Christmas". Our babies also experienced a lot of physical developments during the month as well! Josephine now holds her bottle of milk on her own and Sallie is starting to play with her hands and fingers by clapping, Lynleigh is rolling from tummy position to back position and started to eat baby food. Hayes is starting to enjoy tummy time and give smiles to his teachers. We are excited for the New Year!! In the month of January our babies will learn about Snow, Dinosaurs along with other animals. We will explore their habitats, what they eat, and what they do. This year we are striving to come with new ideas and good strategies to make all our themes fun and to encourage our babies to develop through curiosity and exploration. Again...Thank You Parents for all your love and support.

Ms. Julia

Ms. Dina



INFANT 'B' HONEYBEES



Happy New Year Honeybee Family!

We are excited to see what new learning adventure we will embark on in 2021. It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Ruth and Grace as they transition to the First Steps class. We know that they will learn so much in their new class, but we will miss them so. The Honeybee class would also like to welcome Olivia, Liles and Luke! As we look back to December, we would like to acknowledge every one of our accomplishments. Isla loves to explore as she walks with assistance. Izzy enjoys story time and learning about the world around him. Llewyn loves to play and make new friends. Ruby enjoys music time and playing instruments. December was a fun, and informative month. We learned about Bears with yoga, song and even a bear picnic. We learned about Christmas by singing Feliz Navidad and learned about Hanukkah with Curious George. Finally, we learned about the true meaning of the Christmas season as we read about Baby Jesus. As we look forward to January, we will be having fun learning about Winter Weather. We will be reading Lisa Moser's book "Perfect Soup", "The Snowy Day; Un Dia De Nieve" by Ezra Jack Keats and "Snow Lion" by David McPhail. We will practice our Snowflake yoga pose, and learn our Spanish words snow and cold. We will also learn about igloos, polar bears, penguins, and snowmen. We will create snowflakes and learn about the color white. January will be filled with so much fun as we learn so much. Thank you, Honeybee families, for your continued support and please continue to stay safe.

Ms. Roxana

Ms. Sylvia



FIRST STEPS KITTENS



Happy New Year to you all!! We pray that you had a safe and blessed holiday season. We would like to thank you for your help and participation in our Christmas party. The children had a blast opening all their gifts and we loved seeing them in their pjs. We would also like to thank you for your kindness we truly appreciate all that you've done for us. For the month of January our theme is Wintertime. We will be learning the sign for "Sorry" as a part of our ASL learning. Some of the activities we are looking forward to doing is the shaving cream bin, finger painting with winter colors, and a paper plate hat. This month's literacy books are "I see Winter", "Katy and the Big Snow", and "Pete the Cat Snow Daze". During circle time we will continue to learn our colors, alphabets, numbers, and our shapes. Last, but not least, we want to welcome Ruth and Grace to our First Steps Class. We are so excited to have you join us! Parents, thank you again for all that you do and have a wonderful month.

Ms. April

Ms. Cynthia

CLASSROOM NEWS



PRE-TODDLER PUPS



Hello parents and Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed your holidays and would like to thank you for participating in the Christmas party. We also hope you enjoyed the Christmas program as much as we did. We had so much fun in the month of December. Some of our favorite things were listening to Christmas music and making snowflakes, snowmen, Christmas trees and so much more. One of our favorite books were "Llama Llama Holiday Drama". For January we will start learning our letters! Our goal is to introduce a new letter every two weeks (we will start with A & B). As we explore the letter of the week, we encourage you to find ways to review them at home as well. Our theme for this month will be Winter Animals and Winter Fun. Some of the activities we will be doing this month is making snow, a penguin craft and learning about animals that live in the cold. Two of the books we will be reading are "The Snowy Day" and "Winter Dance". Thank you so much for your support parents.

Ms. Maggie

Ms. Shawntee



TODDLER DOVES



We hope that all families had a joyous and restful Christmas Holiday. What a blessing that 2020 is behind us and we are looking forward to 2021 being a year full of hope and miracles. December was a very busy month for the Toddler Two Turtle Doves! We worked on counting and learning our colors in English and Spanish. We are coming along nicely with our Sign Language and have mastered many commands and phrases. Along with all our fun seasonal activities and stories, we learned the true meaning of Christmas and the love that Jesus has for us all. We read the books, Christmas, it's all about Jesus and The Christmas baby. We also learned the song Jesus loves me. In January we will be exploring all things winter! We will make snow and learn about arctic animals in science. We will begin counting items up to 7 in math and we have many cute winter themed art projects in store. For the new year we would like to focus on the children's self-help skill of dressing and undressing independently. Please encourage your child to start becoming more independent when dressing and undressing. We look forward to this new year with you and your child!

Ms. Eva & Ms. Krescent

Thank you so much for all your help and participation.



BRIDGE TURTLES



Welcome Back Bridge Class Students and Parents!

We hope everyone had a good Christmas. January is a new year for the Bridge class. We are going to focus on classroom management by staying in centers, cleaning up our toys after we are finished playing with them, becoming star helpers, and enhance our self-help skills. We are looking forward to creating snowflakes using paint and foam and paper plate penguins and pretend snow. We will learn about the letter "M" and things that begin with the letter "M" and its sound. We will also make a moose and a mouse to help us remember our letter sounds. For math we are going to focus on counting objects up to 25, and sorting. For science we are going to do an instant rainbow experiment, ice painting, magic milk, and make snow. We are looking forward to reading "If You Give as Mouse a Cookie," and "All About Winter."

Ms. Debbie

Ms. Diana

PRE-K THANKFUL 3'S

Happy New Year and welcome back! This month's theme is animals and dinosaurs! We will incorporate our monthly theme into our daily activities throughout the day during circle and center time. Our Spanish words for this month are gato, perro, pajarito, oso, pez, zebra, jirafa, león, tigre, ratón, vaca, etc. Our ASL words are bear, hungry, water, ant, alligator, eat, and animal. We will be learning all about animals with our vocabulary words, feed, shelter, living, zoo, farm, responsibility, rhyme, non-living, wild, and domesticated. We will continue to work on our phonological awareness of the alphabet and focus on letters Q, R, S, and T. We will use the We Can program to practice writing and reading letters and some small words. Some of the stories we will enjoy are "Patrick's Dinosaurs", "All Kinds of Animals", "Animals on the Farm", "Owl's Night", "Curious George", "10 on the Sled", "Pig Pig", "Dewey the Cat", and much more! For Science, we will learn about sea animals, land animals, reptiles, and mammals through educational books, and music. Also, for our mathematics and numeracy lesson we will use music and counting games for number recognition, improve counting skills, and practice simple addition. We are looking forward to all that 2021 has in store for us!

~ Ms. Jasmine

CLASSROOM NEWS

PRE-K FOUR GIRAFFES

Happy New Year to everyone!

The Pre-K Four class will continue to delve into a myriad of activities through the We Can curriculum. The Giraffes will continue to explore strategies that will expose them to more learning domains such as collaborative practice and relating topics to a real world experience. The Giraffes will continue to work on sight words, handwriting, and our counting skills as we continue preparing for the upcoming transition to kindergarten. We will learn about snow through exploring, predicting, and observing, the physical properties of snow. We will work on Dream Clouds in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as well as discuss what we want to be when we grow up, making friends regardless of skin color, and respecting each other. We will also read and discuss "Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.". This discussion is important to the children's social/personal development. We work hard to establish a sense of community and respect for each other's ideas and thoughts, as well as other's personal space. We will also talk about the rules of engagement and how we are to treat others how we want to be treated (The Golden Rule).

Thank You for All of Your Support,

Ms. Clementine

Ms. Ruby



Children's Bible Fun



The month of January is an exciting time for Bible Fun! It is a new month and a New Year, a time of new beginnings. We will start the month off for the first two weeks exploring the book of Genesis, learning about all of God's Creations that was made each day (Day 1- Light, Day 2- Sky And Water, Day 3-Land, Sea and Vegetation, Day 4-Sun, Moon and Stars, Day 5-Fish and Birds, Day 6-Animals and People, and Day 7-He Rested). The third week we will talk about the Fall. The Fall is an incredibly important story for building kids' awareness of why the world is not as perfect as God intended and think about what we can do to help God. The last week of January, we will learn how Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD" by walking with God, obeying God and waiting for God. We will also talk about what God told Noah about the ARK.

We are ready to learn so much more about the bible this year!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Welcome to our Grace Family

Ms. Eva has been a preschool teacher for 30 years, seven of them here at Grace! She is originally from Chicago, Illinois. She moved to Indiana in 1995. In 2012 she left Indiana and moved to Houston. Ms. Eva still misses the Lincoln Park Zoo and the Shed Aquarium in Chicago. She has her associate degree in early childhood education and is working towards her bachelor's degree in psychology. On the weekends she relaxes and watches television. Ms. Eva was inspired to become a teacher by her high school math teacher...he was loved and respected by his students. She believes that every child learns different through repetition, music, interaction with others, and hands-on fun learning adventures. She truly enjoys watching the children she teaches grow and develop from babies to preschoolers. She loves teaching them and having them absorb and repeat what they learned such as their letters, their numbers, shapes, and colors...and listening as their language skills improve. Her goal is to teach the children in her class to be independent, social, and respectful. We are delighted to have Ms. Eva as part of our Grace team!

THANK YOU, Mrs. Eva, for your dedication and support of the church & school!!