Geneva Presbyterian Church Children's Center

Volume I Issue 3

December Newsletter

December, 2013

ACSI

Member 2013-14

Calendar of Events

12/1 December Tuition due

12/15 GCC sings in church at 9:30 and 11:00

12/18 & 19 Classroom Birthday Party for Jesus

12/23-12/27 GCC closed for Christmas Holiday! Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas!!

December Themes

Color: White **Shape:** Star

Themes: The Joy of Christmas!

Chapel: Jesus Is Born! Good News! *and* An Amazing Star!

Bible Verse: ***"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."*** Luke 2:11

Community Events

- 12/1 4:30pm Aliso Viejo Arrival of Santa, Grand Park AV Town center
- 12/7 7pm Aliso Viejo Holiday Show
- 12/7 9am Laguna Hills Breakfast with Santa
- 12/7 11am-3pm Lake Forest Victorian Christmas at Heritage Hill
- 12/1-19 Mission Viejo Santa's Workshop Civic Center/Library 6-8pm Wed. Sat. & Sun. only
- 12/7 9am Mission Viejo Christmas in Kid City
- 12/13 & 14 6-10pm Mission Viejo Drive-thru-Nativity free event
- 12/14-23 Irvine Regional Park Christmas Train
- 12/15 & 16 Metrolink Toy Express Irvine 5pm LN/MV 5:45 SJC 6:45 Entertainment and Toy Collection

Director's Corner

The Children are busy practicing Christmas songs to sing on Sunday, December 15th at the 9:30 and 11:00 services here at Geneva Presbyterian Church.

We hope that your child will be participating. We will be combining with the Geneva Children's Choir. This is a special time for you to invite family and friends.

May this be the year to give a little extra for those in need. We are asking you to participate in GCC Christmas project: **Operation Holiday Homework!** This is in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club in our area. **"Giving to youth who made homework a priority."**

Club members earned points for doing their homework daily and will redeem them at the Boys and Girls Clubs Holiday Store.

Please donate an unwrapped gift for a child under the age of 5 (for siblings of the school age children). Your child will enjoy picking out a toy for a boy or girl that is the same age as they are.

Please bring any items to GCC and put in the box near the Sign in area on or before December 12th.

Thank you for your participation in this project.

On behalf of myself and the staff here at GCC we wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and the best of 2014.

Preschool and Pre-K with Mrs. May

November began with a look at the changes fall brings. We collected items dropped from our tree in the playground and also items brought in by the children. Using the magnifying glasses we were able to see the veins in the leaves, the changes in colors and also the different textures. Using liquid watercolors we dyed tissue leaves and created beautiful works of art. We also read **Are You a Spider?,** by Judy Allen. Using a web diagram we listed all the different characteristics of a spider. The children were surprised to learn that spiders have 8 eyes! Hopefully they shared other facts with you as well.

The middle of November brought our special event, **Stone Soup Luncheon**. It was such a pleasure to have all of you with us. The children helped to make the soup the morning of the event as we read **Stone Soup,** by Marcia Brown. I must say I think the soup was superb. Thank you for helping us to make this event so meaningful.

The last weeks of November we focused on Thanksgiving. What it means to be thankful. The children dictated things they are thankful for and we listed on the turkey feathers that decorate Tom Turkey in our hallway. How can one not see the love of Jesus in each child as they say: "Thank you God for you" and "Thank you for my friends" or "Thank you for my family"? Be sure to check out Tom.

We also read several stories sharing the First Thanksgiving. The children enjoyed learning about Squanto and how he helped the Pilgrims that first year. They found it interesting that with each 3 seeds planted a small fish was included to help the plant grow! In the block area we set up a small Native American Village with miniature figures representing what the first settlers experienced. In the science area we had fun playing a nutrition game where we filled our mat with food pieces representing one of each 5 food groups. Our dramatic play area also reinforced healthy food choices as the children shopped for groceries. The lima bean seeds finally took root and grew into healthy starter plants; well, all but 2…wonder if the early settlers had this problem? The children painted on fabric, strung beads and painted stones. Ask them to share the meaning behind **The Talking Stone.** We will be using this tool at our circle time.

December, ***The Joy of Christmas***, will be our theme. We will celebrate God's gift to us, Jesus. Literature selections, songs and activities will reflect the love and joy we feel at this time of the year. Be sure to mark your calendars for the 15th when we will sing at the church services. Our letters for the month: Y, Z, J & K. We will have finished all line letters! Number focus: 6 & 7.

In closing, thank you to all who attended Parent Teacher conferences. It was a pleasure to spend time with you and share the joys of having your children here at GCC.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In His Service, *Mrs. May*

December Share Time For all classes

12/5&6 Share something white

12/12&13 Share a star

12/19&20 Share a Christmas ornament. Wear red or green.

December Songs:

Angel Band

There was one, there were two there were three little angels. There were four, there were five there were six little angels. There were seven, there were eight, there were nine little angels. Ten little angels in the band.

Oh, wasn't that a day, Christmas morning, Christmas morning, Christmas morning. Oh wasn't that a day Christmas morning. Jesus was born that day!

Away in a Manger

Away in a Manger, no crib for a bed.

The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the sky, looked down where he lay.

The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The Story of Christmas!

The Children at G.C.C. are having a great time at chapel. We are learning new songs and listening to Bible stories. Pastor Mike brings his guitar each week and that makes the music, and the children come alive!

In December we will really get to know the story of the first Christmas. We will begin with the story "Jesus is Born", the story of Jesus birth. Then we will read, "Good News!" the story of the shepherds. We will conclude with, "An Amazing Star", the story of the Wise Men. It will be a great month at Chapel.

"Train your children right from wrong, and when they are grown they will do right." Proverbs 22:6 (C. E. V.)

Calling all G.C.C. Students!! We Will be Singing at Sunday Services December 15

It is our time to shine like stars for Jesus!! We need <u>everyone</u> to perform Sunday, Dec. 15 at the 9:30 and 11 a.m. Worship Services.

Come dressed in holiday attire as we debut our Christmas music. It will be a memorable morning. You'll want to invite all of the family and bring your camera too!

Please bring your child to room 2 by 9:15. After 1st performance children 3 and older may attend Sunday School. Children under 3 can attend nursery. Please pick up your child after the first service and bring them back to room 2 at 10:45. Children will perform again and be dismissed after they sing. Thank you so "merry" much!!

December News from the Two's!

November was a great month in the Two's class. Our Stone Soup Event was superb. I want to thank all the parents for attending this event. I think the highlight of the day was singing with Pastor Mike and his guitar! We do love to sing!

We spent the first week of November learning about the flag of America. We painted an American flag and read two books about our country. We are learning the Pledge of Allegiance, but that will take some time and a lot of practice!

We also studied signs of fall. For science we looked at leaves and bark with magnifying glasses and we are growing carrot tops and roots on a yam! We are hoping it will sprout!!

In math, we worked on how many is three! We are practicing counting using one-to-one correspondence to understand the concept.

We talked about thankfulness. We shared what we are thankful for and that we thank God for what He gives us. You will be please as I, that our class is thankful for their families and the people that love and care for them! We also talked a bit about thanksgiving and thanksgiving dinner. It was a fun month!

In December, we will focus on the Christmas story. We are practicing our Christmas music...**please come see us sing Dec. 15.** We will read the Christmas story from different books. We plan to make some glitter Christmas art, decorate a tree, explore a nativity scene, learn a finger play and build a Christmas puzzle! *Mrs. Stirling*