

# Due West UMC Preschool

## NEWSLETTER



### DECEMBER 2009 CALENDAR

1 Tuition and lunch bunch payments due  
1-18 Hat & Mitten tree  
1&4 Spanish Classes—3s – 5s  
2&3 Story Time—2s – 5s  
7&8 Tumble Time—1s & 2s  
9 Laminating Day  
9&10 Speech Screening  
9&10 Music Classes—2s–5s  
11 Field Trip to Bethlehem Walk—4s&5s  
14&15 Chapel—2s–5s  
16,17,18 Christmas parties—all ages  
No staff meeting this month!  
Dec. 21-Jan.4 No School “Merry Christmas”  
Jan. 5&6 First days back to school  
Jan. 11-29 Registration for 2010-11 school year  
for current students  
Feb.6 Registration for church families  
& community families

### THANKSGIVING FEASTS

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Thanksgiving Feasts such a great success. We appreciate all the parents and grandparents who took time out of their day to come, watch the program, and eat our feast with us. We hope you enjoyed it!

A great big THANK YOU to all the parents who came in at 9:30 to prepare the food. It was delicious and we couldn't do it without your help! Thanks to Teri Schilletter and Kim Tucci who came in extra early to cook all the turkeys! Also, thanks to the alumni parents and church members who came in to be sure the food was on the tables and clean up the kitchen. Thanks also to all the families who gave money. It was a great help.

### HOLIDAY MARKET



A great big THANK YOU to the Holiday Market committee who organized our wonderful event: Debbie Brown and Lori May (committee chairs and silent auction) Sarah Baumhoff and Michelle Belden (merchants), Sunshine McBride and Stephanie Conboy (marketing), Jennifer Ciarletta and Sunita Limaye (decorations), Julie Austin and Bree Collins (bake sale & greeters), Michelle Belden (carline VIP), Shannon Dillard (lunch coordinator), and Tripp Greeson (MC for Saturday). Also our committee members and class auction coordinators: Elise Ackerman, Candice Murray, Julie Kimbrough, Megan Elsey, Bobby Trevathan, Shelley Betz, Eve Smith, Jennifer Roberts, Stephanie Shaw, Tara Isley, Sheri Smith, Sharon Kenney, and Katherine Martinez. They spent many hours working on it and produced a very professional event. It was great fun for everyone and a great fundraiser (almost \$8000)! A special thank you to all of the parents who came to help us set up on Friday night. The room looked wonderful! Thank you also to all of you who baked goodies for the bake sale and volunteered your time on Saturday. We also appreciate all of you who came to shop and bid on the auction items! The proceeds will all go to improve our playgrounds and classrooms.

### RECYCLING

Thank you to Debbie Brown for coordinating our recycling program and to all of you who have sent things in to be recycled. We have received a lot of things and Debbie will be sending them to the company. Please continue to send us the following items: CapriSun & Honest Kids drink pouches, Mars/Wrigley wrappers, Nabisco wrappers, and Frito Lay bags. The teachers are collecting these items from the children's lunches, so we are all working together!



### **HAT AND MITTEN TREE**

We will be setting up a Christmas tree in the hall near the preschool office on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Please help us decorate it with new mittens and hats for the homeless children who visit MUST Ministries and The Giving Tree (an organization of the Cobb Co. PTA). Please help your child select a pair of mittens and /or a hat and we will help them place it on the tree. You can send in your donations from Dec. 1-18<sup>th</sup>. The children who receive them will greatly appreciate your generosity!



### **BETHLEHEM WALK FIELD TRIP**

The four and young five-year-old classes will be taking a field trip to the Bethlehem Walk at Mountain View Methodist Church on Friday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a great way for the children to experience the Christmas story “in person” as they enter the village of Bethlehem and experience the people, shops, crafts, and the stable as they might have been at the time Jesus was born. Because this trip is on a Friday, Mrs. Davalos and Mrs. Micale’s classes will meet Tuesday-Friday that week.

The “Walk” will be open to the public. The dates and times will be announced later. Admission is free! This is a great family outing to keep the true meaning of Christmas a priority. The church is located at 2300 Jamerson Road, Marietta, 30066. Phone: 770-928-0050.

### **SPEECH SCREENING**

We will have a speech pathologist here at the preschool on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> to screen children ages 2-5 for speech, language, and hearing. You will receive information in your child's folder with more information.



### **CHRISTMAS PARTIES**

All of our preschool classes will have a Christmas party December 16, 17, or 18(their last day at school that week). We would like the children to bring a gift for a needy child rather than having a gift exchange in the class so we can concentrate on the giving of gifts rather than receiving them. We would like to collect children’s books, videos, and toys to give to the children in local ministries such as Safe Path, Toys for Tots, and foster families. Please help your child choose the gift that he/she will bring.

**The teachers of the four and young five-year-old classes would like their children to bring their wrapped.** They will unwrap it during their party, get a chance to tell why they chose it, and then put it in a special box. **All children in the infant through threes classes should bring their gift unwrapped.**

The Christmas parties are a little more elaborate than the fall party, but still not a real big deal. Teachers will contact the room mothers or the parents who signed up to plan the parties to arrange for food, games, activities, etc.

### **CHILDREN’S CAR & BOOSTER SEATS**

This is a reminder to all parents! Every child who attends this preschool is required by law to be in a car seat or booster seat. The Georgia law says that every child under 6 years old must be in a seat. First of all it is dangerous for these children to be in a regular seat belt and second, if you are stopped and your child is not in a car or booster seat you will get a ticket. Please help protect your children!

### **JANUARY TUITION PAYMENTS**

Your January tuition payment will be due the first day that your child comes back to school in January—either the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>. It will be late after the 6<sup>th</sup>. The envelopes will be handed out the week of Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> if you’d like to pay before we go on Christmas break.



## LOVE AND LOGIC PARENTING CLASS

We will be offering a four week Love & Logic Parenting Class on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, & February 4<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30PM in the church sanctuary. Child care will be available by registration only. I don't know the cost yet, but I will send out a flyer with all of the information the first week of December.

This is a great program for discipline for children from preschool to teenagers.



### REGISTRATION FOR 2010-2011



We will do our registration for the next school year for current students and their siblings beginning January 11<sup>th</sup> through the tote bags. Please follow the instructions with the form that you'll receive. It will include registration and tuition costs for next year. The form and check is due in the preschool office by January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

If we can give everyone their first choice we will not have any of you come in and stand in line. Anyone who does not turn in a form and registration fee by Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> will have to come in on Saturday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> with the church families, alumni siblings, and community families. The schedule will be: 8:00-8:30 for current students (who didn't register in January), church families, and alumni siblings, and 8:30-9:00 for community families.

If you have questions about next year's curriculum, activities or anything else, please give me a call (770-590-0982), email ([kcoffeen@duewest.org](mailto:kcoffeen@duewest.org)) and/or look in your parent handbook. You can also ask your child's teacher about class placement for next year.



### REQUESTS AND REMINDERS

1. If you would like to talk to your child's teacher about your child, please call or email her to schedule a time. The teachers are responsible for the class before school and during car line so they cannot talk to a parent about their child specifically at those times.

### REQUESTS AND REMINDERS, CONTINUED

2. Please do not send your child to school if he/she is sick. We will call you if your child becomes sick at school, but it would help a lot if you would keep your child home when you know or suspect that he/she is sick. Everyone else in the room (is exposed to the germs, when one child comes in sick. Please refer to the parent handbook pages B4 & B5 to see the guidelines for when to keep your child at home.
3. If you take your children on the playground after school or on the weekend, please follow our playground rules. This will keep your child safe and provide consistent rules for the children to follow whenever they are on the playground. Our rules are:
  - a. Children go down only on the slides (up the stairs and down the slides)
  - b. Children sit on their bottom, feet first to go down the slides.
  - c. All toys stay on the ground, not on the slide or any equipment.
  - d. Children do not play with sticks
  - e. No one climbs on the fence.  
Please clean up and put the toys back where they were. Turn over the cars so they don't fill with water if it rains.  
Thank you for your help!
4. If you have a cell phone, please be sure that it is turned on when your child is at school. We need to be able to reach you in case your child is sick. Also, if any numbers or emails change, be sure to let us know.
5. Please send a coat with your child every day and be sure that his/her name is in it. The children will go out to play unless the weather is extremely cold or rainy.
6. Please drive SLOWLY in the church parking lot. When you drive too fast around the back of the church it puts parents, children, and visitors to the church in danger as they come out of the doors or try to back out of the parking spaces. Help keep everyone safe!



## NEWS FROM THE TEACHERS

### Mrs. Harris' Baby Bees (Infants):

November was very short but we have had a great time. We can't believe how fast everyone is growing and doing new things. Some of us were just taking our first steps and now we are walking like pros. We also have some that were not even crawling and now they are going anywhere they want. How exciting it must be for you parents to see them discover new things about themselves and this great big world.

We wanted to thank our parents for the fantastic job on our Holiday Market basket. It was beautiful!!!

A great big Happy Birthday goes out to Preslea!!

### Mrs. Morrison's Ladybugs (Ones M/W):

It is hard to believe it is already November. We have been busy making our decorations for Thanksgiving and singing turkey songs we have made up. The children enjoy coloring with markers and making their handprints more than painting. The children get very excited to go to Tumble Time with Miss Tara. We get to jump, dance, run, and play with a parachute. I would like to thank all the parents who helped with our Holiday Market and made it a successful fundraiser for our preschool. I hope you and your family have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving. Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Sam and Rebecca.

### Mrs. Ashford's Ladybugs (Ones T/Th):

"Gratitude is the heart's memory."

This French proverb reminds me of one of my favorite books, Baby Hearts (by Linda Acredolo and Susan Goodwyn), a research-based book on emotional development. The authors explore many facets of very young children's feelings, especially gratitude. Developing gratitude starts with teaching children "thank you." We sing our thanks to God each day – we sing "thank you for our friends" and "thank you for our food." We always say thank you to our snack person! We thank God for our November birthdays – Happy Day to Grayson and Lucy! We thank God for leaves and turkeys.

### Mrs. Ashford, continued

We thank God for paint, markers and crayons so that your wonderful ones can use their baby hearts to create and explore, while making tiny hand print memories for you. Enjoy your Thanksgiving Day, enjoy your family and count your many blessings. You are counted among our blessings and we are very grateful that you share your wonderful ones with us!

### Mrs. Schaefer's Bears (Young Twos):

I can't believe how fast November has gone by. We have spent time focusing on Thanksgiving and all the wonderful things associated with this special time of the year. We have had a lot of fun making hand prints and turkeys for the Thanksgiving feast. The kids have worked very hard on their songs for our special program. I am very proud of them. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the program and the meal that we shared together. Thank you all for coming.

Our color this month was brown which was perfect for our turkeys. The Bible verse was "Give thanks to God". So we decided we were all thankful that God has brought all of us together as a wonderful class. This month we also focused on textures. We worked with soft feathers and hard craft sticks.

The class would like to thank all of our special parents for helping with the Holiday Market baskets, they were great!

Happy Thanksgiving and God Bless.

### Mrs. Burns' Fish (Older Twos):

November was another busy month of having fun and learning new things. This month we learned the color brown. The class heard the Bible story 'A Boy Shares His Lunch'. And we discussed what we were thankful for. The class is also learning how to put on and take off their coats and hanging them on the hooks. Don't forget to send in a coat or heavy jacket because we try to go outside when the weather is nice.

I would like to thank all the parents for helping out with the Holiday Market project. And again, thanks for everything that you do.

Mrs. Crane's Bees (3's T/Th):

November has flown by. The children have been busy with learning about Thanksgiving and what it means to be thankful. We read about the boy who shared his lunch and had the same lesson in Chapel this month.

We have been talking about nutrition and making good food choices.

The kids worked really hard on their songs and crafts for the Thanksgiving Feast. They were really excited to sing for all of you. Thank you for supporting the Feast. It was a great success. Have a great Thanksgiving and we will see you in December.

Mrs. Morrison's Turtles (3's T/Th):

We have been very busy this month. We have been busy working on our decorations for our Thanksgiving Feast. We have been talking about being thankful for our families and the colors of fall. We have been continuing to work on name recognition, following directions, and getting ready to start on our Zoophonics book. Please remember to send in jackets, hats, and gloves with your child since we have no idea what the weather will be like when we go out to play. I want to thank all the parents who came in to help with the Holiday Market and who helped with our Thanksgiving Feast. I hope you and your families have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving. Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday, William.

Mrs. Dreyer's Fish (3's M-W-F): November has been a busy time getting ready for the Thanksgiving Feast! The children really enjoyed making the placemats, headdresses, vests and especially the beaded necklaces! I think they were the cutest Indians ever! The Thanksgiving songs were so much fun to practice and they sang them so well at the program! It was great to see all the parents and grandparents! During the month, we talked about the Bible verse Psalm 136:1 "Give thanks to God". The children came up with so many different things that they were thankful for. We made a thankful chain that went across our entire room! It is a great time of year to realize how blessed we are as a class!

Mrs. Dreyer, continued

Our alphabet letters in November were E and F. The kids caught a lot of fish fishing in our fish class! We also discussed the color brown and the triangle shape. We reviewed all of our colors decorating Tom the Turkey! Our Bible story was about the boy who shares his lunch, Matthew 14:13-21. The children understood the story as we tried to share one little goldfish with the whole class! The Children sure enjoyed the fall themes in story time, Spanish and music this month! We only had one birthday this month, happy birthday Payton (11/23)! We are looking forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus in the month of December!

Mrs. Moskal's Turtles (3's M-W-F):

November has been a busy month. We spent a lot of time on the preparations for the Thanksgiving Feast, which was a success. Thank you all for coming to the feast. The children were excited about you sharing this day with them. It was wonderful seeing and talking to all of you.

We have spent a lot of time talking about thankfulness, being peaceful children of God, our Bible story about the little boy who shared his lunch and Jesus' miracle. We read about the Pilgrims and Indians and why we celebrate Thanksgiving. We talked about nutrition and had fun shopping at our pretend grocery store.

Thank you Mrs. Hambrick and Mrs. Conboy for making play dough.. Thank you Mrs. Belden for reading to the class.

I am very thankful to have the opportunity to share your children's lives. I love them very much. I hope you have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving holiday.



Mrs. Kelley's Busy Bees (4's M-W-F):

Once again, our month has been filled with lots of fun. The children are really beginning to get into the holiday spirit and you can feel the excitement beginning to rise!

We began the month talking about nutrition and made our big pot of Stone Soup – complete with real stones. The kids were so good; we asked that they at least try it and would you believe that most came through and for the most part, they loved it!! We even had requests for 2nds! What an awesome class!

They enjoyed our Indian and Pilgrim theme which carried us into the middle of the month. We read a lot of books and talked about the first Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims. Some of the kids were insistent that there were ice cream cones at their feast and there was no talking them out of it! They loved making their Indian tee pees and did a good job on all of the Thanksgiving crafts.

Thanks to everyone for attending our very special Thanksgiving Feast. The children did a great job singing and it was clear that all of our practicing paid off!

Our field trip to Publix was so much fun! The children all seem to enjoy learning about the inside workings of a grocery store. Most of them were willing to try the sub sandwiches that Publix generously gave us and of course they all loved the cupcakes! A big thank you to all of you who drove and chaperoned us on the field trip and got us there and back safely.

Story time was so much fun with Mrs. Jones. The kids love listening to her; she does an amazing job. Spanish with Mrs. Tansey and Music with Mrs. Partin were fun and we were able to incorporate some extra practice for the feast. Mrs. Deiters and I look forward to sharing in the excitement that is so very contagious when surrounded by 12 amazing four year olds!

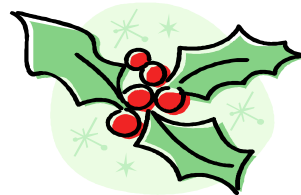
Most importantly, Mrs. Deiters and I want to wish all of our class and their family a very blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!! We are very thankful for all of you ☺

Mrs. Micale's Monkeys (4's M-Th):

November has come and gone so quickly! Our theme for the month was harvest and Thanksgiving. We began the month with a field trip to Publix where we learned about a lot of different foods and how a grocery store operates. The children had so much fun and especially enjoyed the yummy subs and cupcakes we brought back to school with us. We have spent many days this month preparing for our Thanksgiving Feast. Everyone worked very hard making special crafts for the tables and learning our songs and finger plays for the program. We are very thankful for everyone who was able to spend this special day with us.

Despite the shortage of school days this month, we still found time to get in some important lessons. We learned two Bible stories this month, The Little Boy Who Shared His Lunch and Jonah and the Whale. Our nursery rhyme was Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater. Our math lessons this month were focused on numbers 8 and 9. We also spent several days practicing our sorting skills. We have sorted objects by color, shape, and size. In phonics we learned the letters Ll, Hh, and Kk. For special activities this month we have attended Story time with Mrs. Jones, Chapel, Music Class, and Spanish Class.

A special Thank you to the following helpers this month: Mrs. Davalos, Mrs. Barrier, and Mrs. Wailes for our Fall Celebration, Mrs. Kirkman, Mrs. Roberts, and Mrs. Barrier for driving us to Publix, and Mrs. Himes, Mrs. Barrier, Mrs. Kirkman, Mrs. Walling, Mrs. Mendoza, and Mrs. Holden for assisting with our Pilgrim Hats.



Mrs. Davalos' Butterflies (4's M-Th):

We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving! I am thankful for these wonderful children and the opportunity to learn from them and to teach them.

(Continued on next page)

Mrs. Davalos, continued

We ended October with our class special snack. Thank you to Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Leonard, and Mrs. Crawley for planning a special celebration for the class. We also have enjoyed the wonderful stories read by our Mystery Readers. Thank you to Ella's aunt, Janice Wray, Mr. Kunkel, and Sophie's sister, Maggie, for taking the time to read to the children. We also went on a fun, and informative, trip to Publix. We toured the produce section, meat department, and bakery, as well as seeing where trucks pull in and how boxes are smashed. Thank you so much to Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Cannon, Mrs. Campisi, Mrs. Martin del Campo, and Mrs. Harvey for driving and supervising.

In November, we have focused most of our attention on turkeys, Thanksgiving, and preparing for our feast. The children have loved learning the Thanksgiving songs and have done a wonderful job preparing special crafts.

Sorting has been a fun activity. The children are learning to sort by color, shape, and size. We also review patterning daily, as well as counting, and calendar skills. We continue to study a new letter each week. We read a story about the letter, see who has the letter in their name, practice writing the letter, review our blends, make an art project, and bring in something for show and tell to review and learn each letter. We do focus more on the letter sound than the name, so you may be noticing that they can say the sound not the name of the letter. Review at home, searching for letters on road signs, and pointing out letters in books will help encourage letter recognition too.

Our bible story has been about Jesus performing a miracle by feeding over 5000 people with just 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. We have been encouraging the children to see how unselfish the boy was when he shared his lunch. We hope they are learning how to share and be unselfish too. Our nursery rhyme is Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater. We are pointing out rhyming words and are helping them memorize this old rhyme. Retelling the rhyme has been our focus this month too.

The children also have lots of time each day for center play. They build with blocks, play

with cars, dress up, feed babies, play with rescue heroes, horses, and explore art on their own. At these times they are learning to share, expand their vocabularies, imagine, and sort out their world. This group has a wonderful imagination!

We go outside every day that we can. Please send in coats, hats, mittens etc. as the weather turns colder.

We look forward to beginning our unit on advent next month.

Mrs. Armentrout's Frogs (Young Fives):

WOW!! What a busy month!! I guess the old saying of "Time flies when you're having fun" is true. I know that we are having lots of fun with your children.

Our field trip to Publix was a lot of fun. The kids had a great time and still talk about it. Thank you to all who joined us!

We spent the first part of the month learning about the Pilgrims and Indians. We discussed what we would take with us if we were to travel on the Mayflower and could only pack one thing. We even made little Mayflower ships in a bottle. We have all decided that we are thankful for everything we have in our lives to make living easier! The Pilgrims and their children had a tough life

The rest of our month was getting all of our artwork and feast projects completed. The feast was a huge success. All of your children's hard work sure paid off. A big "THANKS" to all the moms who helped in the kitchen. .

Our Bible story of the Month was "A Boy Shares His Lunch." The kids enjoyed making their baskets with the 2 fish and the 5 loaves of bread.

The letters of the week this month were "Nn" and "Yy".

We celebrated two birthdays this month—Cole S. on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Harrison on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Our Disguise A Turkey turned out great. We love seeing what the kids come up with every year. The feathers looked great on the turkey also!

We are already very busy working on our Christmas gifts and artwork! We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving break.