

The Season of Giving

Thanks to all the families who donated food for our "Sharing Feast." The Arvada Food Bank was very grateful. The quantity was sufficient to provide one meal for 36 families. What a Thanksgiving blessing!

Now we move on to Christmas, the season of gift giving. Again this year, we will collect new toys (tags still attached) to donate to the Arvada Christmas Shop. This is a community effort to provide assistance to Arvada families in need. You may bring a toy donation any time through December 15. Engage you children in the selection of the gifts, and use it as a time to develop their spirit of giving and generosity.

Especially during the current economic climate, the staff of KDD asks that you not give staff gifts. Of course, we love cards or anything kids make themselves.

Use your monetary resources to brighten Christmas for your family and/or the children's charity of your choice.

KDD families are invited to use the new Wants and Needs board at AUMC. If you have goods or a service to offer, fill out a card and attach it under WANTS. If you need a certain service or are



KIDS' DISCOVERY DAYS Newsletter

December, 2008



Director's Notes

Calendar

December

- 11/30 - 12/14
Sundays Holiday Greenery Sale -- Pick up your order now or make a selection from our stock and pay at the KDD office.
- 1 - 12 Arvada Christmas Shop donations received. See the article at left.
- 1 - 19 Holiday Crafts and Activities incorporated in the daily lessons.
- 17 - 18
Wednesday,
Thursday Holiday Feasts will be served during snack time. Watch for a note about what to bring and then sign up outside the classroom. The Pre 4/5 class will do their feast on Friday, 12/19.
- 22 - 1/2 No Classes -- Winter Break

January

- 14 Classes resume (Monday).
- 19 No Classes - Martin Luther King Day (Monday)
- 20-30 Fall 2009 pre-registration. Sign up early!
- 27 Family Pizza Supper and Math Night (Tuesday)

looking for a certain "thing," fill out a card and attach it under NEEDS. Check the board often for something you need or that you can provide.



It's hard to believe that it is already December! We spent the month of November learning about squirrels and doing fun Thanksgiving activities. The children enjoyed dramatizing the story of the first Thanksgiving and learning how to set the table.

The "Turkey Pokey" was one of their favorite songs.

The Friday class made pine cone turkeys and had a great time making mini chocolate pies with the seniors from the Colorado Lutheran Home.

In December, we will briefly discuss the various holidays that take place during the month. Our focus will be on Christmas.

If your family celebrates another holiday, please let me know so that you can share some of your special traditions and

Toddler News

December is here! The year is flying by quickly, and everyone is doing great at school. During November, we did various Thanksgiving activities. We decorated and painted turkeys, talked about families, and painted pumpkin pie with cinnamon scented paint. During December, we will focus our theme around getting ready for Christmas. Some of our crafts will include Christmas trees, wreaths, candy canes, and stockings. We will also play with green play dough and make a Santa Claus craft. In music, we will sing some fun Christmas songs, do some dancing, and play instruments to some Christmas music.

The weather is getting colder, so please send appropriate clothing with your child. On very cold days, we still try to go outside at least for a short time at the end of the day. If it is too wet and cold, we can also use the gym to get some of our sillies out during the morning! We will have pajama days the last week before Winter Break. Look for information about this soon. I hope that you have a wonderful holiday season with your families! I enjoy working with you and your children!

Please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.
Jennifer Potter 303-422-2784

customs with the class.

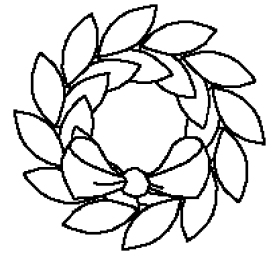
For those who are musicians, I would welcome you to share your special talents with our class on your helper day.

We will celebrate with Holiday Feasts during our snack times on December 17 and 18. You are invited to provide a small serving of a holiday family favorite for the children to sample. You may drop off your dish in

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Preschool 4/5 Fridays

On November 7, we discussed what giving thanks means. The children thought very hard about what they were thankful for and illustrated their ideas for a class book that they enjoyed sharing with friends and family.

Other autumn activities last month included sponge painting squirrels for stick puppets used in dramatizing squirrel songs and poems, making pine cone turkeys to add a festive touch to our holiday tables, and dramatizing with “costumes” the story of the first Thanksgiving Feast.

The topic of one *Weekly Reader* for November was, “Be a Health Superstar,” which motivated us to talk about nutritious food, exercise, and more. The children made colorful collages of healthful foods and eagerly participated in sorting and memory games using pictures of fruits and vegetables. The kitchen area became the center of food preparations for a healthful feast. The children also enjoyed hearing *Clifford’s Thanksgiving Visit*, the first of many entertaining holiday books that we will enjoy in the coming weeks.

I am certainly thankful to have the opportunity to work with your delightful children. Best wishes for a Happy Holiday season! Have fun sharing the wonderful books and songs of this special time of year with your family.

Mary Fanyo 303-425-6143

Community Resources

**Nature Adventures:
A Parent/Child Program** for children 4 - 6. Majestic View Nature Center presents this Saturday program of nature activities, stories, and games. Call 5 days in advance to save your space. December 20, 11:00 - 11:45 AM. No fee.

The Santa Rescue- at the Heritage Square Music Hall, every Saturday through December 27, at 1:30 (and sometimes 3:00 PM).

Santa needs your help to keep Christmas. It’s your turn to save the day!

303-279-7800 and
www.hsmusichall.com.

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the morning when you bring your child to school. Ethnic favorites are encouraged and appreciated. I will post a sign-up sheet.

Our Friday Friends field trips are scheduled for December 12 and 19.

The holidays can be a very hectic and busy time for families. We hope that you will have a chance to relax and make some special memories with your child this holiday season!



Preschool Two/Three

What a fun November we had in Preschool Two/Three. We talked about turkeys, Thanksgiving, and what we are thankful for. I'll bet your house is still doing the "Turkey Pokey."

During December, we will talk about the many holidays celebrated during this month. We will read stories and do crafts that explore some holidays that your family may not celebrate, as well as the ones that you do. We will play musical instruments as we sing "Jingle Bells," so expect to hear that song around your house.

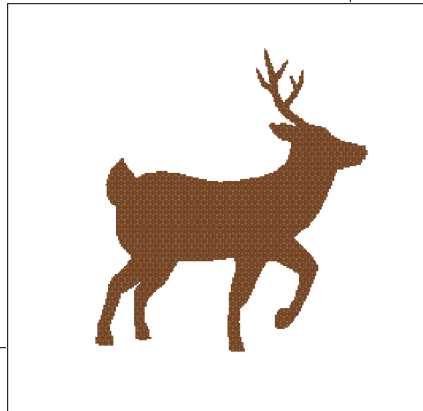
December Finger Play

Five little cookies sitting on a plate,
Waiting for Santa; he was running late.
Along came a reindeer, guess what he ate?
Crunch!
(Four) little cookies sitting on a plate.

Please remember that we will go outside on all but the bitterest cold days. The children really enjoy the fresh air and need to have time to play and develop gross motor skills. Make sure that your child has warm mittens, hat, jacket, and snow boots when needed. Please make sure that you label these items, because the kids don't always know which ones are theirs.

Both of us want to wish your family a Happy Holiday Season. Please take time this winter break to enjoy a story with your child or play a game together. This is what the children will remember more than the toys under the tree.

Cindy (303-469-1160)
Suzanne (303-424-5805)



Preschool Three

During November, we focused our attention on the season of Thanksgiving by learning about Pilgrims and American Indians. We lived in teepees and built a "campfire" to imagine our American Indians lodged. We made ceremonial sashes with pictograph symbols and learned a sign language game played without speaking any words.

In a partners game, the children "sailed the Mayflower." The grocery store activity including cash registers, a scanner, credit cards, sacking groceries, and "shopping" for a variety of items was a favorite.

Santa's Favorite Story, by Hisako Aoki, is a wonderful book I will read to the children during December. Another favorite holiday book of mine is *The Polar Express*, by Chris Van Allsburg. It is about maintaining the wonder of Christmas. Please enjoy the blessings of the season along with my best wishes, and appreciate the magic of the holiday season through your child's eyes.

Penny Owings 303-421-2365

Preschool 4/5

Shirley Pierce 303-420-8353

Our class greatly enjoyed the "Reading Rainbow" video based on the book, *The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush*. We saw the Taos pueblo and watched a young Indian man mixing paints and painting on an animal skin.

This week, we'll watch the rest of the program, including a woman making traditional pottery and a family performing the Eagle Dance. We'll then use play dough to make our own coil pots.

We'll read some more Native American legends and then move on to books involving Christmas and Hanukkah (accompanied by a snack of potato latkes).

We'll do some beautiful easel paintings to decorate our classroom and the hallway based on the book, *Mystery of the Navajo Moon*.

To decorate the tree in the hall, we'll make ornaments that children will take home at Winter Break. You might want to make homemade ornaments and send one to school for your child to add to the tree, as well.

KDD's project of providing new toys for the Arvada Christmas Shop is a meaningful way for children to be involved in sharing and generosity. So many times, they're asked, "What do you want?" or "What are you getting?" This is a chance for them to tell friends and family what they are giving to someone who might not otherwise have a present under the tree.

The T/Th class doesn't have a classroom feast, but you are all welcome to bring a family favorite holiday treat on your helper days. I hope that you all have a joyful holiday season with your families!