



Preschool News

December 2008

RBCPC Early Childhood Education Programs * Patti Hunter, Director - phunter@rbpc.org * website: www.rbpcpreschool.com

Director's Message

"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, "it's not my child, not my community, not in my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes." Fred Rogers

Director's Message

In this season of *giving*, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your *gifts* of time, talents and resources to support our Craft Fair/Children's Carnival and Dessert Night/Silent Auction. You truly make a difference in the lives of children and families in our preschool community. The way in which you all come together to bring these events to life is amazing. Both events are critically important to our work with children and families by providing funding for equipment, tuition assistance and additional staffing to best meet the needs of all the children. Thank you for being a "hero" in the lives of children in our preschool community.

The Christmas Season is certainly a magical time with young children. I hope your season is a blessed time filled with family, friendship, traditions, and cherishing even the simplest moments.

Merry Christmas!

Patti

Good news from heaven the angels bring,
Glad tidings to the earth they sing;
To us this day a child is given,
To crown us with the joy of heaven.
Martin Luther

Mark Your Calendar

December 17: Christmas Fellowship 11:00 & 2:45 M-TH
December 18: Christmas Fellowship 11:00 & 2:45 T-TH
December 19: Christmas Fellowship 11:00 & 2:45 M/W/F
December 22-January 4th: Christmas Break—No School
January 5th—Back to School 2009!!!

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

December 23: 7:00PM
Brass, Organ, Contemporary Band

December 24:
1:00PM
Children's Choirs, Live Animals
3:00PM
Brass, Organ, Contemporary Band
5:00PM
Brass, Organ, Contemporary Band

7:30PM
Youth Choir, Organ
9:00PM
Chancel Choir, Orchestra
10:30PM
Communion

Please visit our website: www.rbpcpreschool.com for an informative article:

[The Flu: A Guide for Parents](#)

This article can be found under: Communication/Education: Articles on Specific Topics.

Childlike Faith
November/ December 2008

Luke 2:7 "And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger" Christmas through the eyes of a preschooler is delightful. At least, that is what my eyes see when watching children this time of year. The colorful lights, a tree in the living room, the seasonal music, extra sweets and cookies, and the anticipation of presents all adds up to Christmas joy. Throw in a mysterious old guy with a white beard and red coat and we are on the doorstep of stimulation overload.

So what is Christmas really about in the eyes of a preschooler? I think the answer depends on two key factors. First, Christmas is what we parents have told them. Second, Christmas is what we parents have shown them.

Jesus, coming into the world as a human baby, (theology calls this "incarnation") is a challenging concept to understand... for an adult. Children seem to have less preconceived notions about what is possible and what is not; they seem more open to God coming as a baby than most adults, and they relate to this special person, Jesus, being a child like them. So what do we tell our children Christmas is all about?

We ought to spend as much time telling them the truth about what we believe Christmas is as we do time talking about the decorations and tales of Christmas. If children can celebrate a living snowman with a magic hat and a flying reindeer with a glowing nose, as well as sing the songs, then certainly they can celebrate God's love for us shown through the baby, Jesus. But we rarely spend as much time singing the songs and telling the story of Jesus. Christmas is a time for the story of God's love and a parent's faith to be fun and exciting to talk about and sing about.

Children are always watching us, but I feel especially watched when I tell my children one thing and then do something else. For example, when one child has swiped a toy from the other, it takes my greatest self control not to swipe that toy back and give it to the first child. If I tell them not to swipe and then do the very thing I said not to, which speaks louder?

So what is Christmas to your actions? Do you do anything different, special, or festive to highlight your understanding of Jesus' birth? How do you participate and play Christmas with your children? Our challenge is to show, by our actions and our lives, that Christmas is special. If we only show them that Christmas is about a busy social calendar, stressful retail outings, and tree trimmings, maybe we have missed the point of Christmas ourselves.

Here are a few things my family is experimenting with this year. We have a Little People nativity play set that I will play the story of Jesus' birth with my children. The topic of presents comes up frequently, so we frequently talk about Jesus' birthday. His birthday is so special, everyone gets presents! Picking out a toy, wrapping it, and delivering it to a toy drive might be a special memory we share with our children.

There are many things you could say *and* do. Be creative and attentive to the true meaning of Christmas. Your children will be blessed with the greatest gift you could ever give them. I hope you will have a merry Christmas, with many fun and faith-filled moments.
- Pastor Joe



*Thank you,
to the hundreds of volunteers
for the hours and hours of
hard work to make this years
Dessert Night & Silent
Auction such a HUGE
success. Your service is gratefully
appreciated.*

*Thank you,
to the many, many people who bid on auction
items and gave
generous donations to 'Support A Child'.
You have made a difference
in so many children's lives.*



THE SHACK:

You may have heard about the controversy surrounding this book amongst the Christian community. RBCPC will be having a Sermon Series discussing this book beginning January 4.

Beginning Friday, January 9th we will have a small group discussion about this Bestselling book.

Melissa Heinemann and I will be facilitating the Friday discussion group. We will meet in Room 260 (new number)/Room 24 (old number) at 10:30. Group discussions are open, come whenever you can, to one, two, or all sessions.

We will have books available, at no cost, in the Preschool Office.

We hope you will join us to explore *The Shack* together—Patti Hunter

Child Care is available, reservations must be made in the preschool office for child care.