

## December Kindernews



*Our Noah's Ark month was so much fun and November has left us in as much of a flurry as it came! We worked so hard at making God's message of peace and love a reality in our classroom as we played and learned about celebrating and accepting the differences that make us unique. More fond kindergarten memories were created on our "Beach Day"—the outside weather was surprisingly warm and it was cozy inside where we splashed in the pool, played beach volleyball, did some surfing and had a picnic on the waterfront! A big thank you goes out to all the parents who helped out at the beach—it's not possible to get 20 children changed out of bathing suits into dry clothes without extra hands! And we had no extra socks or underwear! That's pretty awesome! This week we are meeting Alligator Al who awakes at the alarm and scares the other animals—"AAAH!" We will be making some beautiful angels, more ark animals and singing the alphabet song!*

*We are all looking forward to our Celebration of Learning. Although it is set up as a tool to give students the chance to show their families what goes on in kindergarten, it will also give parents and caregivers the opportunity to make their own observations about student learning. I always appreciate the great feedback I receive from all of you, and I hope to be able to use our discussions to make the program even better for your children.*



*The first Sunday of Advent will be Nov.29, which means it's time to start preparing for Christmas! We think about Advent being a time of waiting, of preparing our hearts for the coming of our Saviour. In order to help you prepare together, we will be starting a special advent activity called "The Joy Box". This box contains an Advent wreath, a nativity scene, a story about the first Christmas, a snack container and a journal for writing about what Christmas means to your family. Each child has a turn to take the Joy Box home for one night during each week of Advent (it also includes instructions for you and some appropriate prayers). The snacks are for your family, and we ask that you replenish the goodies for the next family. You will find an extra calendar attached to your newsletter so you can see when to expect the Joy Box.*

*The box is brought back to school the next day. If you have it on a weekend or during the holiday, please make arrangements to take it to the next child. Thank you for your cooperation and we hope you create some wonderful Christmas memories with this family centered activity.*



*St. Joseph will be hosting an Advent Family mass instead of a Christmas concert; there are just too many children at our school to accommodate such a large family audience. The mass will be held on Wed., Dec. 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish. We invite and encourage all families to attend, regardless of your faith backgrounds, and I look forward to seeing you all there. However, I know that you were probably looking forward to a little something with just our kindergartners, so I invite you to join us at school for a little mini-concert on Mon., Dec. 14. at 10:30 for the morning group and at 2:15 for the afternoon group. Please bring a small plate of goodies to share (no nuts please) and after we sing a few songs for you we can enjoy some fellowship and Christmas cheer!*



*All Aboard the Polar Express! We'll soon begin a Christmas adventure with this award winning story! This wonderful train theme will help us experience the joy of Christmas and remind all of us how important it is to "BELIEVE". Since all the children on the Polar Express were in their pajamas, it's only fitting to have pajama day on the last day of kindergarten before holidays—Dec. 17. Children can wear their p.j.'s and bring blankets! We'll make pancakes and stay warm and cozy all day long!*

- *There will be no kindergarten on Fri. Dec. 18*



*St. Joseph school will be putting together hampers for needy families for the Christmas season. If you are in a position to share we would love to have your donations of non-perishable food items. We appreciate whatever you can spare! If yours is one of the families going through a difficult time and could benefit from a hamper, please let me know. It will be held in the strictest of confidence.*



*The best part about working with young children at this time of year is that we get to see Christmas through their eyes. When we do it becomes so much easier to capture those wonderful feelings of excitement, anticipation and intrigue that we have all felt in years gone by. Advent reminds us to slow down and do what we need to do to let Christ be born in us. My Christmas prayer for each of you is that during this blessed Advent season your hearts will be open to receive the gift that came so many years ago with that tiny baby in the manger—the gift of hope. Rejoice in today, savour each fleeting moment and enjoy creating memories for your child to cherish in years to come! Merry Christmas!*

*Yours in Christ,  
Mrs. R. ☺*

*P.S. I'm going to try, once again, to see if I can get any interest in having my newsletters and memos sent electronically. If you would like to receive your information via e-mail, please fill out, detach and return the following form by December 4.*

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*Yes, I would like to receive information for my child \_\_\_\_\_  
by e-mail. My e-mail address is \_\_\_\_\_*

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*Parent/guardian signature*