



Bright Beginnings  
Child Development  
Center

# KID'S TRIBUNE

December 2009

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Parents,

Believe it or not, the Holidays are here! Let us be among the first to wish you a Happy Holiday Season! Whether you are traveling or staying in town, we hope that you all have an enjoyable holiday season and return safely to Bright Beginnings!

Despite the economy and media reports to the contrary, 2009 has been a wonderful year! We have been blessed to have the privilege of teaching and caring for your children this past year and we look forward to closing out the year with a bang!!

### 2 Amazing Events

I would like to thank you, our parents, for actively participating in two recent events. First, our Fall Carnival was an amazing success! Thankfully, the weather cooperated and all who attended had a wonderful time!

Second, our Annual International Festival was spectacular, to say the least! We can't thank all who attended, contributed food and wore their native fashions enough for their participation.

### Food Drive A Success

We would also like to thank all of our parents and students who contributed to our Annual Food Drive. The children learned a valuable lesson about giving and the recipients of the food - the White Oak Foundation - were extremely grateful to receive additional food to help them feed those in need within our community.

### No Outside Food

As a reminder, children are not allowed to bring outside food into the school, due to potential allergic reactions by our students. Only children with a doctor's note are permitted to bring outside meals to school. However, we do allow parents to bring store-bought items to the school for birthday celebrations.

### Holiday Gift to Parents

As a thank you for allowing us to share your child or children with us throughout the year, we will be providing a Holiday gift to our Bright Beginnings parents on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. From 9am to 12pm, you will be allowed to bring your children to

Bright Beginnings for **FREE** childcare while you take care of Holiday shopping, run errands or just relax. While here, the children will play holiday games, enjoy fun crafts and decorate & eat festive snacks.

### New School Closing Dates

Bright Beginnings will be closed for the holidays on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>. We will re-open on Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup> and close again for New Year's on Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. We will re-open on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

The last day for our More @ Four program is Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. The program will re-open on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

### Notable Dates:

**Dec. 12, 2009 -  
Gift to Parents (9am  
to 12pm)**

**Dec. 24 & 25, 2009-  
School Closed**

**Dec. 31, 2009 &  
January 1, 2010 -  
School Closed**



Classrooms — What's Goin' On?

Want to know what's planned for December in your child's classroom? Take a look below:

INFANTS	
December Theme Key Activities in December Welcome New Student (s)! December Birthdays!	Showflakes Soft shapes None None
TODDLER 1	
December Theme Key Activities in December  Welcome New Student (s)! December Birthdays!	Friends Making Hand Reindeer & Christmas Cards, Looking at storybooks & photo albums, Christmas tree collage, Painting with friends None None
TODDLER 2	
December Theme Key Activities in December  Welcome New Student (s)! December Birthdays!	Pets, Toys, Holiday Customs, Christmas Identify and Name pets & farm animals, Counting numbers (1 - 10) None None
PRESCHOOL 1	
December Themes Key Activities in December Welcome New Student (s)! December Birthdays!	Pets, Happy Holidays, Teddy bears Alphabets & Numbers None GRAYSON KNOTTS, GRACEYN MCQUEEN
PRESCHOOL 2	
December Themes Key Activities in December Welcome New Student (s)! December Birthdays!	Pets, Teddy Bears, Christmas Around the World Classroom Rules, Identify Letters & Shapes MARIYAH BROADWATER AUSTIN CIRIAGO

Classrooms (cont'd)

KINDERPREP 1	
December Themes Key Activities in December  Welcome New Student (s)! December Birthdays!	Pets, Teddy Bears, Holiday Customs Baking Teddy Bear Cookies, Making Christmas Ornaments, Classroom pet visitors JOHNATHAN MONTAGUE None
KINDERPREP 2	
December Theme Key Activities in December  Welcome New Student (s)! December Birthdays!	Parties & Celebrations Making party hats and classroom decorations, Construction and Friendship parties, Holiday arts & crafts, Holiday songs SAMUEL LÜTTERODT JANA KROMAH
KINDERPREP 3	
December Themes Key Activities in December  Welcome New Student (s)! December Birthdays!	Celebrations Around the World Food guide pyramid, Dishes from various countries, Fruits & Vegetables None ANDREA MORENO

With the holiday season upon us, we thought it would be appropriate to share the following article about thankfulness.

Teaching Thankfulness - A Holiday Gift for Children, by Brenda Nixon

Some of the first words you teach your tot are "thank you." And throughout their young life children need prompts like, "What do you say to Aunt Becky?" Hopefully, over time, their response becomes automatic. But parents need to continue teaching an attitude of thanks even as children grow into teenagers. As you celebrate this busy holiday season, utilize every moment as an opportunity to nurture thankfulness in your child. Here are free and simple ways to incorporate it into your daily lifestyle:

Live the Lesson It has been said that we're always teaching - sometimes we use words. Remembering to say "thank you" is proper. However, your child is watching you: the first and most influential teacher! So be sure to live a life of gratitude. When you model thankfulness, then your child will absorb that teaching.

Notice Nature Encourage your child to appreciate the inspiration that surrounds her. Marvel at the power of the wind, the

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immensity of the ocean, the perfection of a snowflake, the endless night sky or the rugged beauty of a mountain range. I've reminded my girls of the saying of Goethe, "Nature is the living, visible garment of God."

Convert Attitude into Action A small gesture, such as a smile, can lighten the day of the waitress who hands your youngster a glass of milk. A hug for your child's teacher is another attitude action. When she empties the dishwasher, remind your daughter that this is her action of appreciation for home and food even if she doesn't think so at the time. Thankfulness can also be expressed through homemade goodies. To show appreciation for their classroom teachers, my girls and I made little holiday gifts for them. What ways can you convert your thoughts into action this season?

Discover Dictionary Descriptions Although we have our own words to explain thankfulness, it helps to see new definitions. Go to your public library and see what dictionaries say about the word. I like what *Webster's Dictionary* says about thankfulness, "Impressed with a sense of kindness received." This definition takes the focus off material possessions and puts it on the giver.

Gather Great Quotes My research for this article took me to Web sites that offer all types of quotes. A humorous one about thanks comes from Woody Allen: "I am thankful for laughter, except when milk comes out of my nose." Have fun with your child as you gather quotes about thankfulness.

Contrast Your Family with Folks Less Fortunate Help her see that there are those in your community who aren't as blessed: families without homes, people who are sad or lonely or those who must go to food kitchens to eat. When my daughters were young, one of our family traditions was to serve a meal to the homeless. Every Thanksgiving, my husband, two girls and I spent an evening at a rescue mission. After seeing hungry faces accepting a plate of food, my daughters heartily appreciated going home to their safe, cozy bedrooms. But they also learned about thankfulness when they saw and heard expressions of gratitude from those receiving the meal.

Make a Medley of Thankfulness Grab a pile of old magazines. Encourage your child to look through the pages and cut out pictures of things she is thankful for. Glue these on one page, overlapping pictures. Soon she'll have a visual reminder of the many blessings in her life.

Pen a Poem of Thankfulness Together, with your child, write words that rhyme with thanks, gratitude or thankful. See how many you can come up with. At any age, this can be a fun, language-learning exercise that stretches the imagination.

Practice Gratitude Permanently Showing thanks and appreciation does not end with the season. Help your child write thank you notes for her Christmas gifts. Preschoolers can dictate their gratitude as you write, or they can draw a picture of appreciation to give to their gift-giver. Also, find opportunities during the upcoming year to reinforce your lesson.



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