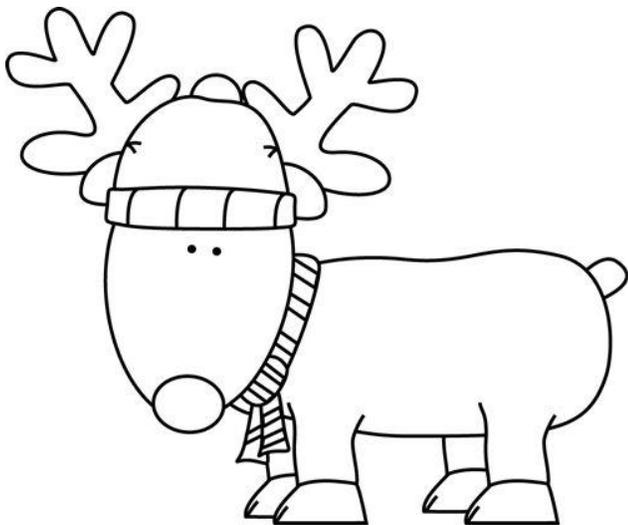


December Newsletter

2018

Happy
Holidays





December News

Dear Parents:

We would like to thank all the families who donated in the “Give to the Max” event on November 15th. It was a huge success and we are able to get materials for the school that are needed.

As the year draws to a close, many of you will need year-end receipts. These are not automatically generated.

Please give Cheryl 2-3 days notice if you need one. This general rule applies to any receipts or documents that you require. Remember, if you have any billing questions, concerns, or requests you can e-mail Cheryl at: cschroeder@sf-sj.org.

General Notes:

- Sandcastle will be closed on December 24th and December 25th for Christmas and on December 31st and January 1st for New Years.
- We are not licensed to provide care prior to 6:30 am or after 6:00pm.
- Please remember to follow our exclusion policy for sick children. It is in our parent handbook and there is a copy on our website.
- During adverse weather conditions, our policy is that if the St. Paul Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, Sandcastle will also be closed.
- Please remember to go through your child’s extra clothing so that all items are the correct size and seasonally appropriate. Accidents do happen, and it helps the teachers out to have clothing in their cubby/locker so they don’t have to go searching for clothing that might fit your child.
- We often have multiple classrooms that have bag lunch day on the same day. To avoid any confusion, please be sure that your child’s name is on his / her lunch.
- Early Childhood Screening will be on Thursday, January 10th. This is for children who are 3 years old or older to have their kindergarten screening done here on site. You must live in St. Paul for this service.
- **Please make sure you are signing your child(ren) in and out every day. It is your responsibility to do this because it is a requirement that we have it filled in every week.**

Have a blessed month filled with the peace, love, and beauty of Christmas.

Jennifer, Wendy, Lisa, and Rachael



"Infant Information"

Dolphins: (Jackie, Danette, and Carol)

We hope everyone had a very safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Rolling Over:

Rolling over usually occurs at around 4-6 months. Your child may be as surprised as you are.

Whether

your child first rolls front to back or back to front, expect a learning curve. He/she will have to learn how to get their arm out of the way and learn to master the motion that they may have discovered by accident.

How to Help:

When you see your baby starting to roll, help position their arm at their side or lift it over their head so they can make it all the way over. Once they have mastered the roll, you may worry that they will roll to their tummy during the night; if they do, you will not need to turn them back over.

Because they can roll over with no warning, it is important to:

- keep the crib sides up and locked in place
- always use safety belts in car seats and strollers
- lower the crib mattress at least one notch



Seahorses: (Angie, Jody, Rose, Isabel, Jessica, and Denise)



Last month we worked on how to give gentle touches and finding our voices and testing it. The kids really do enjoy making their noises for everyone to hear. We have been working on whole body movements, for example, crawling, rolling, and sitting up without assistance. We do this by having various equipment in our room that gets the children excited about moving and sitting up.

In the month of December, we will be working more on their fine and gross motor skills. We have a few fun activities planned to involve these skills- painting and rolling balls.

The air is getting dry, everyone is visiting family, and runny noses are abundant. If you feel your child needs lotion throughout the day, let us know. Bring in some lotion and we will help you combat the chapped cheeks, wrists, behind the knees, etc.

Our game this month is "Throwing Fun." Make balls of paper for me to throw into a laundry basket. Clap and make fun exciting sounds as we play together. I don't need fancy toys for my brain to develop. Just having a chance to play with you, and having interesting objects to explore, helps my brain to develop

Clownfish: (Miracle, Tiffany, & Emily)

November was a very exciting month! We explored snow and we made paper plate brown bears! This month's theme is Happy 'Holly' days! We will be exploring colors while using our sensory table. The kiddos will be ice painting and making snowmen! Later on in the month we will have a holiday party. We are all excited on 2019 and what the new year will bring. Have a 'Merry Christmas' and a 'Happy New Year!'



Thanks!- Clownfish Teachers

“Totally Toddlers”

Sea Lions: (Debbie, Brandye, & Barb)

We hope that you all had a Happy Thanksgiving. The children enjoyed our Thanksgiving lunch here; they especially enjoyed the mashed potatoes and cranberries. The kids loved having their bears spend the whole month with us. They enjoyed going on a bear hunt where they followed the bear prints up into the lunch room and found the bears.

We will miss our friends Norah, Lucinda, and Benjamin as they move on to the new adventures in the Whale Room. We have enjoyed working with their families as their children have grown from toddlers to preschoolers. We would like to welcome our new friends Maggie, Teddy, and Kain. Some reminders of what we do in our classroom during the month:

- Blankets for nap- we will send them home every Friday to get washed
- Outdoor clothes (jacket, hat, mittens/gloves, snow pants, and boots) need to be labeled. We will go outside weather permitting.
- Once a month we will have bag lunch- no peanuts and egg products please.
- Letter of the week day- bring in an item that begins with that letter for show-n-tell.

For December our theme is “Christmas Around the World.” We will introduce the children to Hanukah, St. Lucia, Los Posadas, and Kwanza. In our dramatic play we will have a post office/ gift wrapping center and a New Year’s Eve party. If you have any traditional holidays that you celebrate during the month of December, please feel free to share them with our class.

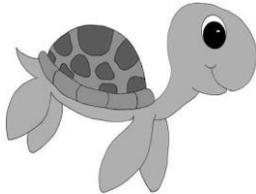
Things to do at home with your child:

- Start traditions with your families
- Go to the library and check our books about holidays around the world

If you have any questions or concerns, you can reach Debbie (6:30-1:00), Brandye (8:30-5:00 M,W,F-7:30-4:00 T, Th), and Barb (9:30-6:00).



Sea Turtles: (Sarah, Tracey, Molly & Rosa)



In the month of November, we practiced kindness by having gentle hands while playing with our friends. We also celebrated friendship day by learning how to share our snacks with our friends. The children had an adventurous day when we played with shaving cream and legos! They had a blast. The kids in the kitchen this month was a hit! We as a class made Nachos! Some of the kids liked them better uncooked then cooked. We spent the month practicing our thankful thoughts by using Thank You when talking to adults who help us.

Next month we will be taking part in ‘Tis the Season. So, we can practice and celebrate not only Christmas but take the time to know and experience other cultures.

Sea Crabs: (Laura, Myesha, and Brittney)

December is here and that means lots of fun events are coming up and its also the last month of the year! Where has time gone!?! Last month we had lots of fun learning all about transportation. First off, we made stop light art and we also made trains. We talked a lot about cars, trucks, and trains. We made green bean casserole for K.I.T.K.

This month our theme will be Holiday Fun! We will be making candy cane art and sending letters to Santa! We will also making melted snowmen and having a New Year’s Eve Party!

Remember to have snow pants, mittens, jacket, hats, and boots here everyday so we can go outside!

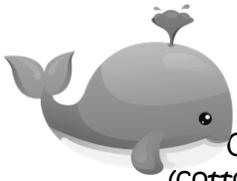
Things to do at home:

- Make a snowman outside with your family
- Make Christmas cookies with family
- Decorate the Christmas Tree



“Preschool Players”

Whales: (Patti, Megan, and Grey Mao)



Winter has arrived! And with winter and the month of December comes Christmas, and with Christmas comes Santa and his elves! This month's theme is “Santa's Workshop.” The class will dress up as elves and make presents for Santa Claus. The class will also be able to decorate a small Christmas tree with little ornaments. The sensory table will have ‘snow’ (cotton balls) and little shovels. The children will also be having fun making your

Christmas presents throughout the month!

At Home:

Let your child experiment with wrapping paper and boxes. Cutting folding and taping are excellent ways for your child to exercise their small motor skills. Also, this time of year is a great time to slow down and read with your child. We have tons of fun Christmas books in our classroom and reading these at home with your child is a great way to extend our theme at home. It is also a great way to spend quality time together as a family.

Penguins: (Allison and Tiffany)

The holiday season is approaching! Holiday songs are heard, and Santa is in the thoughts and sentences of many children.

At school we will be participating in many Christmas activities, such as creating ornaments, stockings, and snowmen. We'll also make Santa letters and decorate Christmas cookies.

Perhaps not all children and families in our program celebrate this holiday, but we feel it is very important to learn about and respect other's beliefs. However, if you wish that your child not participate in this, please let us know.



Some things you can do with your child(ren) are:

- Drive through your neighborhoods to see Christmas decorations
- Bake and decorate Christmas cookies
- Sing Christmas carols

Sea Stars: (Brianna, Giovanna, Jill, and Sue)



We had so much fun learning about zoo animals this past month! We also had a lot of fun getting ready for Thanksgiving!

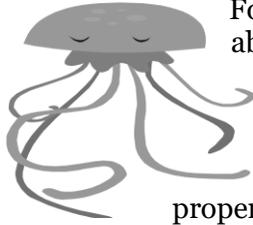
In the month of December our theme is Santa's workshop. We will be learning about Christmas! We will be doing this through books, art, & play! We will be writing a letter to Santa asking if he would send us an Elf on the Shelf!

At Home:

- Read Christmas books
- Visit Santa
- Go to a Christmas show (ballet, concert, play)
- Talk about ways you can help those in need during the cold months and then do so as a family

“Pre-K Performers”

Jellyfish: (Val, Kathi, Sumayo, and Q)



For the month of December, our theme is Holiday. In this month, we will learn about the holidays and what people do during this time of year. We will be focusing on our small group time to help the children develop kindergarten readiness skills i.e. writing, rhyming, alliteration, letter recognition, letter sounds, and basic math skills.

It's getting colder outside so please make sure that your Jellyfish is properly dressed for the weather. Also, please make sure that your Jellyfish has backup clothes in their cubbies because accidents do happen.

Stingrays: (Stacey, Ashley, and Margaret)

Merry Christmas Stingray parents! Last month the children enjoyed learning about the different community helpers and what they do to help us. In dramatic play they got to pretend to be fire fighters and put out the fires. The children also got to practice and learn about stop, drop, and roll. We have continued to work on our letters by writing them, identifying them, and learning the sounds they make. We will continue this into December as well.



This month is a winter/ Christmas theme. We will read different Christmas stories and learn some words to go with them. Saint Nicholas is planning on paying Sandcastle a visit to put candy in the children's shoes. In dramatic play the children can pretend to be in a candy forest and play in the gingerbread house or play dress up with Santa hats. To continue with this at home, talk about your holiday traditions and stories.

Some housekeeping; As it begins to get colder and snow is on the way, please be prepared for your child to play outside. Have all your child's winter gear labeled because some children have the same boots and black snow pants.

Puffer Fish: (Becky and Mia)

As we say hello to winter, we will be exploring 3 wonderful holidays in the month of December as well as a “Christmas Spirt Week” with the manatees. The first week of December will be spent learning about Hanukah and the third week is learning about Las Posadas as well as our



“Christmas Spirt Week” where we encourage your child to show their amazing holiday spirit! All month long we will be making beautiful art to hang up. On December 21st, the Pufferfish and Manatees are teaming up for an extra special PJ and movie day to enjoy hot cocoa, get a ticket for the Polar Express, and pretend to be on a train while watching the movie in their favorite Christmas jammies!

We cannot wait to enjoy this holiday season with you all.

Manatees: (Amy and Morgan)

The Manatee class spent the month of November learning about ‘thankfulness’ and what it means to be thankful. We now head into the ‘most wonderful time of the year’ and the month of December with our theme ” ‘Tis the Season.”

The Manatee's will spent the month learning about Christmas and other December holidays that families celebrate together. We will ‘deck the halls’ and spread that wonderful Christmas Cheer through art, books, songs, and play! Our classroom has had a Christmas makeover, and to keep the spirit bright, we will be having a Christmas Spirit Week the week before Christmas!



Some fun Holiday Songs to sing with your kids

“The Reindeer Dance”

(Tune: “The Hokey Pokey”)

(Children stand in a circle and pretend to be reindeer.

As the song is sung, they act out the movements as they are described.)

You put your (*hooves*) in.

You take your (*hooves*) out.

You put your (*hooves*) in and you shake them all about.

You do the Reindeer Dance

And you turn yourself around.

That's what it's all about.

(Repeat, substituting antlers, tail, and shiny nose.)



I'm A Little Christmas Tree (Sung To: I'm A Little Tea Pot)

I'm a little Christmas tree tall and straight

Here are my branches for you to decorate.

First you put the star on the very top

Just be careful that my balls don't drop

S-A-N-T-A (Sung To: B-I-N-G-O)

I know a man with a long white beard

And Santa is his name-o

S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A

And Santa is his name-o!

He wears a red hat and big black boots

And Santa is his name-o

S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A

And Santa is his name-o!

Eight little reindeer pull his sleigh

And Santa is his name-o

S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A

And Santa is his name-o!

And Santa is his name-o!

He slides down the chimney with a pack on his back

And santa is his name-o

S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A

And Santa is his name-o!

He leaves toys, under the Christmas tree

And Santa is his name-o

S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A

And Santa is his name-o!

