

THE CHILDREN'S HOUSE
PRESCHOOL &
KINDERGARTEN
PARENT BULLETIN
November 23, 2011



Dear Parents & Grandparents:

Our Word of the Week is **THANKFULNESS**



Thankfulness is the Key to Happiness

By Mrs. Mary Los Baños, President

When we are thankful for all that God has provided for us, we feel contented and happy. We are no longer striving to obtain more and more; rather, we are sharing with others in need.

We are thankful for the beauty of Creation that points our hearts to Jesus the Good Shepherd; the Shepherd that laid down His life for His sheep.

I am thankful that God provided The Children's House to share His love with the children of Hawaii. It gives me great happiness.

Let us open our eyes to see what beautiful gifts we have received and say a simple prayer of thanks.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11/24 & 11/25
11/27, Sunday
12/14, Wednesday
12/15 – 1/3/2012
1/4/2012, Wednesday

NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Holiday
Advent Season begins
Last day for all students before Christmas break
Christmas vacation for all students
All students return to school



Visit our website at www.childrenshousehawaii.org



Thank you to all our caring families for your donation of canned food items. All canned goods collected at today's special Thanksgiving assembly will be donated to Our Lady of Good Counsel Church here in Pearl City. They will in turn distribute the canned goods to families in need so that they may enjoy a warm and nourishing meal this holiday season. It is through your kind act of giving that we are reminded how amazing God's love truly is and how powerful His love is when we share it with others.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS BEGIN AT 9:00 AM IN THE PAVILION

Christmas Programs begin next week Thursday, December 1st. Our children have been practicing diligently at rehearsals and are looking forward to singing their Christmas carols especially for you. All parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles are invited. A reminder that all students should **wear their regular school uniform** as the attire for this year's Christmas Programs. The schedule is as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 12/1, Thursday | Christmas Program for Pod 4 |
| 12/2, Friday | Christmas Program for Pod 1 |
| 12/5, Monday | Christmas Program for Pod 2 |
| 12/6, Tuesday | Christmas Program for Pod 3 |
| 12/7, Wednesday | Christmas Program for Pod 7A |
| 12/8, Thursday | Christmas Program for Pod 7B |
| 12/9, Friday | Christmas Program for Pod 6 (Grades 1-2) |
| 12/12, Monday | Christmas Program for Pod 5 (Grades 3-6) |



After your child's Christmas Program, parents have the option to take their child out of school to spend a special day together in preparation for the holiday season.

COOKIES FOR ADMISSION TO OUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Immediately following your child's Christmas Program, you are invited to enjoy cookies and special punch served with love at our Cookie Party under the canopy.



Admission to our Christmas Programs is one dozen cookies per family; please do not bring more than a dozen cookies. You may send your cookies to school with your child in the morning. **Please be sure to check the ingredients section on all packages to make certain there are no nuts or peanuts.** This includes peanuts, peanut butter, walnuts, macadamia nuts, etc. since some of our children are highly allergic to nuts. You may be surprised to see what may look like pretty decorated sugar cookies actually contains "nut products" under the ingredients section.

PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN PARENTS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

The Magic of Music

Take advantage of the holiday season to foster a love of music



Research shows that exposure to music through playing or singing has benefits for your child including:

- Stronger reading and math skills.
- Stronger focus and coordination.
- Improved self-concept and social skills.

Here are some ways to expose your preschooler to music:

- Look in your local paper or online for free musical events. These are more common during the holidays than at most other times of the year. Many are geared toward children.
- Play music in your home whenever possible. Your chances to always pick the music won't last forever!
- Sing with your child. If you don't know what to sing, ask your child's teacher. Children in preschool or kindergarten sing often at school. Add to the experience by making your own instruments. Dried beans in a bandage box produce a great sound and are lots of fun!

Reprinted with permission from the December 2011 issue of *Parents make the difference!*® (Early Childhood Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2011 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Nemours Foundation, "Introducing Preschoolers to Music," KidsHealth, http://kidshealth.org/parent/growth/learning/preschool_music.html#.

HELP WANTED FOR PARKING & REFRESHMENTS



We are still in need of volunteers to help in our parking lot and with refreshments for each day of Christmas programs. If you are able to help, please call or come to our office to sign-up. Please do not sign up to volunteer on the day of your child's Christmas program so that you may enjoy your child's program in its entirety. We are in need of help on the following dates:

<u>Program day for:</u>	<u>Parking Volunteers Needed</u>	<u>Refreshment Volunteers Needed</u>	
12/1, Thursday	Pod 4	3	1
12/2, Friday	Pod 1	3	0
12/5, Monday	Pod 2	2	0
12/6, Tuesday	Pod 3	3	2
12/7, Wednesday	Pod 7A	4	1
12/8, Thursday	Pod 7B	4	3
12/9, Friday	Pod 6 (Grades 1-2)	3	3
12/12, Monday	Pod 5 (Grades 3-6)	4	3

Please enjoy the attached article about our special Advent Wreath tradition here at The Children's House.



God Bless. May you and your family have a blessed Thanksgiving!

The Children's House Administration

ADVENT WREATH

Each year at this time we prepare our Advent Wreath, a tradition here at The Children's House--a tradition that you may wish to incorporate into your Christmas celebration.

The liturgy of the Advent Wreath and the symbolic lighting of the candles prepares our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child. Lighting the Advent Candles is an old custom. Traditionally, a large wreath was suspended from the ceiling and on each Sunday of Advent a candle was lighted and placed on the wreath. Tradition suggested that three candles are purple, representing our need for forgiveness and longing for the coming Savior. The fourth candle is pink, symbolizing joy--joy at the birth of our Savior. Here at The Children's House we use a table wreath, and we sometimes use four red candles. We add a large white candle in the center to light on Christmas Eve. The wreath is a ring of evergreens symbolizing eternal life.



This is a suggested liturgy....

First Sunday or first week in December

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. It is the season each year for preparing our hearts and homes for the coming of Christmas to celebrate Jesus' birth.

The First Candle is Lighted

As we light our first Advent candle, the Prophets' candle, this candle reminds us of the prophets, those special persons who spoke God's word to the people during the hundreds of years before Jesus was born. The prophets told the people what God was going to do, and they instructed the people on how to get ready. Over and over, the prophets warned the people to obey God. (Reading: Isaiah 9: 2, 6)

Second Sunday or second week in December

Relight the Prophet candle and light the second candle

As we light our second candle, the Bethlehem candle, let us remember Joseph and Mary journeying to Bethlehem searching for a room where they could spend the night. (Reading: Luke 2: 1-7)

Third Sunday or third week in December

Relight the Prophet candle, Bethlehem candle and the third candle

The third candle, the Shepherds' candle, reminds us of what the shepherds did. First the shepherds listened and obeyed the angels even though they were very afraid. Then they saw Jesus and believed. The most important reason why we remember the shepherds and give them a special candle is because of what they did next; they told all that had happened to them. (Reading: Luke 2: 8-18)

Fourth Sunday or fourth week in December

All four candles are lighted

The fourth candle, the angels' candle, reminds us of the angels that appeared to Mary and later to the shepherds. The angels sang songs of praise to God to the shepherds in their fields. (Reading: Luke 2: 10-15)

Christmas Eve

The first four candles are relighted. Then, the Tall Christ Candle is lighted.

The Christ candle out shines all the others for it reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world. Where His light shines, there is no darkness. (Reading : John 1: 4, 5, 14)