

PARENT BULLETIN

2018-19 School Year | December Issue

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/12, Wednesday -
Grades 1 & 2 Outreach at
The Plaza, Pearl City*

12/14, Friday - Grades 3-6
Outreach at 'Ilima at
Leihano*

12/19, Wednesday - Last
day of school before
Winter Break

12/20 - 1/4/2019, Winter
Break

1/7/2019, Monday - First
day back for students

1/21/2019, Monday -
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day, **NO SCHOOL**

**Due to limited space at The Plaza, Pearl City and 'Ilima at Leihano, we are not able to invite parents to attend*



Dear Parents & Grandparents,

There was a time when the arrival of Thanksgiving marked the opening of the Christmas season. Anticipation grew as families planned meals and activities for the long weekend. There was no Black Friday shopping, and instead, families shared in traditional foods, and bonded over family activities like watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade or playing a game of football.

These days, commercial Christmas preparations begin before Halloween! Perhaps with our "easier" lifestyles, we no longer appreciate the accomplishment of making it through the long hard seasons of planting, tending, and harvesting crops.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

While our physical lives may be much less demanding than those of farmers long ago, our spiritual and emotional lives have escalated in complexity. Jobs, family, and social obligations compete for priority, stealing the peace and joy God wants us to experience through a life close to Him. When we rush through the seasons and celebrations, we deny ourselves the opportunity to replenish our



Thank you for your generous donations of canned goods. All items collected at our Thanksgiving assembly were donated to Our Lady of Good Counsel Church here in Pearl City. They will in turn distribute the items to families in need to bring them love and holiday cheer. 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.

RE-REGISTRATION FOR 2019-20

For our currently enrolled students, registration for the 2019-20 school year will be emailed to you on Monday, December 17th. You may fill out the form online then print a copy out to sign and turn in to the school office. **The deadline to re-register your child is Friday, February 1, 2019.** Should you have any questions, please contact the office.

spirits with the spiritual nourishment derived from expressions of gratitude and thanksgiving to God. Having a sense of reverence, awe and respect, keeps us grounded and helps us remember the real reason for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

As we now approach the Christmas season, let us all remember the importance of slowing down and appreciating the time of Advent, the weeks leading up to the celebration of Christ's birth. We have included a text that you can follow in lighting the candles each week of Advent. God bless you all this Christmas - may it bring you the hope, peace, joy, faith, and love gifted to us by the birth of our Savior!

Christmas Programs in the Pavilion

Our children have been practicing diligently at rehearsals and are looking forward to singing their Christmas carols especially for you. All parents, grandparents, aunties, and uncles are invited. Admission is **one dozen** cookies per family. **Please be sure to check the ingredients section on all packages to make certain there are no nuts or peanuts.** On the day of your program, please send the cookies to school with your child. The program schedule is as follows:

Pod 1	Monday, December 3rd	9:00am
Pod 2	Tuesday, December 4th	9:00am
Pod 3	Wednesday, December 5th	9:00am
Pod 4	Thursday, December 6th	9:00am
K1	Friday, December 7th	9:00am
K2	Monday, December 10th	9:00am
Grades 1-2	Monday, December 10th	6:30pm
K3	Tuesday, December 11th	9:00am
Grades 3-6	Tuesday, December 11th	6:30pm

The brown gate will open at 8:15AM for morning programs and 5:45PM for evening programs, but could open earlier depending upon the weather. **The pavilion will not be open for seating until 8:15AM for the morning programs.** Please be considerate of other families when saving seats for your own family members.

After the morning Christmas Programs, parents have the option to take their child out of school to spend a special day together in preparation for the holiday season. **Please remember to sign your child out.**

Due to construction, parking is **very** limited, try your best to carpool. Please refer to the email and letter that were sent home with parking information and detailed instructions.

REMINDERS:

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFT GIVING - If your child is planning to give Christmas cards to his or her classmates, please **do not** put gift items or candies in the envelopes. **Do not send treats, goodie bags, or gift items for the class.** Only special snack items requested by teachers will be allowed in school. Please refer to page 19 of our Parent Handbook on gift giving. Also, preschool parents, please do not put names on the Christmas card envelopes. This makes passing out the cards easier for the teachers.

GIFTS TO STAFF - While your thoughtfulness and generosity is appreciated, it is **not** necessary that gifts be given to our staff members during the holidays. If, however, you feel the need to do so, we ask that it be limited to cards, flowers, lei, simple food items, or gift cards limited to no more than \$10.00. Please, **NO** large gift certificates or monetary gifts, as these will be returned to you. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN PARENTS - Please have your child bring a bag with handles with their name on it. Your child will use this bag to take home his/her extra clothes, sleeping blanket, all of their Christmas cards, Christmas ornament, and other special Christmas items which they made especially for the holiday season.

Christmas Office Hours

Our school office will be open from 8:00am to 12:00pm on 12/21, 12/26-12/28, and 1/2-1/4/19 during the Winter Break. The office will be **closed** on 12/20, 12/24-12/25 and 12/31-1/1/19, regular hours will resume on Monday, January 7, 2019.

White Gifts

One of the special annual Christmas traditions here at The Children's House is our White Gift Assembly where our students bring items wrapped in white paper to present to Baby Jesus. The significance of the white wrapping is so the love and intent of the gift is recognized and not the size or the value of it. Here at The Children's House, the presentation of white gifts to Baby Jesus at the conclusion of the assembly is a special time for the students. It gives them the opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and show their love and appreciation for Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

We will donate these White Gifts to our Lady of Good Counsel Church's Outreach Ministry. We have inquired which items are most needed, and they have provided us the following list of items:

- Large bottles of shampoo
- Deodorant (men's or women's)
- Bars of soap
- Toothbrushes and Toothpaste
- Packages of disposable razors (men's or women's)
- Shaving Cream (men's or women's)
- Small First-Aid Kits

We would appreciate a donation of one or more of the items, new and unopened, from the list above. Please wrap your item in plain white paper or tissue paper and have your child bring his/her white gift to class by Monday, December 17th. Thank you for your generosity. Our neighbors will be truly blessed by your kindness.

ADVENT SEASON & THE ADVENT WREATH

Sunday, December 2nd begins the Advent Season when we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ on Christmas. Below is a liturgy that you might want to use as you and your family prepare for Christmas. 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 prepare 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 lit and placed on the wreath. Tradition suggested that three candles are purple, representing our need for forgiveness and longing for the coming Savior. One candle is pink, symbolizing joy - joy at the birth of our Savior. 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...

Sunday, December 2, 2018

The Prophets' Candle, Hope

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 lit (purple). As we light our first Advent candle, the Prophets' candle, this candle reminds us of the prophets, those special people 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. The first candle reminds us to have **Hope**. (Reading: Isaiah 9:2,6)

Sunday, December 9, 2018

The Bethlehem Candle, Peace

Relight the Prophet candle and light the second candle (purple). As we light our second candle, the Bethlehem candle, let us

remember that Joseph and Mary journeyed to Bethlehem and found a quiet, humble stable where they could spend the night, and where Our Savior would be born. In spite of the long journey, they were able to find rest. The second candle reminds us of **Peace**. (Reading: Luke 2:1-7)

Sunday, December 16, 2018

The Shepherds' Candle, Joy

Relight the Prophet candle, Bethlehem candle, and the third candle (pink). The third candle, the Shepherds' candle, reminds us of what happened in a far-off field. First the angels appeared to the shepherds proclaiming news of great joy. 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. The third

candle reminds us to share the news with **Joy!** (Reading: Luke 2: 8-18)

Sunday, December 23, 2018

The Wise Mens' Candle, Faith

Relight all three candles and light the fourth candle (purple). The fourth candle, the Wise Mens' candle, reminds us of the Wise Men who came from afar and followed a star to find the baby, the newborn King. The Wise Men remind us to walk and live in **Faith**. (Reading: Matthew 2: 1-2)

Monday, December 24th

Christmas Eve, Love

The first four candles are relit. Then, the Tall Christ Candle in the center is lit. 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. It reminds us that Jesus came to show us his love, that we might love others. (Reading: John 1: 4, 5, 14)