

School Newsletter

December 2019



Dear Parents & Grandparents,

Sunday, December 1st 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.

Along with the symbols of Advent- the light of the candles and the never-ending circle of the wreath- the words of the Advent Wreath remind us of the change Jesus brought into the world. Before Him, there was darkness; His birth brought us Light. Without Him, there was despair, chaos, sadness, doubt, and hate. With Him, there is Hope, Peace, Joy, Faith, and Love. These traits encourage us, giving us the heart to keep moving forward. The gift of His birth, His presence in our world, is the most amazing reason to celebrate this season!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

12/16, Monday -
Grades 3-6 Outreach
at 'Ilima at Leihano*

12/17, Tuesday -
Grades 1 & 2
Outreach at The Plaza
at Pearl City*

12/19, Thursday - Last
Day of School before
Winter Break

12/20 to 1/6/2020 -
NO SCHOOL, Winter
Break

1/7/2020 - First Day
Back to School for
Students

1/20/2020, Monday -
NO SCHOOL, Martin
Luther King, Jr. Day

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

ADVENT SEASON AND THE ADVENT WREATH

Sunday, December 1, 2019

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 8, 2019

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 15, 2019

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 22, 2019

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*)

Tuesday, 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*)





CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS IN THE PAVILION

The 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. 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	Friday, December 6th	9:00am
Pod 2	Thursday, December 5th	9:00am
Pod 3	Wednesday, December 4th	9:00am
Pod 4	Tuesday, December 10th	9:00am
K1	Tuesday, December 10th	9:00am
K2	Wednesday, December 11th	9:00am
K3	Thursday, December 12th	9:00am
Grades 1-2	Monday, December 9th	7:00pm
Grades 3-6	Tuesday, December 10th	7:00pm



The brown gate will open at 8:15 am for the morning programs and at 6:00 pm for the evening programs, but could open earlier depending upon the weather. **The pavilion will not be open for seating until 8:15 am 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.**



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 THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

For our currently enrolled students, registration for the 2020-21 school year will be emailed to you on Monday, December 16th. You may fill out the form online then print a copy to sign and turn in to the school office. **The deadline to re-register your child is MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020.** Should you have any questions, please contact the office.

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 the 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** larger 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 labeled 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 items which they made especially for the holiday season.

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 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. We would appreciate a donation of one or more of the items below, **new and unopened**:

- Toilet Paper
- Shampoo/Conditioner (all-in-one)
- Packages of disposable razors (men's or women's)
- Shaving cream (men's or women's)
- Men's white short sleeve t-shirt
- Rubber Slippers
- Deodorant
- Small first-aid kits

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 16th. Thank you for your generosity. Our neighbors will be truly blessed by your kindness.

Office Holiday Hours

Our school office will have limited hours during the Winter Break from December 20th through January 6, 2020. Please call or email if you need to contact us or need to come in. Normal office hours and school will resume on Tuesday, January 7, 2020.