

# The Children's House News

November 2020

## Dear Parents and Grandparents,

This Thanksgiving season will likely be very different for many of us. Some may opt for smaller celebrations within the household, without the large extended family and friends. Some may still host a gathering, but fewer friends and family may attend, choosing to avoid large crowds. It can be easy to get angry, tired, and frustrated about all the changes we have to make due to the COVID pandemic. And our attitudes can easily rub off onto our children. They sense our fatigue and weariness over the multiple accommodations we are all making to our lives. So, the question is, How do we still help our children feel a sense of contentment, appreciation, and thankfulness in a time when so much has been turned upside-down? And further, how do we strengthen their sense of connection to others and inspire generosity?

At School, we talk with the students about "filling peoples' buckets." The idea of being a bucket-filler comes from the book by Carol McCloud *Have*

*You Filled a Bucket Today?* The premise is that people have emotional buckets that need to be filled daily. It is a bit similar to The Golden Rule, which is based on Matthew 7:12, *'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you...'* The bucket-filling principle additionally suggests that when we fill other peoples' buckets, our buckets get filled, too. In other words, when we say and do nice things for others, we start to feel good, too, and we develop a sense of contentment. Saying and doing nice things is good for our spirits!

In the Bible, we are encouraged to praise God at all times.

*"... give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."  
1 Thessalonians 5:18*

Finding ways to praise God, saying good things to Him and doing good things for others in His name is like filling His bucket, which in turn, fills our buckets. It isn't always easy to find good things to say, so we may need to teach our children, and ourselves to see situations from another perspective. For example, if you are minimizing your Thanksgiving celebration, you could say, "Well, we won't have all your cousins here, but maybe we can pretend we are eating at a fancy restaurant and use real plates and napkins instead of paper plates and napkins!" Then you could turn that back into praise to God, "Thank you, Lord, that our family all have places to eat even when we are not together." And, "Thank you, Lord, for helping us make changes that help keep everyone safe."

This month the school is also holding a canned goods drive to support Our Lady of Good Council's Outreach Ministry, which serves needy individuals and families in our community. As you reach into your pantry, or go shopping to buy goods to donate, include your child in the process. Remind them that God uses us to bless and help others get their basic needs met. When we choose and donate canned goods, we are actually helping God do His work! Being generous is a form of praise that will fill God's bucket, fill other peoples' buckets, and fill our buckets!

Contentment, appreciation, and generosity essentially come from a place of humility. In recognizing that God values each one of us (appreciation), we eagerly look for ways to fill other peoples' buckets (generosity), and this leads back to contentment.

*"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."  
Philippians 2:3*

We may all be feeling a bit overwhelmed this season, trying to be creative and find ways to maintain some traditions. We have all been trying to put a positive spin on all the adjustments we are making. When you or someone in your family is feeling the stresses rise, give a little praise, and fill their bucket. Your children will follow your lead!

*Psalms 150*

*Praise the LORD*

*Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.  
Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.  
Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,  
Praise him with timbrel and dancing; praise him with the strings and pipe,  
Praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.*

*Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.*



## Important Upcoming Dates

November 5 Make-Up Picture Taking  
November 6 Staff In-service, No School  
November 11 Veteran's Day, No School  
November 16 End of First Trimester  
November 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday  
December 17 Last day of school before Winter Break  
December 18-January 4, 2021 Winter Break  
January 5, 2021 Students Return to School  
January 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, No School

## Christmas Presentation

In lieu of our annual Christmas programs this year, each class will record a special Christmas Advent presentation to share with their families. Mrs. de los Santos and the classroom teachers have been working with the students in practicing the songs and presentations. Each classroom will record its own presentation during the week following Thanksgiving. These are the tentative dates of recording for each class:

Nov. 30	Pod 1A; Pod 1B
Dec. 1	Pod 2; Grade 1
Dec. 2	Pod 3A; Pod 3B
Dec. 3	K2; K3
Dec. 4	K1; Grade 2
Dec. 7	Grades 3&4

A confirmation of dates will be sent the week of Thanksgiving.

## Attire Guidelines

This year, we cannot use, re-use, or share costumes. These are the attire guidelines for the presentation day:

### Preschool and Kindergarten

Clean school uniform (school shirt, short or long pants, school shoes). Girls may wear a red, green, or white simple hair accessory. Please, no headbands.

### Grades 1 through 4

Girls - Aloha dress or muumuu (below the knee length); sandals or shoes; simple hair accessory (no headbands)

Boys - School pants; aloha shirt; shoes

Children in Grades 1 - 4 may stay in their outfits all day. Please make sure they will be comfortable.

This will not be a live streaming presentation. The link for your child's recorded program will be emailed during the last week of school before Christmas Break for your family to enjoy.

## Thanksgiving Canned Goods Drive November 2<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>

While we will not be able to have a school wide Thanksgiving assembly, as we usually do each year, we will still have some sort of school wide video presentation for the Thanksgiving week. Each class will also collect canned goods to donate to Our Lady of Good Council Outreach Ministry. Canned goods will be collected through Wednesday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. Our Lady of Good Council has requested a preference for jams and jellies, peanut butter (regular store size, not Costco-size), canned meats (tuna, Vienna sausage, spam, etc.) canned fruit and vegetables. They prefer not to receive canned pastas. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity as we enter this Holiday Season.

## Reminders

Please notify the office of any travel plans. You may call (808) 455-4131 or email [attendance@childrenshousehawaii.org](mailto:attendance@childrenshousehawaii.org)

Any questions regarding tuition can be sent to [business@childrenshousehawaii.org](mailto:business@childrenshousehawaii.org).

### Picture Taking Make-Up Day

Picture make-up day will be held on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. If your child was absent on the original picture taking day and did not turn in a picture-taking form, please contact the office. *If after receiving your child's portrait you would like to retake their photo on November 5<sup>th</sup>, please have your child bring back the original packet of photos with a note explaining why you did not like the photos.*