



Diamond Street Digest

December 2017



Introducing Diamond Street Digest

Greetings!

Welcome to the first issue of **Diamond Street Digest**, Diamond Street Early Childhood Center's new monthly e-newsletter! You are receiving this because we felt you would be interested in learning about what's happening at DSECC. If for any reason you do not wish to receive emails from us, you may *unsubscribe using the link below. But we hope you stay! We plan to share news each month about exciting things happening around the center, staff bios, center closure reminders, fun photos and so much more.

* If you unsubscribe using the link at the bottom of this email, you will not receive any further emails from DSECC including weather alerts, Director emails, messages about specific classrooms, etc. If you do not want to receive the Diamond Street Digest but want to continue getting other emails from DSECC, email kim@diamondstreet.org and she will remove you from the Digest list.

PARENTS' CORNER

Please see Kim in the office to pick up/return your annual enrollment packet (green sheets), if you have not already done so. These forms need to be on file for each child and help us ensure we have accurate contact information, permissions, medical needs, etc. Thank you!



STAFF BIOS



Kim Bell, Administrative Assistant

Hi! I'm Kim Bell, the new Administrative Assistant at DSECC and the editor of Diamond Street Digest. I was a Legal Assistant at a law firm for the past 4 years, and spent the previous 13 years at a statewide nonprofit, managing a large database, handling donor acknowledgments, and working on a newsletter similar to this one. I started working at Diamond Street in October, and live in Akron with my husband and two cats.

At Diamond Street, I will assist Mindy, Gloria, and the teachers and staff by taking some administrative tasks off their plates, and I hope to help to make the center an even better place for children to learn and grow!

I hope you find Diamond Street Digest interesting, informative and fun! If you have an idea for an article or suggestions of what you'd like to see in future issues, feel free to let me know. And stop into the office and say hi!



Sandra Richard Wood, Music and Bible Teacher

Miss Sandi has been with DSECC for seven years and her job is to plan songs, Bible stories, and crafts to fit each age level at the center. She has a BS in Education from the University of Akron (Ohio), attended a year at Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Harrison, VA, and she holds a certificate of Biblical Studies.

Miss Sandi married her husband, Norm, two years ago and at that time she became a mother to two sons and a grandmother to 3-year-old Makayla and 12-year-old Mason. She lives in Talmage. In her free time she enjoys cooking, baking and hosting people in her home.

Her favorite part of working at Diamond Street is seeing the children respond to Bible stories, hearing them ask important questions, and helping them learn to love singing. When you see her next, please thank her for all she does to encourage the musical and spiritual growth of the children of Diamond Street!

Extraordinary Give Raises \$8.6 Million for over 450 Local Causes, \$7175 for Diamond Street

On November 17th, DSECC participated in the Extraordinary Give, Lancaster County's largest day of online giving. In 24 hours, over \$8.6 million was raised for more than 450 local nonprofits by generous donors and community partners! Diamond Street received \$7175 from 51 donors across the region. We want to thank everyone who donated, the Lancaster County Community Foundation, and all the corporate partners who help make this wonderful event happen each year! We are already looking forward to next year's event.





December Events

Giving Tree - December 1-18

At Christmastime, our teachers make tags listing things they would like for their classroom, but that we don't have funds for in our budget. Parents and friends can look through the tags hanging on our **Giving Tree**, choose one or more tags, purchase those items, then wrap them and attach the tag to the gift. Give the **wrapped gifts to Kim in the office by 12/18**. We invite all of you to visit our Giving Tree located next to the clock-in computer by the office, take a tag or two, and make Christmas for our teachers and students very merry!

Christmas Cards for Meals on Wheels - December 1-15

All of our classes will make Christmas cards for over 300 Meals on Wheels participants in Lancaster County. We hope the cards brighten the seniors' day!

PTP Meeting - December 6

All parents and caregivers are invited and encouraged to attend our bi-monthly Parent Teacher Partnership meeting on Wednesday, December 6th at 6:30pm.

Annual Free Toy & Book Exchange - December 4-8

Monday, December 4th kicks off Diamond Street's annual free Toy & Book Exchange! Would you like to clean out your house before the holidays and get rid of some toys that are just sitting around? Would you like to be able to put some "new" toys under the tree without breaking the bank? We can help!

Drop Off Dates: Monday, December 4 - Wednesday, December 6

Shopping Dates: Afternoon of Wednesday, December 6; all day Thursday, December 7; all day Friday, December 8

Donations should be placed on the tables in the back of the Big Room. All donations must be complete and in good condition. No stuffed animals, please. There is no charge to shop - all items are free. Any questions, please see Amy Shirk in the Bluebirds room.

Christmas Caroling - December 13

I don't know about you, but nothing gets me into the holiday spirit more than Christmas caroling! All of us at the center will go Christmas caroling on Wednesday, December 13, weather permitting.* We will bundle up the children and serenade our neighbors along Dawn Avenue. Afterwards, we will return to the center to warm up and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. If you'd like to join us and lend your voice to our choir, please meet in the Big Room at 9:30am on December 13.

**Bad Weather Date is Tuesday, December 19.*

Parent Café - December 21

We encourage all parents and caregivers to attend our monthly Parent Cafés. This month's Parent Café is happening Thursday, December 21 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Parent Cafés are based on the principles of adult learning and family support, and are a gateway to providing parent leadership opportunities. Attendees will receive resources that will strengthen you as a parent, which in turn will strengthen your family and our community. All Parent Cafés are free of charge and childcare is provided during the event. Please register by emailing Mindy@diamondstreet.org or calling 717-859-4272. When registering, please indicate how many adults will attend and the number of children needing childcare.

[Click for more information on Parent Cafés](#)

December Birthdays

Dec. 8 - Delaney N. - Cardinals
Dec. 11 - Luke W. - Cardinals
Dec. 16 - Brianna P. - Pre-K Counts
Dec. 20 - Rainah M. - Robins
Dec. 21 - Molly M. - Hummingbirds
Dec. 30 - Clark R. - Hummingbirds
Dec. 30 - Brynn R. - Eagles



Center Scheduling

Diamond Street will be **closed** for the holidays starting **Friday, December 22 through Monday, January 1**. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd. We hope all of you enjoy the holidays with your families and friends!

Poem of the Month

Light your lamp with the oil of kindness
and set your heart aglow.
Then let it shine before all,
wherever you may go.

You need not be a lighthouse,
just a candle in the night.
Many fears have been relieved
by flickering candlelight.

Some live in a world of darkness,
filled with doubts and fears.
One simple act of kindness
can dry a thousand tears!

You can never have too many friends,
so let your colors show.
Light your lamp with the oil of
kindness,
and set your heart aglow.

-Author Unknown

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