



Diamond Street Early Childhood Center



December 2015

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11th St.—717-859-1043

Director News

The busiest time of the year has approached us! Diamond Street is in full swing with all kinds of activities and fun. We started the season off with participating in the annual Extraordinary Give.

THANK YOU for all who participated and donated to this important event. It is greatly appreciated! We continued our Thanksgiving tradition for the 3rd year of our Thanksgiving Feast in the Big Room. The event really promoted togetherness and the strong family we have here at Diamond Street. Check out the wonderful pictures on Facebook. In addition, we will be Christmas caroling (which we are hoping you will join us).

Despite all the activities going on, I challenge your family to take time out of your own family happenings to think of ways your family can contribute to the community. The lifelong benefits your children and family will receive back from participating in community service are immense. It helps build your child's self-esteem, responsibility, family closeness and much more. Check out this website that will reinforce the importance of adding community service to your families' agenda,

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/volunteer.html> .

Diamond Street sends a blessing to each of our families this holiday season. As always, thank you for sharing your children with us. Have a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,
Mindy Reigel
11th Street Center Director

JOIN US for

Christmas Caroling!

Dec. 14 @9:30am (rain date—12/21/15)

We will meet in the big room and leave promptly at 9:30am We will walk through our neighborhood. When finished we will return to the big room for hot cocoa and cookies.



The Giving Tree

In lieu of teacher gifts, the teacher's have special requests for their classroom. You will find paper ornaments on a paper tree that have their requests written on them. If you would like to participate, feel free to take an ornament. The tree is located across from the check-in laptop.

Thank you for blessing your child's classroom!



Classroom Happenings

Warblers (Infants): November has flown by for the Warblers. We have had a busy month welcoming new friends, making pumpkins, turkeys, and celebrating Thanksgiving! It is crazy to think that we are looking at December already. We will have several activities to celebrate Christmas - caroling and making a special surprise. There will be many new books about Christmas and even some snow! We wish all the families a very, Merry Christmas!

Bluebirds (Young Toddlers): The Holiday season is upon us, our focus this month will be The Holidays! Our book area will be filled with books depicting several holiday traditions. Our classroom will be decorated and your little elves will be working on a special project. Have a blessed holiday season with your family!

Robins (Older Toddlers): The Robins will thoroughly enjoy the month of December as we make decorations, do cooking projects, sing, and read books pertaining to this special time of year! We will be looking for different shapes and colors in all our activities! We will continue to go outside daily as weather conditions permit, with temps and wind chill factors above 25 degrees. Please provide appropriate outdoor gear to keep your child warm.!! Thank you!!



Hummingbirds (3 year olds): In the month of December, the Hummingbirds will be learning about different holidays that are celebrated during this time. We be also be learning about different kinds of shapes. The Hummingbirds want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cardinals (Pre-K 4 & 5 year olds): The Cardinals enjoyed a fun-filled month learning all about being thankful! We had a great time eating the Thanksgiving meal while wearing our turkey headbands. For the month of December we will be transitioning into learning about holidays. Please look forward to getting a notice about our Christmas party we'll having towards the middle of the month. Also, as the weather is changing please don't forget to bring in mittens, hats, or any other winter attire your child needs for us to enjoy some fresh air outside along with the snow.

Classroom Happenings Continued....

Swans (1/2 day Pre-K 4 & 5 year olds): This month we are embracing the Holiday spirit! We are going to talk about how other countries celebrate Christmas. We will learn about Kwanzaa and Hanukkah, and of course, our own Christmas traditions and stories. We will continue our letter of the week, literacy, math and science activities. It is so exciting to see how much the children are learning and enjoy coming to school almost as much as their teachers do!



Orioles (Full-Day Pre-K): In the month of December, the Orioles will be exploring all things about Christmas. We will be painting cinnamon scented gingerbread men and painting with candy canes! Our dramatic play area will be turned into a gift wrapping station so the children can practice wrapping presents. We will also learn about how Christmas is celebrated in different countries around the world. The letters we will focus on are B and F. The Orioles will also get to participate in an ornament making workshop this month. We are looking forward to a fun December!

Owls (Kindergarten): Colorful lights, busy shopping malls, excited children ... the holiday season is here! This month is always a fun one in kindergarten - many art projects will be adorning the hallways and the classroom. Be sure to check your kindergarten calendar for important/special dates in the upcoming weeks! In addition to all of the fun, we will be focusing on our vowel sounds and introducing new sight words. Our math unit will consist of learning our numbers 11-20. Enjoy this holiday season with your family and friends! Merry Christmas from the kindergarten class!

Faith Based

For the month of December, the Bible story will be about the different parts of the Christmas Story - the angel talks to Mary, the angel talks to Joseph, Mary and Joseph take a long trip to Bethlehem, the angel talks to the shepherd, and the shepherds go to Bethlehem to see the baby Jesus.

Announcement from Akron Mennonite Church!

The Parent Trek class at Akron Mennonite Church will be studying **Whatever Happened to Dinner**, Recipes and Reflections for Family Mealtime by Melodie M. Davis at 10:35 on the following Sundays: 10/25, 11/1, 11/8, 11/22, 12/6 and 12/20. Diamond Street Early Childhood Center parents are welcome to join this class which will meet in Room 10 (Cardinal Classroom). Children can join the children's program at the church during the time the parents are meeting. We look forward to cooking and sharing together.



11th Street School Age Program



Eagles: We are jingling into December! Hopefully December turns into a winter wonderland. As we get excited for the holiday, the Eagles will be decorating their classroom by making ornaments, creating light bulb artwork, helping the teachers create a winter board for parents to see. Each day they will be looking for their elf on the shelf too.

Have a great holiday from the Eagle room!

Music Notes



During the month of December the children will see and hear the sound of instruments in the percussion family. Instruments will include the jingle bells & triangle. The listening piece for December is "Chinese Dance" from Peter Tchaikovsky's ballet The Nutcracker. Since Christmas will soon be here, all classes will sing songs about Christmas. The Kindergarten and Cardinal classes are busy practicing their songs for their participation in the Akron Mennonite Church Christmas Program. Everyone is invited to attend this program which will take place in the church sanctuary (where DSECC has the Friendship Concert in the spring). The program begins at 6:00 PM on Sunday, December 20, 2015.

Hola!

Feliz Navidad!
One of my favorite things about Christmas time is learning about other cultures' celebrations. In Spanish class this month, we will learn some new songs and listen to the Mexican story of The Miracle of the First Poinsettia. We will also learn about the old Spanish custom of Las Posadas—when Mary and Joseph are seeking shelter in Bethlehem, and a kind innkeeper invites them into his home and treats them to a delicious feast.



Wishing you the joy of hospitality this holiday season!
Ms. Sue

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MISSION STATEMENT: DSECC's ministry is to provide nurturing, safe, educational environment that emphasizes the worth and uniqueness of each child, in a Christian atmosphere that promotes peaceful resolutions, tolerance, and service which is consistent with the Anabaptist mission of the Akron Mennonite Church.

