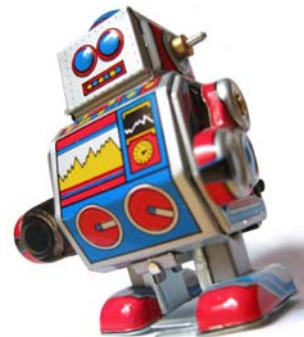


Church of the Valley Toy Drive is now in Progress!

Toys are especially needed for ages 10 - 15!

This annual drive fills a great need in the community. Just as the number of those needing assistance from the Food Pantry has grown, it is anticipated that the requests for help with toys and gifts will rise in kind. In lieu of our monthly food pantry donation, we are asking preschool families to consider donating a new, unwrapped toy to this effort. However, if you would rather donate a staple food item, you can be sure that the food pantry will gratefully accept it. Whether it is toys or food, a pressing need will be filled and your gifts will be well used.



Hanukkah begins at Sundown December 11th

We wish all of our Jewish families a very Happy Hanukkah!

As we discuss the celebration of Hanukkah, each class will be preparing Latkes....So...Calling all Latke Chefs! If you would like to cook with the class, please speak to your child's teachers.

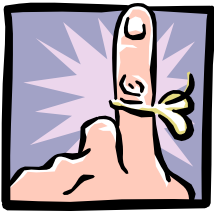
A word about Holiday Traditions...

There is something comforting about traditions. My childhood Christmas traditions are etched in my mind and are precious gifts. They remind me of a loving, simpler time. Traditions can be associated with events, food, religion, music...there are so many areas in which we build our family traditions. My Dad loved all of the Christmas traditions. In September, before the Chicago winter froze the ground, he would dig holes for our Christmas yard art. Come December, you could spot our house a block away! It was beautiful. I can still mentally see it. My Mom would let my brother and I stay home from school one day before our vacation time, to help her bake Christmas cookies. That was really a treat.



Today, my own family has traditions that I cherish as much as I did those of my childhood.

To all of our preschool families...now is the time when you will begin establishing what your traditions will be. These family moments will embrace your child and will embody what you hold dear. It is a gift you give your children that they will remember their whole life through...I know I do. If you have any Holiday traditions you would like to share with your child's class, please let the teachers know. We welcome your participation.



A reminder about December Tuition...

Preschool tuition is broken down into ten monthly payments for parent's convenience. The amount due in December is the same as every other month. Please remit to the Preschool office no later than Friday December 11th, to allow adequate time for year- end bookkeeping. Thank you!

Children Sing for the COV Primetimers (Seniors Group)

The Preschool Children will be singing for the COV Primetimers on Wednesday, December 16th at 11:30a.m.

The Primetimers are the senior fellowship group here at COV. Each year, our children are asked to sing for them before they go into their Christmas luncheon in the Church Library.



This is a great chance for us to practice in front of an audience before our Holiday sing! The children will also be making decorative cards to be used as table decorations at the luncheon. This year, the COV Church staff, including Barbara, will be catering this luncheon. We hope it will be a lovely occasion for these very special people.

Regarding the Advent Calendars in your children's cubbies...

Many of you know the story of these yearly Advent Calendar gifts. They are a gift from Evie France, a member of COV. Evie and Kenny France were married for over 50 years. Together, they were strong supporters of this preschool. Their grandson, Chad, was the Eagle Scout who built the bench around the tree two summers ago. His troop also sanded the clutter- bridge and fence.



Kenny France was one of the kindest men I've ever known. I can't count the number of times Kenny would stop by my office to ask if I needed anything. Even when I said no, he would pull out \$100.00 and hand it to me saying, "Get something for the kids. You know what they need." I can still hear his dear voice asking me these questions. Kenny passed away over two years ago and Evie has continued his legacy. Each year, she calls me to ask how many children are enrolled in the school. Then she purchases an Advent Calendar for each child.

Even if you do not celebrate Christmas, I hope you will accept this gift, understanding the loving spirit with which it is offered. Happy Holidays to each of you...Barbara

A GREAT STOCKING STUFFER!

The Re-usable sandwich wraps we sold at Family Fun Day are still available. The cost is \$6.00 per wrap...a great Holiday gift for those who pack their lunches!





It's time for our Holiday Sing!

Friday, December 18th 9:15 a.m. Church Sanctuary

The children are singing with great gusto! Parents, grandparents, friends and relatives are all invited! Holiday attire is encouraged! We hope that all Tues./Thurs. children will attend. The yard will be open afterwards for all of our families to enjoy until 11:00. A breakfast type of snack will be served. At 11:00, regularly scheduled Friday children will go inside and resume class until 12:30. There will be no Extended Care on this day.

Winter Holiday...School will be closed Dec. 21st – Jan. 1st.

School Resumes Monday, January 4th, 2010!

