

First Circle of Friends Newsletter - January 2018

Fruit of the Spirit: patience; Verse: "...be patient with everyone." I Thessalonians 5:14; Color: black and white

Thank you, all, for the wonderful gifts, notes, and thoughtful gestures to the staff during the Christmas season. We were touched and humbled by your generosity and feel blessed and pampered by you all. We are grateful for all of you!

The back of my car was filled with hygiene kits to My Father's Heart ministry. The staff was thankful for all the different things you included. Your generosity will help a lot of people!

1. **Black and white day** is Thursday, 1-11 for Tu/Th 3s and Friday, 1-12 for all other classes.
2. **P.J. Parties** are Thursday, 1-25 for Tu/Th 3s and Friday, 1-26 for all other classes. This is one of the parties parents and siblings don't attend. Children are to wear their pajamas and/or robes (girls, **please wear shorts under the nightgowns!**) and are to bring a small, special "stuffie" they love. The stuffed animal must fit in their cubby. Please no blankies (not enough room). We probably won't go outside that day, so slippers can be worn.
3. In February, we collect the makings for PBJ sandwiches (any kind of peanut butter, jams and jellies) and deliver them on Valentines Day to our church food pantry program, H.O.P.E. (helping other people eat). Any size jar is accepted. In the past, families have asked coworkers and neighbors to help contribute to this special drive. Last year our school gave 93 pounds of PBJ stuff and it was **all gone** the following week. These families really appreciate your generosity!
4. We will go outside, rain or shine, for recess most every day. Please dress your children appropriately and send coat/jackets/hats. Exceptions are only when rain is going sideways and frigid temperatures.
5. There will be an **Open House** on Tuesday, 1-23, from 5:00-7:0 PM for parents of **new** students interested in the 2017-18 school year. We will have tours beginning at 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, and 6:30. **Please spread the news!**
6. Registration for next year begins February 1st for returning families and February 10 for new families to FCOF. We keep careful track of the application/registration fees as they come in since it is a first-come-first-served system. However, families that have been with us five or more years will be able to register two days early (1-30) and those that have been with us 3-4 years will be able to register one day early (1-31). We make every effort to accommodate families/daycare preferences, but do reserve the right to place children according to school needs. As a staff, we carefully consider placement, mindful of academics, work habits, and temperament. Registration fills up quickly, so to hold your spot, make sure to include the \$150 fee. Applications will be available in each classroom. PLEASE NOTE: We now have two morning fours classes, so there are 24 slots instead of just 12! Hopefully, this will also help.
7. I have not been given the official word (hopefully, next Monday evening), but the Christian Education Elders are proposing a small increase for tuition for the 2019-19 year. Three year old class will go to \$1,350 per year (\$135/payment) and the four class will be \$2,700 per year (\$270/payment). We have not raised tuition in many years, but with our student to teacher ratio, we have difficulty staying within budget all the time. Basically, it adds \$10 per payment for threes and \$20 per payment for fours, so we hope it won't be a hardship for families. As soon as I get confirmation, I will let you all know.
8. Also, CE is considering putting our kindergarten program on hiatus. With the free, all-day, public kindergarten offered now, it has been difficult to fill the class. I will let you know the final decision regarding this as soon as I know.
9. Kindergarten, there is no school on MLK day, 1-15.
10. Book orders are due Friday, 1-19. We will not do another order until the end of February, so if you want to order Valentine gifts, now is the time. The catalogs online have all the Valentine treasures!

Rainbow 4s parents: Our Alphabet Adventure starts next week. Please have your child bring a small item for A & B next Wednesday and follow the yellow mini calendar for the rest of the letters (two per week for 13 weeks). The first few weeks of snacks have been sent out through Sign-up Genius and the rest is coming! There are a few snack items that we ask you to **get specific sizes and brands** - they are popular with the kiddos.

Also, homework will be more complicated for these weeks, so if you have questions, please ask to make it easier for everyone. One direction that was left off the homework explanation is regarding the cutting portion of the packet. Each letter has an animal corresponding to the letter of the week. Please have your child glue that on to the back of the grid sheet (rainbow writing sheet and sound pictures), instead of a separate sheet of paper. Thank you so much!

Remember, the students should spend between 10-20 **maximum** on doing homework each day. It is not intended to be completed the first days.

January Songs

Winter Snowflakes falling

Round about us now...

Mr. Snowman short and fat!

All dressed up in his Sunday hat;

With a carrot for a nose

And coal for eyes

My, he looks so proud and wise.

Mr. Snowman the sun is hot

And you will melt as likely as not

But when you're little,

You know what then?

We will build you up again!

Once there was a (snowman) 3

Once there was a snowman (tall) 3X

In the sun he (melted) 3

In the sun he melted (small) 3

A chubby little snowman

Had a carrot nose

Along came a rabbit

And what do you suppose?

That hungry little rabbit,

Looking for his lunch

Ate that little snowman's nose

Nibble, nibble, crunch!

I'm a little snowman, short & fat! (Teapot tune)

Here are my mittens, here is my hat.

When the sun comes out I cannot stay...

Slowly I just melt away!

I love snow (repeat)(3 blind mice)

Soft, white snow (repeat)

It falls on the ground so soft and white.

Sometimes it falls all through the night.

Did you ever see such a beautiful sight

As soft, white snow?

Down, down, cold and white

Snow is falling all through the night!

Pack some snowballs oh, so tight and

Then we'll have a snowball fight!

January and it's time to have some fun! (2 times)

Zip your jacket oh, so tight

Then we'll have a snowball fight.

January and it's time to have some fun!

Patience, Patience

Help me practice patience.

Waiting nicely, doing what I should.

Help me choose that which is good.

Have patience, have patience Don't be in such a hurry.

When you get impatient You only start to worry.

Remember...Remember... That God is patient, too

And think of all the times That others had to wait for you!

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do!) 2X clap, clap

The mountains are His

The rivers are His

The stars are His handiwork too

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do!

For you and you and you!

Penguin, Penguin flap your little wings

Penguin, penguin flap your little wings

Chasing fish you swim all day

You can't fly, but that's okay.

Penguin, penguin flap your little wings.

Dance like snowflakes (2x) (Frere Jacques)

In the air (2x)

Whirling, twirling, snowflakes (2x)

Here and there (2x)

One royal penguin feeling very blue

Called for his brother, Then there were two.

Two royal penguins Swimming in the sea,

Called for their sister, Then there were three.

Three royal penguins, Waddle on the shore,

Called for their mother, Then there were four.

Four royal penguins Learning how to dive

Called for their father, Then there were five.