



## CROSSROADS EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Newsletter

January, 2017

Welcome back! Hope your holidays were filled with joy and peace and that you all had a wonderful holiday season!

Thank you so much for your kindness and thoughtfulness to myself and the staff. Your generosity and gifts were heartfelt and truly appreciated by all of us. May God grant you all blessings throughout the New Year!

Each year holds positive and negative experiences and challenges that we all must go through and grow from to be successful in life. At the start of each New Year, we have hopes and dreams that this year will hold wonderful things for us. One of the things that people tend to do for the New Year is to make resolutions. But, many times, we give up on them as quickly as we make them. The problem is that we never go to the next step to figure out how to achieve these resolutions.

Of course we know that each year can't be perfect. So it may be realistic to set goals on how to accomplish these tasks we set for ourselves. We first have to figure out the best strategies and steps to achieve these goals. When there are setbacks, and you know that it is inevitable that there will be, brush yourself off the best you can. Perhaps you need to redefine those goals, break them down in smaller pieces or make adjustments on how to deal with those setbacks. Embrace those challenges as best you can. Have faith in the Lord. He will guide you, but you also must be an active participant in your life.

Our resolution at the center is to provide a positive and fun learning environment so that we can broaden their experiences and knowledge. We will try our best to achieve this. Our strategies will be the continuing training and ongoing communication with staff. This will be based on regulations from the Department of Children and Families, input from you as parents, and the needs of the children and staff. The teachers will, in turn, provide the best lesson planning from the curriculum Crossroads provides to them. This curriculum takes into consideration, the developmental needs of each age level, as well as, the different learning styles of the children. We won't always be perfect. But, we will be committed and continually try to make it better by readjusting ourselves to meet these goals!

To a New Year filled with hope and the fulfillment of dreams!

Miss Vivian

## INFANTS/TODDLERS

**Miss Lucyanne/Miss Elsy**

**Miss Maureen/Miss Adriana/Miss**

**Nichoal**

Welcome back and a huge THANK YOU for all of the wonderful Christmas gifts, goodies and well wishes! We truly appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness!

We will be excited to see our children back in school! We hope you all have a safe and happy holiday! Hopefully, it was filled with family and friends and warm wishes throughout!

During this winter month, we will be experience winter – we will bring the snow inside the classroom. The children will begin to explore the concept of wet/dry, hot/cold, melting, etc. as we play with the snow and do some ice cube painting. We will watch the snow melt – like magic! Oh, my! We can't forget to build a snowman! We will be reading books like “Polar Bear, Polar Bear” and learning songs like “Frosty, the Snowman” and finger plays such as “Five Little Snowflakes.” “5 Little Polar Bears”.

Floor time is a special time that we like to spend with each child. You can do the same thing at home! It is an unstructured time, in which we follow the child's lead. The initial goal is to spend time in whatever motivates or interests your child – always reinforcing what the child is doing. This fosters emotional connectiveness, increases focus and attention. Talking about what you are doing, during this time, is very important to language development and acquisition. It is important to watch what the child is doing, follow their lead and then built or expand upon those actions. This exposes the child to new possible ways of playing with the object and develops your child's skills.

### Young Infant Curriculum (2-8 months):

**Skills:** Tracking visually and auditorially.

**Toys:** Things on strings

**Sense** Vision.

### Older Infant Curriculum (9-12 months):

**Theme:** Winter

**Skills:** Transferring toys from hand to hand

**Toys:** Things that can be pulled

**Sense:** Vision

### Young Toddler Curriculum (13-18 months):

**Theme:** Winter.

**Concept:** Cold

**Song:** “Sammy”

**Book:** “Brown Bear, Brown Bear”

**Sense:** Vision.

**Nursery Rhyme:** “3 Little Kittens”

**Skills:** Developing fine motor through activities.

### Older Toddler Curriculum (19-24 months):

**Theme:** Winter

**Concept:** Animals

**Song** “Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear Turn Around”

**Book:** “Brown Bear, Brown Bear”

### Welcome!

Bryce

Liam



### Happy Birthday!

Kayleigh 1/17

Cameron 1/27

## TWO'S

**Miss Crystal/Miss Trish/Miss Awatef**

**Miss Michele/Miss Stephanie**

A big THANK YOU to all of our wonderful parents for your generosity, kindness and thoughtfulness in including us on your Christmas list!

It is officially 2017! Happy New Year to all our families!

Now that the holiday is over it is time to get into the swing of the New Year! January will most likely bring us some snow – which means that we will be fully into the winter season. We will be making snowmen and snowballs and will be discussing the type of clothing that we wear when it is cold. We can bring snow into our classroom, play with it and watch it melt! What fun!

We are working on the rectangle and will try to find as many in our indoor and outdoor surroundings as possible. Many of our art projects will be based on this shape. We will

also be focusing on the sense of smell. The children will be participating in activities where they will do their best to identify what the scent is!

During “Jesus Time”, we will be discussing how God gave us our families. We will also talk about respect and how we need to use our manners. We will enforce our manners by saying “please” and “thank you” at appropriate times.

Something that we know the children will really enjoy is talking and learning about wild animals and where they live. We will also learn about community helpers – the different jobs they perform. Where we may see them and how they provide us with things we need or help us.

**Welcome!**

Ryan

**Needs of the Classroom:**

Please label everything that comes into the center.



**PRECHOOL**

**Miss Ellen/Miss Toni/Miss Nichoal**

**Miss Monica/Miss Katie**

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and gifts! We appreciate them so much! We hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year’s!

Welcome to 2017! We will be learning what a New Year’s resolution is and making some of our own in our class. We will be learning about what makes up our country, as well as, all the community workers in our neighborhoods. We will also be talking about wild animals and their habitats.

The character trait we will be focusing on will be showing respect for one another and being courteous. This is such an important skill that the children will develop in and use in communicating with each other. For our

“Living in Faith” curriculum, we will be talking about God giving us our family and how important our family is in our life. Respect is very important in developing relationships within our family, as well.

We will also be discussing the differences in people and acceptance. We will be learning about the accomplishments of a great man, Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our nursery rhyme this month is “Three Little Kittens” and our color is white. We will be using our sense of smell to identify different scents. Our shape this month is the rectangle. We will also be playing games that develop the concept of empty and full.

**Happy Birthday!**

Alivia 1/27



**Needs of the Classroom:**

Empty coffee cans and lids

**Reminders:**

Please label all coats, hats, mittens, and scarves, bedding, etc.

Please leave toys at home.

Please leave a seasonal change of clothing in your child’s cubbie.



**PREK 1**

**Miss Lynn/Miss Denuve/Miss Gail**

Happy New Year! A special note of thanks to our parents for all the Christmas gifts and “goodies” for the children and the teachers! You really helped to make the holidays special for the children!

As we grow together in faith in the New Year, we will thank God for the gift of family and friends. Our nurturing characteristic for the

month is respect (using manners, being courteous, honoring differences). Jesus taught us to love one another and we must help our children to follow Jesus and his teachings!

We will be celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday and reinforcing his "dream" for peace in the world. The children will learn that it starts here at school and how we can help promote Dr. King's dream.

We have been very busy exploring several types of winter related activities. We will be creating snow children, ice paintings, snowflakes, and much more! In our science area we will be conducting experiments using ice and snow. We will also focus on animal habitats during the winter season.

We will also have fun creating new colors by blending other colors together and painting beautiful masterpieces on the easel. The expressions on the children's faces are delightful as they experiment with paint.

We will continue the alphabet and using our word packets. The children really enjoy them! We will also be focusing on math concepts using our bear counters, and several other math games.

As we grow together in faith in the New Year, we will thank God for the gift of family and friends. Our nurturing characteristic for the month is respect (using manners, being courteous, honoring differences). Jesus taught us to love one another and we must help our children to follow Jesus and his teachings!

May God bless us all in the New Year with health, happiness and peace!

**Reminders:**

1. Please remember to label all of your child's belongings and place everything in your child's cubby. Each child has their own cubby with their name on it. Putting their belongings away in their cubby reinforces the concept of responsibility that we are teaching the children in our classroom.
2. We have also been teaching the children to put their hat and gloves in the sleeve of their

coats. Please reinforce this at home. This helps the children keep organized and is a step in the prevention of items getting lost, especially since they share a coat area with another child.

3. Please make sure that you dress your child appropriately to go outside. We do go outside everyday (weather permitting), even if it is just for a quick walk around the building. Children need fresh air and physical activity on a daily basis. It helps keep them healthy and well. Thank you for your help!



**PREK 2/KINGERGARTEN**

**Miss Sue/Miss Kathy/Miss Dana**

Happy New Year! 2017 - Another year to hope, to dream and to learn!

Our PreK 2 Smarties sure showed their excitement in December as we prepared for the birth of our Lord, Jesus. We met Mary and Joseph, the Angels, who cried "Hark", some shepherds. We also met Anna and Simeon – 2 faithful servants who were promised they would meet the promised Savior before they died and they did!

Prek 2 also worked very hard preparing for the Christmas Chapel. We hope you enjoyed watching, as much as, we enjoyed preparing for it and singing for you!

During this exciting time, we did manage to get some learning in too! We continue to proactive counting by 1, 5's, and 10's. We have also begun practicing skip counting by 2's.

We are still enjoying the adventures and fun times Elephant and Piggie have, and are looking forward to befriending another of Miss Sue's favorite authors: Jan Brett.

Finally Miss Kathy and I would like to say thank you to all our families who have been so generous, especially during this Christmas season! We appreciate you so much!

Let's have a great year together!

**Happy Birthday!**

Colton 1/3  
Ava 1/6  
Thomas 1/10  
Brencis 1/24



**STAFF NEWS:**

Miss Nichoal will be visiting her older brother in Arizona for a few weeks, while she is on college break.

Miss Katie will be back from her leave.

**Needs of the Classroom:**

Tide Bottle Caps  
Tropicana Orange Juice caps



**THIS MONTH IN CHAPEL**

In your Christmas and New Year celebrations were happy and blessed. We are happy and feel blessed to be looking forward to a continued season of learning about life and faith here at Crossroads. As you know, some of that happens at Chapel with the children. In January, we will learn more from the Bible about the life of Jesus and his work to save us.

The first Bible story at Chapel in January is *The Presentation of Jesus*. Jesus was six weeks old. Following Jewish custom and Law Mary and Joseph brought Him to the Temple to be initiated into the faith.

The second story in January is *The Visit of the Wise Men*. This event is the final story of Christmas message. These Wise Men from the East were drawn to the Holy Land in pursuit of the young Savior. They found Him and expressed their faith in the giving of gifts to Jesus.

The third story in January is *The Baptism of Jesus*. Jesus was grown up and beginning His adult ministry. He came on the scene to be baptized and all three members of the Trinity were there to affirm that Jesus was indeed the Son of God and Savior of the world.

The final story for January is *Jesus Changes Water into Wine*. That is the first miracle of Jesus that the Bible tells us about. Considering all the problems in the world we might think Jesus would not have time to be concerned about wine at someone's wedding. But He was. That tells us a lot about Jesus.

It is a blessing to hear and share these stories about Jesus. They bring forgiveness and hope to us all. I encourage you to make time to enjoy that same blessing of hearing and sharing God's Word at home, in your places of worship, and in your entire lives.

God bless,  
Pastor Smith

## CHARACTER EDUCATION

### Ideas for Teaching Respect at Home



Adults are an important influence on young children. One of the most important challenges parents face is to help our children develop strong characters based on good values. At Crossroads, during the month of January, we will be reinforcing the character trait “RESPECT”. To reinforce our curriculum, these are the main points about respect that parents could help their child understand:

#### People who are respectful...

- Treat others the way they would like to be treated.
- Are polite and courteous.
- Treat all people well, even though they may look, act, or believe differently.
- Solve disagreements by peaceful means.

#### Simple Ideas of Implementation:

1. **Model using respectful language.** Remember the words we use, the intonation, and the volume all combine to show respect or disrespect.
2. **Positive reinforcement** encourages the children to use good manners. Praise them when you hear them say “please” and “thank you”, etc.
3. **Encourage the children to use words and to tell others what they are feeling.** Young children hit to solve problems because they are frustrated and don't have the language skills to stop the problem another way. Helping young children develop problem-solving skills now will benefit them for the rest of their lives.
4. **Choose one area within respect to focus on for a set period of time.** For example, you might start with remembering to use the “magic words.” Encourage everyone in the family to try to improve. As your child gets older, tackle more difficult concepts, such as not interrupting others.
5. **Create a family penny jar.** When a person forgets to use respectful language, he or she needs to put a penny in the jar. For younger children, it may mean no name-calling or replacing “Gimme” with “May I please have ...” For teenagers or adults, it could be used to discourage swearing or rude comments.
6. **Look for characters who follow the Golden Rule.** In the stories you read or the programs you watch look for characters who follow the “Golden Rule” and ones who do not. Discuss the characters’ actions and the resulting feelings of others around them.
7. **Take time to help your child develop a respect for life.** Visit an elderly family member or neighbor. Go on nature walks. Plant a garden. Watch baby animals at a farm or zoo. Guide your child in understanding that life is precious
8. **Talk about differences among classroom mates.** Children begin to learn about respecting differences among people by learning about differences among children in the classroom. Talking about these differences is a good way for children to learn how they are unique and special. Children who know how they are unique and special will be better prepared to handle an encounter with someone who is not respectful of individual differences.

#### 10 Tips for Teaching Respect and Curbing Disrespect:

1. **Model it:** If you expect them to do it, [you must do it](#) also.
2. **Expect it:** When expectations are reasonable but high, then children rise to the occasion.
3. **Teach it:** Provide the tools they need to develop respect.

4. **Praise it:** When you hear your children using respectful language and see them making respectful choices, recognize it and praise them.
5. **Discuss it:** Take advantage of a teachable moment when you see children being respectful or disrespectful, using appropriate/inappropriate language or behavior and discuss it with the children.
6. **Correct it:** Be firm and direct when teaching respect, but be sure you are being respectful yourself while correcting the behavior.
7. **Acknowledge it:** Don't let things slide! **Pay attention** - when respectful behavior is being exhibited and call them on disrespectful behavior!
8. **Understand it:** Children are growing and learning as they get older. Sometimes word choice and behaviors are exhibited because they don't have the correct words to use to explain how they feel: "I'm tired," "I'm frustrated," or "I'm angry".
9. **Reinforce it:** Remind children of their good decisions so that they remember how it felt.
10. **Reward it:** Respectful behavior should be something that children want to do without rewards. However, it is good to associate respectful behavior with rewards such as praise, recognition, extra responsibility, and privileges.

Teaching respect takes patience, time, and a willingness to do as you preach. Time isn't everything though, is it? It takes years to rear a respectful child and only moments to fill one with anger and disrespect. Which one do you choose?

*Excerpts taken from Brighter Visions Publications*

## INSPIRATIONAL MOMENT

**New Year's Resolution:** I will use my skills that God has given me in a brand new way this year that will bring more success, and well-being to those around me, and thus, to me.

### **Belief in what's Possible for you through the Lord's Grace:**

Some people like to create a theme for their new year – using one word to describe what they want more of. A theme is a great way to pray and focus on something important, and to help bring it into being. Here is a list of some powerful themes or concepts you could choose from, or build your own:

Authenticity	Love
Forgiveness	Creativity
Courage	Integrity
Honesty	Vulnerability
Openness	Mentorship
Wealth	Peace
Serenity	Compassion
Tolerance	Prosperity



Choose a word or theme that represents what one of your goals may be. Print it out, and post it on your computer, your closet, and your mirror – wherever the reminder will have the most impact on you. Then, make a pact with yourself that you will act, perceive and think in ways that are in close alignment with this positive experience you want to bring forth.

**New Year's Resolution:** I will honor my new theme for 2017. I will keep a keen focus on what I want to expand, and cultivate a practice of gratitude and prayer each time I see this theme expanding in my life.



**SPECIAL EVENTS**  
2017

2<sup>nd</sup>

Crossroads Reopens

4<sup>th</sup>

Chapel

5<sup>th</sup>

Gymnastics starts a new session

10<sup>th</sup>

Chapel

12<sup>th</sup>

Gymnastics

16<sup>th</sup>

Martin Luther King, Jr Day - Crossroads is Open

18<sup>th</sup>

Chapel

19<sup>th</sup>

Gymnastics

24<sup>th</sup>

Chapel

26<sup>th</sup>

Gymnastics

27<sup>th</sup>

