

# News From the Hill

A Newsletter for St. Peter's Preschool

Dear Parents,

*It is hard to believe that November is here and Thanksgiving is upon us. I recently went to look for Halloween decorations and instead found rows and rows of Christmas. Before long there will be Christmas music playing on the radio, Christmas lists being made, and travels plans arranged. It only gets busier from here on in!!*

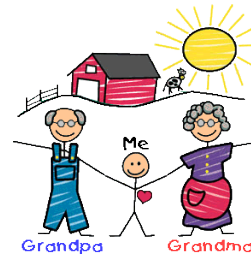
*November is a busy month for the preschool as the start to the Holiday season. We will welcome our Grandparents on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, have our last Fall Soccer Shots, have delicious Thanksgiving feasts on November 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> and then we will have a week off to rest up and get ready for December and all it brings with it!*

*Please remember to read this newsletter cover to cover and check the attached class calendar for specific information about the month ahead. These calendars are extremely important - how else will you know when to bring something for Share Day, when you are scheduled to read a special book, or when to wear your pajamas to school!*

*Finally, with Thanksgiving around the corner, I am reminded of everything I have to be thankful for and that includes being a part of the St. Peter's family and spending my days with your little ones! No matter how busy these next few months get, please remember to take the time to slow down and enjoy the time with your children! I wish you and yours a wonderful, peaceful Thanksgiving full of many blessings.*

Kindly,  
Stacy Warkentine, Director

Important Dates Ahead	
Nov. 2	Last Day of Soccer Shots
Nov. 10, 11:15 a.m.	Pre-K Grandparents Day
Nov. 11, 11:15 a.m.	3-Day Grandparents Day
Nov. 17, 11:15 a.m.	2-Day & Pre-K Thanksgiving feast
Nov. 18, 11:15 a.m.	3-Day Thanksgiving feast
Nov. 21 - 25	Thanksgiving break – NO SCHOOL
Nov. 28	School Resumes!!
Dec. 19 – Jan. 2	Christmas Vacation
Jan. 3	School Resumes!!



## Welcome Grandparents!

Grandparents' Day is a special celebration for 3-day-ers and Pre-K-ers! (2-day families, your turn will come next year!!) If you haven't already signed the RSVP sheet on the main bulletin board with how many grandparents (or great grownup friends, if grandparents aren't available) will attend for your child – please do so as soon as possible so the teachers can plan appropriately. One more thing: this event is only for these special guests. Parents, we ask that you hold off coming - your day is come in the spring!



## A Feast fit for a Pre-schooler

On Nov. 17th & 18th, we'll be gathering together to share a feast! The 2-day-ers and Pre-K-ers will feast together, and the 3-day-ers will feast with the "optional Friday" Pre-K-ers.

Here's how we do it for the 2-Day-ers and the Pre-K-ers: each child will draw a food item out of a basket and will be asked to bring that food item on the day of his or her feast. Among the foods we'll serve are chicken nuggets, carrots, jello, and juice.

Look for a sign-up sheet in the gathering space for our 3-Day-ers Feast. If your family or your child has dietary restrictions (for example, if, like Miss Sarah, you're vegetarian), please remind us so we can be prepared with foods your child can enjoy!

## *Hopathon Thanks!*

I just wanted to take the time to say thank you for all of your support of the preschool during the annual Hopathon - we are truly blessed with incredible families at St. Peter's! The proceeds from the fundraiser go right back into the preschool for snacks and supplies. It was so amazing to watch how supportive the children all were of each other and how hard they worked as they hopped. We hope you enjoyed the pictures!

### Pictures Available Soon

Soon, Picklepuss Photography will be notifying us that our school pictures are available for viewing and ordering. As soon as I get the word, I'll let you know! I watched these pictures being taken, and I'm really hoping you'll show me the finished products - I think they will be beautiful!

## Darby Days Outreach Project

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with the church, our Pre-schoolers will be participating in preparing the dessert for the Darby Dinners.

These are dinners that St. Peter's Church prepares and serves at the Darby Recreation Center for people struggling to make ends meet.

In school the children will be making and bagging cookies to be served. We are hoping to do more outreach projects this year that really have the children involved in a hands on way so they can begin to understand the impact they can make when helping others. As always, thank you for your support in these projects!


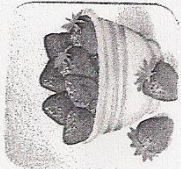

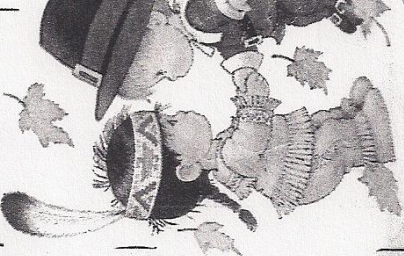
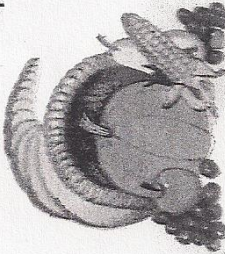



## Have You Heard of the I.U.?

It sounds a little like a medical procedure, but it isn't: it's the Chester County Intermediate Unit, and it's a free resource for families of preschool-age children who may need or just benefit from all kinds of special support, beginning with screening for communication, cognitive, social-emotional, physical, and adaptive development issues, carrying through full evaluations and individualized education plans (IEPs) that include therapy and strategies for families and schools.

St. Peter's has often been fortunate to work with I.U. therapists and evaluators over the years. Sometimes, children have come to us with therapeutic plans already in place, and an I.U. therapist has worked with them at preschool a day or two a week. And sometimes we've been able to recommend that a family look into screening so that a child whose development seems to be suffering some bumps can receive early intervention that can lead to much better outcomes in "big kid school" and beyond.

If you'd like more information about the I.U., please do let me know - I'm always happy to recommend them!

Pre-Kindergarten Class - November, 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bible verse: "Thank God for His gifts."				<i>Fresh Fall Leaves</i> Leaf ironing Library	<i>Fall, Leaves, Fall!</i> Blow paint leaves	
	5 <i>Thanksgiving Is For Giving Thanks</i> Symbol stories Indian vests	6 <i>Mr. Rabbit And The Lovely Present</i> Fruit bowls Share Day - favorite fruit	7 <i>Growing Vegetable Soup</i> Vegetable prints Chapel	8 <i>Tell Me, Grandma! Tell Me, Grandpa!</i> Make snack for grandparents	9 <b>11:15 Grandparents' Day</b>	
"It is good to give thanks to the Lord."	12 <i>This Is The Turkey</i> Indian headbands Science	13 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> Indian necklaces	14 <i>One Little, Two Little, Three Little Pilgrims</i> Make Pilgrim hats Music	15 Library Thanksgiving Feast	16 <i>The Night Before Thanksgiving</i> Paper plate turkeys	
	19 Thanksgiving Vacation-----	No School				
	26 Happy birthday, Ryan! <i>A Squirrel's Tale</i> Make gray squirrels	27 <i>Nuts To You!</i> Paint with acorns "acorn" snack 	29 Happy birthday, Elsa! <i>My Favorite Season</i> Painting: trees in four seasons	29 <i>Snow Pumpkin</i> Paint snow pumpkins	30 Happy birthday, Nate! <i>The Snow Tree</i> Snow tree picture	

## Pre-Kindergarten Class – November, 2012

**Thank You** – Thank you to everyone who helped in any way this past month. A big thank you to Ben, Kyle, Ethan and Owen's moms for driving on our field trip. Thanks to Mrs. Padilla, our room mother, and everyone who helped with the Halloween party. Thanks to Ethan and Owen's mom for the delicious healthy snacks. Thanks to Ben's mom for reading in the library. A special thanks to all our preschool shoppers – you really help us out – and to our two interns, Emily DuBoe and Chelsey Rice, for all their help in the classroom. Also, thanks to Talley's mom for donating extra sweatshirts and jackets for times we may need them.

**Themes** – Our November themes will be Fall, Thanksgiving, fruits and vegetables. We will talk about the first Thanksgiving and the harvest season.

**Share Day** – Tuesday, November 6th, will be share day. Please have your child bring his/her favorite fruit(a banana, some grapes, whatever they choose) to school on Tuesday. After we talk about the children's favorite fruits, we will make (and eat!) a fruit salad for snack.



**Grandparents' Day** – Friday, November 9th, will be Grandparents' Day. All grandparents are invited to join us for some songs, a story and snack. All children should come to school at 9:00 that day, even if you do not normally attend school on Friday. Please don't worry if your child's grandparents can't come. We will be making something for the grandparents and your child can mail it to them.

**Thanksgiving Feast** – Our Thanksgiving feast will be held on Thursday, November 15th. We will share our feast with the two day class and celebrate the things for which we are thankful. The children will be picking items to bring to share for the feast.

**Thanksgiving Vacation** – Thanksgiving vacation will begin after classes on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>(except for the children who attend school on Friday) . Classes will resume on Monday, November 26th.

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

# 3 - Day Class

~ November 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>	<b>2 Book</b> - Have You Seen Trees? <b>Craft</b> - Tissue Paper Trees <b>Show &amp; Tell</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Themes - Thanksgiving & Grandparents	<b>5 Book</b> - The Story of Thanksgiving <b>Craft</b> - Finger Painting Turkeys		<b>7 Book</b> - The Extra Thankful Thanksgiving <b>Craft</b> - Indian Corn <b>Chapel</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9 Book</b> - I Love You Grandma <b>Grandparents Day!</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Theme - Thanksgiving	<b>12 Book</b> - Thanksgiving Day <b>Craft</b> - Indian Headbands		<b>14 Book</b> - Marley - A Thanksgiving to Remember <b>Craft</b> - "Handy" Turkey <b>Music</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16 Book</b> - Run, Turkey, Run <b>Craft</b> - Turkeys <b>3 Day Feast</b> <b>Show &amp; Tell</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>No School</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>No School</b>		<b>23</b> <b>No School</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Theme - Night Animals	<b>26 Book</b> - The Barn Owls <b>Craft</b> - Owls	<b>27</b>	<b>28 Book</b> - Lights Out Night's Out <b>Craft</b> - Hedgehogs	<b>29</b>	<b>30 Book</b> - I Love The Nightlife <b>Craft</b> - Opossum Library	<b>Notes:</b>

### 3 Day Class – November, 2012

We had a boo-tiful October thanks to you and your children. The boys and girls have settled nicely into their daily routine and for only being 2 months in, are quite good at following directions, listening, sitting, etc., during the day! We have an awesome class which got even better mid-October with the addition of our newest little friends Ellie and Luke.

Thanks to William, Walker, Annelisa, Lauren and Ryan's moms for our healthy snacks, the children really enjoy them and are so happy and proud when we all thank them for your treats. Thanks also to Declan's mom for bringing in her fantastic pre-Halloween cupcakes - a big hit! Thanks to William's & Ryan's moms, also, for being our first library readers. Also, kudos to all our families who signed up and brought in treats for our little goblins.

This month our weekly themes are: Grandparents, Thanksgiving and night animals. Show and Tell dates are November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

Grandparents Day is Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Our event will start at 11:15 in the original church. Your children and their grandparents will have some special time together while preparing and eating a tasty treat! Please know if a grandparent or special friend can't come for your child, we have lots of love to spread around and will make sure they feel special.

Our Thanksgiving feast is Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. A signup sheet will be posted in the Gathering Space for food, non-edible treats and paper product donations. Enjoy your Thanksgiving break which begins November 19. We will see all of your smiling faces again on Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>!

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Patty Brown

# November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Over In The Meadow Fall Wreaths	2	3
4	5 	6 Marley, A Thanksgiving to Remember Corn	7	8 Pilgrim Hats	9 	10
11	12	13 Over The River Turkeys	14 	15 Thanksgiving Feast The Night Before Thanksgiving	16	17
18	19	20 Closed For Thanksgiving Break	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Curious George Goes To The Zoo Monkeys	28	29 Brown Share Day Corduroy Teddy Bears	30 	
		<p><b>November's color is BROWN.</b>                      Important Dates/Times: 11/15 Thanksgiving Feast                      11/19 - 11/23 School Closed For Thanksgiving Break                      11/29 Brown Share Day (please have your child bring a brown teddy bear if they have one)</p>				

November, 2012

Dear Parents,

We sure have been having some fun in our 2-Day class! I cannot get over how well behaved your children are! This group has really gotten the hang of circle time and our routine. I could not be prouder of them.

We have had a little bit of separation anxiety. Let me reassure you how normal that is for children. Try not to worry or feel guilty when you leave your child with us if they are sad or crying. Mrs. McArdle and I hug and hold them if they want to be hugged and held, and if not we come up with some way to get their minds off their troubles. Goodbyes are often difficult, but rest assured that they are safe and loved and if we ever think that they are too sad to be comforted or that we cannot find a way to reach them, we will call you right away. If you do not hear from us you can assume that they cheered up and are happily playing with their friends and joyfully singing their circle time songs.

Speaking of songs... we sing a little song at the end of the day that we call the Goodbye Song. It goes like this:

*God we thank you, God we thank you*

*For this day, for this day*

*And for all our good friends, and for all our good times*

*Thank you God, thank you God*

If you are able to get your child to sing it for you please do. Their little voices singing that song make Mrs. McArdle and me joyful every day. It really is the sweetest thing.

November we will learn all about Brown. November 29th is Brown Share Day and I am asking the kids to bring their teddy bears that day. I have my teddy from when I was little bitty that I will bring to show them (his name is Brown Teddy... I wasn't the most creative child in the world!). The point of our share days is for your child to look around for the color we are studying, but this one is a little different. If they have a favorite friend that they sleep with every night that is not a brown bear, but instead perhaps a blue dog or a pink monkey, they certainly can bring it instead. We will read Corduroy that morning and all he wants is a friend to love which will be the main theme of our chat at circle. If your child happens to love a brown bear (as I love mine) then that will fit in nicely, but for this share day brown is not a requirement.

Don't forget our school will be closed from November 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> for Thanksgiving.

Miss Sarah