

Tanque Verde Lutheran Church Preschool/Kindergarten
December 2009
Newsletter

*The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you; You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
Luke 2:10-12*

From Robin Abbott, the Director's Pen

I would like to thank all of the parents, children and staff for their wonderful encouragement and support throughout the first semester of the school year. I know that some things have been different since Donna's retirement. I appreciate your patience and understanding. I have genuinely enjoyed getting to know many of you and look forward to getting to know more of you as the year progresses. I have loved spending time with your children both in teaching chapel and working alongside the teachers in the classroom. They are so special! I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May God bless you as you celebrate our Savior's birth. I look forward to seeing you during the Christmas Chapels this month.

Christmas Vacation

The school will be closed from Friday, Dec. 18th - Sunday, Jan. 3rd. We wish you all blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We would like to invite you to join us as we celebrate our Savior's birth. Our ***Christmas Chapels*** for **Bunnies, Giraffes, Owls, and Geckos** will be in the church sanctuary at the following times:

Wednesday, Dec. 16th:

AM Giraffes - Dec. 16th at 10:30 in the sanctuary
M/W AM Lambs - Dec. 16th at 10:45 in the classroom
PM Giraffes - Dec. 16th at 2:30 in the chapel

Thursday, Dec. 17th:

AM Bunnies -Dec. 17th at 10:30 in the sanctuary
T/Th Lambs - Dec. 17th at 10:45 in the classroom
Geckos (Kindergarten) Dec. 17th at 12:30 in the chapel
T/Th PM Lambs - Dec. 17th at 1:45 in the classroom

PM Bunnies - Dec. 17th at 2:00 in the chapel
Owls - Dec. 17th at 2:30 in the sanctuary

The children will then invite their parents to join them in their respective classrooms for a Christmas celebration. Please come and listen to the children as they tell the story of Jesus' birth.

A big THANK YOU to all who purchased books for teachers!

They were so excited to receive the books from your
children. You are awesome!

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair was a tremendous success! We were open for the church congregation on Sunday, November 15th. We had many grandparents who were excited to purchase Christmas presents for their grandchildren. Thank you to Wendy Roe and Margaret Casolari for their tremendous support. Throughout the week we made about \$1000 to use towards books and other supplies for our school.

We would like to thank the following moms for volunteering at the book fair throughout the week: Anita Hsu, Gaby Garcia, Traci Garcia, Stacie Periclos, Karen Yodice, Laura Miller, Ann Gonzalez, Cathy Bramhall, Pam Keane, Stephanie Werner, Dina Corrado, and Sherri McClellan.

Arizona Tax Credit

The *Arizona Tax Credit for Kindergarten Tuition* program is a win-win opportunity for you and the children of the TVLC Kindergarten! This tax credit is available to any Arizona taxpayer. Married couples filing jointly can donate up to \$1000 and individuals can donate up to \$500. This is a tax credit which you are earmarking, for the Kindergarten, a portion of the taxes that you are paying to the State of Arizona. In order for the tax credit to be eligible for your 2009 taxes, you must make your contribution by December 31, 2009. ACSTO brochures are located in the Preschool Office.

Annual Casserole Sale

Thank you to all that have taken pans to fill for our *Annual Casserole Sale*. They will be for sale after the church service Saturday night, December 5th and between services on Sunday morning, December 6th. Rolls will be included with each

casserole. We will be charging \$10.00 for each casserole. Part of the proceeds will be used to support Newborns in Need and Step Up with Therapeutic Loving Caballoes (TLC) with the other part for the preschool and kindergarten. Those of you who are available, *we need volunteers to help sell*, especially on Sunday morning, December 6th. The sign up sheet is in the Preschool Office.

Pennies From Heaven

Thank You for all of the *Pennies from Heaven* that you have donated. You will continue this opportunity to give each week on your child's chapel days. There is a jar outside the classroom in which the children can put loose change (or bills, if you prefer). All the money will go to our two charities, Newborns in Need and Step Up with TLC.

There is a correction of Jean Di Maria's phone number: **795-3895**. Please contact her if you are interested in helping the count the Pennies from Heaven money.

Boxtops 4 Education

Our *Box Tops 4 Education* collection has reached the \$425.00 mark! This far exceeds our expectations. Thanks to Dina Corrado for her organizing of this fundraiser! If you use any products that include the coupon, you can put them in the specially designed box in front of the office for Dina to pick up. Remember we get 5 bonus tops when you create an account on the website. (www.boxtops4education.com) Earn extra money for our school by doing your holiday shopping at the Box Tops Marketplace on line.

From the Pen of Mrs. Rovner and Mrs. Upson

November was a fun-filled month as we learned about different apples and we even tasted them. We painted with Indian corn and planted mustard seeds. We learned that healthy foods will help us grow and make our tummies happy. In circle time, we talked about what we are thankful for that God has given us and we all agreed that our families are very important. We danced the turkey pokey a few times too!

We'd like to thank the following families for donating a book to our classroom library from the Scholastic Book Fair: Cameron Smith, Aimee Lloyd, Callie LeBlanc and Jameson Cione. You are awesome!

Thank you to our parent helpers this month, Mr. DeBough (Cameron's Dad), Mrs. Taylor (Lyla's Mom) and Mrs. Stat, who is the assistant teacher for the Pre-K class.

We welcome a new friend, Lexi McShea to our T/Th afternoon class! She is settling in and making new friends.

We also welcome a future Lamb, Lillian, Brandt Bober's new baby sister.

Our December theme, *Getting Ready for Jesus* focuses on his birth through our stories, art, and, of course, the beautiful Christmas music. We are entering the busiest season of the year and we have lots of special projects to do this month. Our Lambs love hearing the story of baby Jesus. We'll learn special songs to share with our families at our Christmas Chapel so mark your calendars. Our Christmas Chapel will be held in our classroom with snack first then we have special songs to share with you at circle time. Listed below are the times:

M/W am class Wed. Dec. 16th at 10:45 am
T/Th am class Thurs. Dec. 17th at 10:45 am
T/Th pm class Thurs. Dec. 17th at 1:45 pm

We wish you and your family a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

MRS. BACHMAN AND MRS. MEINER'S BUNNIES

The month of November in our bunnies class was filled with many fun activities. We learned about the Pilgrims and Indians and that first Thanksgiving day. Of course we talked a lot about turkeys and learned new songs and finger plays to share with our families during the holidays. The children especially enjoyed playing drums to Native American music. We also took an exciting adventure with "Tom Turkey" as he prepared for Thanksgiving day. This is another fun story to encourage the children to use their imaginations while teaching them important skills such as sequencing. We shared stories about our family traditions and what we each were thankful for in our lives. Your children are amazing and sweet spirited and their stories were very precious.

We would encourage you to continue doing cutting projects with your children at home. They love to help wrap Christmas packages during the holidays! So, please provide them with lots of tape, wrapping paper and scissors and let them be creative. A special thanks to our parent volunteers this month - Andrea Schalk, Kym Owen, Erin Snipes and Jazmin's Grandma Dee Dee in our morning class. In the afternoon class we would like to thank Melinda Bridges and Kimberly Cock. You are always so generous with giving your time to help in our classroom and assist us in extra projects when we need an extra pair of hands. We appreciate it very much! Please feel free to visit us anytime you would like. Another big thank-you to Melissa Treiberg, Heather Lewis and Miss Abbott for helping us the day Mrs. Meiner was

out of school. We would like to thank Amanda for the books that she bought from the book fair for our class.

Christmas is just around the corner and the bunnies will be busy learning more about their shapes and wonderful holiday stories and songs. We will read a special story about a Christmas lamb and learn about the birth of Baby Jesus in Bethlehem. In addition, we will be doing some fun art projects for the children to take home and enjoy with their families and friends during the Christmas season.

On Thursday, December 17th is our Christmas program - 10:30 for our morning class and at 2:00 for our afternoon class. It will be in the church sanctuary. You will want to be sure to arrive a little early that day so you won't miss out on the beautiful songs the children will be singing. Parents, siblings, grandparents, friends etc. are all invited that day. Please feel free to take pictures if you would like. Afterwards, you are invited to return to the classroom to have some special Christmas treats with your children. Our Christmas vacation will begin on December 18th and the preschool office will be closed so that our staff can enjoy the holidays with their families. The office will be open again on January 4th and our bunnies will resume classes on January 5th.

This is a wonderful time of year and especially a time of rejoicing in the birth of our Lord Jesus. We feel so blessed to share in this very special season with your children.

May you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs. Casolari & Mrs. Grimwood's Bunnies

November was a great month as we learned about the desert, Pilgrims, Indians, Thanksgiving. We had a fun making our hand print turkeys. Shape and number review was a big part of November. Hope everyone enjoyed the bunny color book and counting book. It has been exciting to watch cutting skills improve with each project. Everyone is doing so well that I have added more cutting projects! The children feel proud of their accomplishments. We continue to see friendships develop and grow. A child is truly missed by their friends when absent. Please remember to call the office when your child is absent. Thank you for letting us know about any pick up changes. As always, let us know if you have any questions or concerns. They are important to us.

We would like to send a few reminders. If you could put your child's name in their coat or jacket, it would be very helpful at dismissal. Thank you for getting your

child to school on time. So much happens that first fifteen minutes of class. The best part...the leader is chosen! You are welcome to join us for chapel on Tuesdays or visit the class at anytime. The children are set in their routine and welcome visitors. Remember to bring your loose change for our "Pennies From Heaven" program on Tuesday, our chapel day. We had a great start at our Fall Fiesta! A little change can go a long way towards helping others. Thank you for supporting the book fair. A special "thank you" goes to Elena for giving a book to the classroom. Thanks for all of your support with the casserole and bake sale on December 5th and 6th. Please see Wendy Roe if you would like to donate a casserole or volunteer to help on Friday, Dec. 4th, to prepare roll bags or Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5th and 6th to help sell.

In December, we will celebrate the birth of Christ. Young children enjoy hearing the story of baby Jesus. We hope your child comes home sharing the joyful story with their family. It will be a busy month preparing for the excitement of Jesus' birth and the love at Christmas. We will continue to work on shapes, colors and number review. Mark your calendars to join us on December 17th for the Christmas Chapel in the sanctuary. Our program starts at 10:30am (please arrive 10-15 minutes early). Please feel free to invite any family members or special guests to the Christmas program. Afterwards, come back to the classroom to enjoy some treats with your child and their friends. May the story of Christ's birth, as told by a child, fill your hearts and homes this Christmas. Be sure to take some time to remember the reason for the season.

Thank you for sharing the gift of your child with us. May your Christmas vacation be restful, fun and special. We look forward to seeing you back at school on January 5th. Blessings to each of you in the New Year!

Mrs. Casolari & Mrs. Grimwood's Giraffes

Wow...where is this school year going! November has been a busy month. The children have enjoyed learning about our world, other cultures and dinosaurs. We reflected upon the many joys and blessings we have in our lives. Thanksgiving reminds us to be thankful for all the goodness God has shared with each of us. Mrs. Grimwood and I are thankful for all the love and support we receive from the children and families of this preschool. With much appreciation, we thank Mrs. Stat for helping in the classroom. It allowed Mrs. Grimwood some time off to be with her family. Our Giraffes enjoyed going to the Kindergarten Open House on November 18th. If you missed the Open House, parents and children are always invited to visit the classroom and learn more about our program. You can get information about the Arizona Tax Credit in the office.

We want to share a few reminders with you. Please write your child's name on all coats, jackets, and sweaters that come to school. Our "Pennies From Heaven" program had a great start at Fall Fiesta. We will have the collection jar for loose change out on Wednesday, our chapel day. We want to thank everyone for their support of the book fair. A special "thank you" goes to Evelyn, Gregory, Makena, Austin, and Logan for giving books to our classroom. Thank you for keeping us informed of any pick-up changes. This is a big help at dismissal. Thank you for your support! Please remember to call the office when your child is absent. As always, let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your support of the Casserole Sale on December 5th and 6th. If you would like to help, please see Wendy Roe. The Giraffe classes are decorating Christmas trees to be hung outside the education building during the month of December. Our weekly themes and chapels this month will be centered on the wonder of Jesus' birth and the love shared at Christmas. May your family be touched by the excitement that a young child feels as they learn about Jesus' birth and God's love for all of us. We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Chapel on December 16th at 10:30 am. Please arrive 15 minutes early to get a seat in the sanctuary. You are welcome to invite any family members or special guests to this joyous program. Afterwards, join us in the classroom for snacks and time with friends. Since the children will be assigned parts, please let us know if your child will be absent for the Christmas program.

From one parent to another...take the time to enjoy the season! Remember to see the true reason for the season and treasure every memory. God's blessings to all of you...may you have a joyous Christmas and happy and healthy New Year! We will look forward to seeing you back at school on January 4th.

May you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs. Braucksick & Mrs. Meiner's Giraffes

Christmas is upon us! Please return your family Christmas tree project soon. They will be hung on the clothesline outside our classroom. The children will begin to prepare for Jesus' birthday through Advent. **Mark your calendar for our Christmas Chapel program. It will be on Wednesday, December 16th.** Siblings, parents, and grandparents are invited to gather in the sanctuary. The boys and girls will learn about Advent, the manger, the birth of Jesus, and the Magi, who brought gifts to our Savior. Please let us know if your child will be unable to attend because of Christmas vacation schedules.

AM Class News: We had many parent helpers this past month. Mrs. Vinayak visited and helped at the science table. The children observed a dead scorpion under glass with a black light. They, also, got to look at worms. Doris Anderson (Julia's grandma) visited our class and shared items from Peru. She and her husband are missionaries with the Ticuna Indians. Mrs. Matthews visited and helped at the writing table. The children colored flags from other countries. Mrs. Dobbin helped the day we went to visit the Kindergarten class. Mrs. Lee helped the children make apple turkeys. A big hip hip hooray for our helpers! **Our Christmas Chapel will be at 10:30 on the 16th of December.** Hope you and your family can join us!

PM Class News: **Our Christmas Chapel begins at 2:30 on the 16th of December.** We hope you, too, can attend! A big thank you to Mr. Garcia. He arranged for a police cruiser and motorcycle to visit our class. He, also, talked a little bit about stranger danger to the class. Mrs. Lloyd helped us the day we made fossil prints during our dinosaur study unit. We appreciate her helping hands. A sad good-bye to Nick Carbonetto. We will miss him.

Christmas vacation will start on December 17th for our class and we will return on Monday, January 4, 2010.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs. Pacheco and Mrs. Stat's Owls

The Owl's have been very busy this November. We kicked off the month by taking a step back in time to explore the extinct world of dinosaurs. The students had a great time making dinosaur eggs with paper mache and were very excited to find the baby dinosaur that magically appeared in their egg. They also dug for chocolate chips in chocolate chip cookies. Just like a real paleontologist only tastier. We concluded the week by making dinosaur teeth. What a great week. The students quickly changed gears as we jumped into shape and senses week. We hope you enjoyed the shape/chocolate pudding turkeys. The students worked hard on tracing and cutting out all the parts for their turkey and even harder getting their fingers all licked and clean!! What fun. I am sure your child told you of our many journeys during transportation week. One was particularly out of this world!! We blasted into outer space with our space helmets as we explored the different planets. We wrapped up November with our Thanksgiving unit. The students have so much they are thankful for and we are so thankful for them! Progress reports went home on the 16th of November. If you have any questions or comments please

let us know!! Everyone is working very hard and we are proud of them and their progress!

It is hard to believe the holidays are already here. We will be very busy getting ready for our Christmas chapel. The program will be at 2:30 on Thursday the 17th of December. If you know in advance your child will not be attending the program please let us know. We do assign parts and we want to make sure everyone is prepared.

Christmas break is December 18 - January 3. Enjoy this time with your family and celebrating the birth of Christ!!

We would like to thank everyone that bought book for our classroom!

As we look ahead to the new year there are just a few reminders.

Please try to have your child at school on time. We start right at 12:30. Arriving on time allows your child to start off the day relaxed and comfortable rather than trying to catch up. We would also like to remind you to pick up your child at 3:30. After 3:35 we are in and out of the room trying to clean up and reorganize from the day. We would like to thank all of you that have been making an effort to be on time. I am a parent too and know how demanding schedules can be!!

We hope you have a great December as we prepare for the birth of Christ!!

From Mrs. Pinelli's Monkey Club

Thank you so much to Wheeler and Owen families for book donations!

The turkey feathers were flying in Kids Club this month. We spent the entire month getting ready for Thanksgiving. We read books that taught us about the Pilgrims journey to America on The Mayflower and how the Indians helped them.

I hope you enjoyed the place mats the Monkeys colored. It had a wonderful Thanksgiving poem on it. Thank you Ms. Abbott for laminating them - hopefully they can be used for years to come. Pilgrim and Indian puppets were also colored and would make a great table decoration. Foam turkey magnets and Clifford made from plastic cups rounded out our holiday decorations.

Other fun projects included water color painting an Indian and decorating "Thankful Feathers" to add to our Thankful turkey. It is heart warming to hear what your children are thankful for. To finish off our preparations for Thanksgiving we made a picture of The Mayflower, a Teepee, and a turkey headband.

I hope you all had a blessed, relaxing Thanksgiving with your family.
We feel truly blessed to have your children in Kids Club.

December we will be doing some fun winter projects and getting ready for
Christmas. Jesus is the reason for the season!! Hope to see you there.

As a special gift to our parents, Kids Club will be reduced by 10% on Tuesdays and
Thursdays for the month of December. So get caught up with your shopping,
wrapping, catching up with friends or just put your feet up and relax.

A big thank you to Mrs. Upson and Mrs. Grimwood who always make Kids Club fun!

Happy Holidays to all!

Mrs. Sanders, Mrs. Walrath and Mrs. Curnalia's Geckos

Thanksgiving is such a special time for all of us! We have been busy getting ready
for our Thanksgiving Feast with our parents. We are excited to share with them
the songs, food and costumes that we have prepared. What do you think of as
Thanksgiving approaches? These are the thoughts of our Geckos...

"Have turkey with my mom, dad, grandma and grandpa." Kayla

"Ate mashed potatoes with my grandma and grandpa" Mari

"Play Monopoly with Pop-pop!" Hayden

"Pumpkin pie is good!" Andrew

"Yams are good- I tried them!" Jaden

"Turkeys are yummy!" Ava

"Hearts full of love." Rosio

"Ask people if they are thankful." Kyla

"Need cranberry sauce!" Ciara

"Keep stuffing in my pantry." Jake

"Smell turkey cooking." Yiannis

"Give my momma a hug." Bodhi

"I help my mom cook!" Alli Rae

"Visit with my friend Mary." Jack

"I like to eat mashed potatoes" Serena

"Need my grandma to make a turkey." Caleb

"Grandma makes some turkey and some pie." Isabella

We thank everyone for your book donations from the book fair.

Have a wonderful time with your children and families! We will keep you posted in the *Gecko Gazette* about important December reminders.

Holiday Blessings!

Laura Sanders, Tracy Walrath and Susan Curnalia

We hope you have a great December as we prepare for the birth of Christ!!