



Morning Star

SHINES!

"Children are our First Priority"

January 3-6:

Favorite Author: We will be greeting the New Year with our favorite author. Just sit back and relax as we learn about a favorite author through reading and special activities.



Morning Star Preschool & Child Care Center

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January 9-13:

No Two Snowflakes Are Alike:

During this week we will be discovering the likes and differences of many things like people, seasons and feelings.



January 16-20:

Where Are All the Animals? When the weather outside is very cold and we are all inside where do the animals go? We will be discussing hibernation and winter animal behavior.



January 23-27:

How does that Taste and Smell?:

Exploring things through taste and smell will be our main focus this week. Can you tell what an item is just by tasting and smelling it?



January 30-February 3:

What Can I See, Hear and Touch? We will be talking about three of our senses this week; sight, hearing and touch.

January 2012

CALENDAR OF EVENTS January 2012

- ☆ January 2nd-Indoor Snow Day-CW
- ☆ January 11th-Pajama Day-CW
- ☆ January 13th-National Rubber Ducky Day-CW
- ☆ January 16th-MLK Jr.-CW
- ☆ January 19th-PAC-5:15 PM
- ☆ January 19th-Wildlife Encounters-P,G,R,O
- ☆ January 25th-Tasting Party-P,G,R,O
- ☆ January -All About Drums-P,G,R,O
- ☆ February 2nd, Groundhog's Day-CW

LOOKING AHEAD

- ☆ February 14th-Valentines Day
- ☆ February 21st-Mardi Gras
- ☆ February 25th-Kid's Body Show

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January 2012

Fine Arts 2011-2012

Note: Fine Arts is moving to Wednesdays'

Date	Themes	Events	Event Dates	Class
January 2012		Hey Diddle, Diddle Month	Service Project-Book Donations	
2-6	Favorite Author	New Year's Day Observed-C	Jan. 2	CW
9-13	Every Snowflake is Different	Indoor Snow Day Pajama Day National Rubber Ducky Day	Jan. 10 Jan. 11 Jan. 13	CW CW CW
16-20	Where Are All the Animals?	MLK Jr. Wildlife Encounters	Jan. 16 Jan. 19	CW P,G,R,O
23-27	How does that Taste and Smell?	Tasting Party Hy-Vee visits	Jan. 25 TBA	P,G,R,O R,O
30-3	What can I See, Hear and Touch?	All About Drums Groundhogs Day	TBA Feb. 2	P,G,R,O CW

JANUARY	
11th	Picasso
18th	Mondrian
25th	Surrealism
February 1st	Georgia O'Keefe

January-Calcium

Note: Cooking is moving to Mondays'

Date	Activity	Goals
January 4th	Quick and Easy Cheesecake	Children will be able to develop fine motor skills while combining ingredients for this yummy dessert
January 9th	English Muffin Pizza	We will explore nutrition while using a variety of ingredients to create our own pizza
January 16th	No Cooking	
January 23rd	Tasting Party	

Ms. Liz will be on maternity leave until March

DIAPER DRIVE

We collected 1867 diapers!



New Year's Resolutions for Preschoolers

- I will clean up my toys.
- I will brush my teeth twice a day, and wash my hands after going to the bathroom and before eating.
- I won't tease dogs—even friendly ones. I will avoid being bitten by keeping my fingers and face away from their mouths.
- I will drink milk and water, and limit soda and fruit drinks.
- I will apply sunscreen before I go outdoors. I will try to stay in the shade whenever possible and wear a hat and sunglasses, especially when I'm playing sports.
- I will try to find a sport (like basketball or soccer) or an activity (like playing tag, jumping rope, dancing or riding my bike) that I like and do it at least three times a week!
- I will always wear a helmet when bicycling.
- I will wear my seat belt every time I get in a car. I'll sit in the back seat and use a booster seat until I am tall enough to use a lap/shoulder seat belt.
- I'll be nice to other kids. I'll be friendly to kids who need friends - like someone who is shy, or is new to my school

Morning Star Classroom Chatter by Your Child's Teacher



White Stars—The White Stars have been very busy- we have painted with our feet, explored new toys and experienced our first Christmas season!

Violet and Josiah have each started to walk-first steps are so exciting. Colby and Lucia have discovered the fun of taking baskets of toys off the shelves and emptying them out one toy at a time. Owen shows off his rolling over talents. Ezra is experimenting with the step/slide structure. Avery, Colleen, Jack and Lily enjoy the jungle mat and sitting anywhere they can see their friends playing at.



Blue Stars- The Blue Star Room was full of Christmas joy this month! We had a soft white Christmas tree and an angel with blue lights. But, the Fisher Price Nativity set was definitely their favorite. We learned to sign, "Baby Jesus," and that Mary and Joseph were "Mommy" and "Daddy."

We sang and danced to many Christmas songs and even used our instruments too! Some of the Blue Stars were able to attend the Preschool Christmas Play. They were clapping to the music and loving every minute of the performance!

Josiah and Violet will be joining us in January, and we must let Josie and Dominic move to the Purple Stars. They will love it, but we will miss them!



Purple Stars-December was wonderful month. We enjoyed many activities this month like putting cotton balls on sheep, crumpling wrapping paper and playing with sticky bows. We also painted

snowflakes with our fingers. The children loved reading the story of Jesus throughout the month. As the time came closer to the new year we each made our own shiny new years ball out of tin foil to toss and say "Happy New Year." But the activity the children enjoyed the most was marching with jingle bells.

We are saying goodbye and good luck to Madeline and Marley as they move onto the Green Star Room and we are excited to meet Josie and Dominic in January!



Green Stars—The Green Stars enjoyed performing for the parents at the Nativity play. Their favorite song was Mary Rode Upon a Donkey. They were always requesting to sing it.

The children used flashlights to follow stars to find baby Jesus (a doll wrapped in a blanket). We talked about the colors of the stars as they went on their search.

During art class the children were making swirls like in Van Gogh's painting "Starry Night." Some of the children said they were making "squirrels" instead of swirls.

Welcome to Ariana who joined our class and Happy New Year to all!



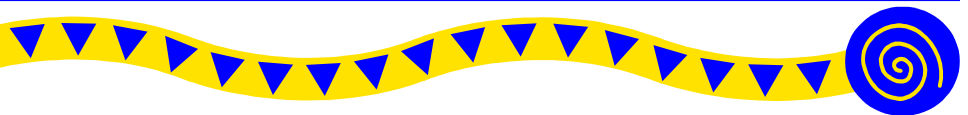
Red Stars—The month of December was fully devoted to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ! It is our hope that your children will be able to look back at their time at Morning Star and say that is where they learned about Jesus.

Our Christmas baking and pajama day was such a blast! We were impressed to see how involved and engaged the children were throughout the whole process. Keep this in mind when you're making dinner and involve your child, there is so many learning opportunities linked with cooking. We are always very busy in the Red Star room. Ask 4 year old Harmony, one day she was struggling to wake up and in a tired voice said: "You guys weared me out today!"



Orange Stars Pre-K—Welcome Winter! The Orange Stars are LOVING the chance to go outdoors and get some fresh, crisp air! We will open up January learning about author Jan Brett and once again enjoy creating in our publishing company located in our dramatic play area. We will explore snow (hopefully) and find out where all the animals go in the winter, as well as work together to create bird feeders out of pinecones to hang in our nature playground. We look forward to a wonderful 2012 in the Orange Star Room.

Director's Note:



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to each and everyone of you! 2012 sounds like it's going to be a fun one at Morning Star.

We have lots of extra activities lined up for our children so keep an extra eye on the January calendar located on page 2. I am especially excited for Pajama Day on January

11th and National Rubber Duck Day on January 13th.

The Tasting Party is January 25th and this is a wonderful experience that is rich in vocabulary. Please watch for notes from the teachers regarding this special event.

So, what did you do special during your Christmas vacation? I am anxious to talk to the Children on Tuesday morning and hear all about their

adventures (and presents).

On behalf of the teachers and staff, thank you for remembering us with your generosity. Please take a moment to look at the thank you cards posted outside the office window. AND, if you haven't added your Christmas card or Christmas pictures, please do. These wonderful memento's are lovingly placed in your child's file.

Susan

Bits & Pieces

Snow Days

Morning Star Preschool and Child Care Center will be closed under extreme inclement weather. Please listen to the radio or television for school closings. When Morning Star Preschool and Child Care Center makes the decision to close, all local news channels will be notified to make a public announcement before 6:00 a.m. We reserve the right to close when the Director deems appropriate to do so. If there is any question, please call Morning Star.



2011 Taxes

2011 Credit Summary for your taxes will be placed in parent files in January!
Ms. Judy

Director

*Susan A. Snow

Asst. Director/Records

*Judy Hollander

Asst. Dir. Staffing & Events

*Jill Garrett

Program Coordinator

*Marilyn Sander

Book Keeping

*Cherie Schnack

White Star Teachers

*Marilyn Sander
*Sherry Haverman
*Ashley Swanson

Blue Star Teachers

*Cindy Evans
*Brenna Rosenberg
*Kathy Gardner

*Purple Star Teachers

*Laura Knudson
*Kristen Douglas
*Lindsay Taylor

Green Star Teachers

*Kathy Widdershoven
*Alexes Tiberio
*Lexi Varoz
*Brenna Rosenberg

Red Star Teachers

*Ashley Riddle
*Kylie Nelson
*Haley Post

Orange Star Teachers

*Jill Garrett
*Brian Weaver
*Parker Grogan

Floaters

*Brette Daiss
*Jessica Schnieder

Support Staff

*Sue Harm
Kitchen
*Keith Haverman
Kitchen
*Ashley Miller
Kitchen
*Ashley Knott
Art
*Ellen Davis
Spanish
*Liz Sampson
Cooking
*Bev McCollum
Music
*CiCi Evans
Move & Groove

Parent Advisory Committee

*Pastor Gail Maden
*Susan A. Snow
*Chris Hedican
*Mark Lust
*Margie Bross
*Laura Preisman
*Karin Waggoner
*Jamie Johns



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