



Morning Star Minutes

"Children are our First Priority"

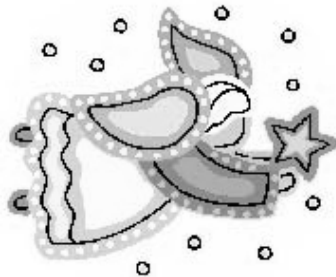
December is....

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

THIS IS THE SEASON

November 30th—December 4th

Morning Star Preschool will begin to celebrate the Christmas season. We will do this through song, stories and art activities.



ANGELS ALL AROUND US

December 7th—December 11th

Angel Gabriel told the shepherds about Baby Jesus.

JESUS IS THE REASON

December 14th—December 18th

Baby Jesus has been born we will celebrate his birth. The Green, Red and Orange Stars will perform in the Nativity play on Friday, December 18.



CHRISTMAS FUN

December 21st—December 25th

Traditions make Christmas fun; the tree the stockings and Santa. This week we'll explore all the special things that make our Christmas season special.

CHILDREN'S CHOICE

December 28th—January 1st

This is a time to explore the children's interests. Each class will have a different theme; some classes may have a different theme each day.



Morning Star Preschool & Child Care Center

Volume 7, Issue 4

December 1, 2009

December 2009

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ☉ Wednesday Night Dinner—December 2nd—CW
 - ☉ St. Nicholas Day—December 6th—CW
 - ☉ A Traditional Morning Star Christmas—December 13th
 - ☉ Nativity Play—December 18th—G,R,O
 - ☉ Center closes at noon—December 24th
 - ☉ Center closed—December 25th
 - ☉ Center closed—January 1st
- Looking Forward
- ☉ Omaha Public Library—January 7th
 - ☉ Indoor Snow Day—January 13th
 - ☉ Pajama Party—January 22nd

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DECEMBER	Happy Birthday Jesus! Service Project-Diaper Drive			
30th-4th	This Is The Season	Wednesday Night Dinner 5-6:30 St. Nicholas Day	2nd 6th	CW CW
7th-11th	Angels Around Us	Halcyon Days	14th-28th	CW
14th-18th	Jesus Is The Reason	Nativity Play Original Works Back	18th 10:00 AM 16th	G, R, O
21st-25th	Christmas Fun	Center closed at noon Christmas-Center closed	24th 25th	CW CW
28th-1st	Children's Choice	Center closed	1st	CW

Fine Art

DECEMBER	
30th-4th	Baroque Art: Caravaggio
7th-11th	Art in the 17th & 18th Century: Vermeer, Rococo, Neo- Classicism, Romanticism
14th-18th	Realism: Manet
21st-25th	Impressionism: Monet, Degas, Renoir
28th-1st	Post Impressionism: Seurat, Cezanne



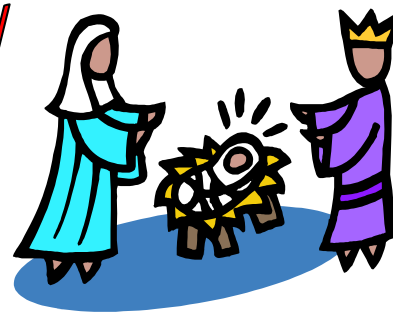
Santa Visits

Leave the cooking to us!

On Wednesday, December 2nd from 5:00-7:00 PM we will be serving dinner in Fellowship Hall. Santa will make a surprise visit that night!

The Christmas Nativity Play

Please join the Green, Red and Orange Stars on December 18th at 9:30 AM. We will be performing our annual Christmas Nativity Play in Fellowship Hall. A cookie reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.



Wish Tree

We've made our list,
checked it twice...
we've been less naughty than nice!

Now we're hoping that Santa is coming to
Morning Star this year...

Please look at our Classroom Wish Tree to
see what our Teachers are wishing for. Our
Wish Tree is in the entry hall.



Morning Star Classroom Chatter by Your Child's Teacher

White Stars—Congratulations to Ms. Susan on the birth of our new friend- Marley Ann. We can hardly wait to meet this new White Star!!!



Addison thinks it's funny when Ms. Sherry signs change diaper; Cecilia is very busy pulling herself up to everything in the room; Evan, Kierra and Kate seem to enjoy sitting in the hop-n-pop (they can see so much more.) Willy and Hannah love sitting on the floor and playing with all the toys. Will and Luke like to hang out in the infant seats, with a little tummy time every once in awhile for them.

Cecilia will be moving to the Blue Star room on November 30. We will miss her; but we know we will see her all the time.

Blue Stars—November brought us two new friends, Harrison and Julia. Claire is getting close to walking and Ellie started cruising on her own now. Cam and Tessa are sleeping on mats, getting ready for their big move to Purple Stars. Theo loves the new truck in our room. Skylar and Katelyn think everything is funny and keep their friends giggling too!



All the Blue Stars are loving the musical ape we have. They dance and dance and sign, "More, more!" We are making a Thanksgiving surprise for Mommy and Daddy and the Blue Star teachers would like you to know how thankful we are for our "Blue Star Babies!"

Purple Stars—The Purple Stars celebrated friendship by making handprint posters together. They also liked finding their friend's pictures on the peek-a-boo poster. Family was another theme for the month and they loved washing baby dolls and creating house pictures. Thank you families for the wonderful family posters. The children are proud of them and like to point out the people on their poster throughout the day.



Thank you also to the parent readers. We are so grateful for all of the Purple Star families. Your children make us smile every day. One day on the playground Brodie pretended to pull an imaginary starter cord on one of our push toys and said, "Mow!"

Green Stars—Happy Birthday Olivia! Burr it's getting colder outside! Still, we enjoy our outside time so much even if it's shorter than we'd like.



We had a great time learning about friends this month and even met a new friend: Julie the Chihuahua that the Humane Society brought for a visit. We also did art projects in cooperation with a friend in the classroom. This was a new concept but your green stars did a wonderful job with the project and enjoyed themselves. We also talked about our families and how much they mean to us! We finished the month preparing for Thanksgiving and hearing about the very first one!

Red Stars—We've been learning a lot about being a "Super Friend!" As a class we made up some rules 1) Gentle hands & feet 2) Use nice, happy words 3) Share & take turns! In our classroom we are working VERY hard on positive reinforcement! LOTS of praising for good behavior instead of always saying no to "bad" behavior.



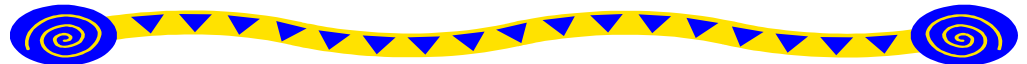
The kids are also working on expressing our feelings (anger, frustration, annoyed, sad). Getting the kids to tell us how they feel prevents a lot of fighting, sad kids & helps your child have happier days. Isn't that the goal?! We had a blast making our Friendship Fruit Salad. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to this project!

Orange Stars—November was an exciting month for the Orange Stars, as we celebrated Brent's birthday, met Julia from the Humane Society, and listened to Ms. Karen from the library read to us! We enjoyed meeting Ms. CiCi's Care Bears in Move & Groove, too, and we sure loved tasting the muffins we made with Ms. Liz in cooking class!



We created a "Hh" is for "Humane Society", and "J" is for JUNGLE in our dramatic play area! We look forward to becoming Santa's Little Helpers as we learn to wrap presents in our Santa's Workshop dramatic play area!

Director's Note:



Dear Parents,

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving vacation...the next couple weeks are the most exciting weeks for a young child. Three things that come to immediate attention are;

1. Wednesday Night Dinner—December 2
2. Traditional Christmas Program—December 13
3. Nativity Play—December 18

1. Ms. Sue and Ms. CiCi will be doing the cooking for our Wednesday Night Dinner. Please join us for an evening of fellowship. Santa and Ms. Santa will join us from 6:00-7:00, please bring your camera to take advantage of this priceless memory.

2. The Traditional Christmas Program on the 13th is a new event for Morning Star. The Church has wonderful choirs, Traditional, contemporary, Bell Choir, Children's and our Preschool children. This will be a

wonderful opportunity to share our children's voices with the Church. After the performance the Church will host a dinner for us along with activities for the children. We will be sending a flyer home to announce where we'll meet and what time.

3. Every year we look forward to telling the Christmas story with our children. The Nativity play gives children a hand's on experience to the true meaning of Christmas. After the performance of the Orange, Red and Green Stars we will host a cookie reception in Fellowship Hall.

We have successfully finished our first month of Ms. Sue's cooking. I can report with great pride that I see the children and staff eating healthier and eating more. We now have the choice to select more fresh fruits and vegetables. We can serve better options of low sugar and less fat ingredients on our menu's. We also

have the opportunity to shape our choices around the children's tastes.

Please note that the Center provides healthy afternoon snacks for all the children. These menu's can be located on the parent bulletin board. We are also discussing the possibility of providing all morning snacks instead of our parents donating....your opinions?

Ms. Sue and Ms. Liz will be providing a cooking corner on the parent bulletin board. They will post menu highlights and interesting articles that can improve what and how we serve children.

Individual care in the ground setting....your opinions make us what we are!

Susan

Bits & Pieces

Where Do I Take My Child for Morning Drop Off?

6:30—7:00	All Children	Blue Star Room
7:00—7:30	White Stars	White Star Room
	Blue Stars	Blue Star Room
	Purple, Green, Red & Orange Stars	Green Star Room
7:30-8:00	White Stars	White Star Room
	Blue Stars	Blue Star Room
	Purple Stars	Purple Star Room
	Green Stars	Green Star Room
	Red & Orange Stars	Fellowship Hall
8:00-8:30	Blue Stars	Blue Star Room
	All other children	Breakfast in Fellowship Hall with their teacher

Parent Evaluation Results

A special thanks to all parents that returned their Morning Star Evaluations. The evaluation responses were wonderful, and we thank you.

Our goal is to address each and every comment, these were the repeat suggestions;

- ☆ More fresh fruits & vegetables—please see director comments
- ☆ Less sugary snacks—please see director comments
- ☆ Staff pictures to indicate who is working directly with your child—watch the parent bulletin board!

Please remember that we have a parent board that lists current classroom illnesses along with articles of interest. Lesson plans and daily schedules are posted by each classroom door. Your child's lead teacher is responsible for submitting weekly lesson plans to our Program Coordinator.

Again, thank you for your participation! The best way to improve our Center is from your suggestions.

Ms. Susan

Director

*Susan A. Snow

Assistant Directors

*Jill Garrett
*Judy Hollander

Program Coordinator

*Marilyn Sander

Book Keeping

*Cherie Schnack

White Star Teachers

*Marilyn Sander
*Sherry Haverman
*Ashley Dabney
*Audra Blauhorn

Blue Star Teachers

*Cindy Evans
*Molly Wilson
*Laura Knudson

*Purple Star Teachers

*Kathy Widdershoven
*Laura Knudson
*Jessie Schnieder
*Kathleen Loach

Green Star Teachers

*Amanda Krahling
*Jessie Schnieder
*Brenna Rosenberg
*Rachel Weber

Red Star Teachers

*Ashley Riddle
*Raeann Swanson
*Peter Dudziak

Orange Star Teachers

*Jill Garrett
*Felicia Dodenhof
*Meredith Lime

Floater

*Susan Davie
*Samantha Knutson

Specials Teachers

*Pastor Tom Miller
Chapel
*Cindy Evans
Move & Groove
*Judy Hollander
Rhythm & Music
*Liz Sampson
Cooking
*Melinda Wriedt
Fine Arts
*Sue Harm
Kitchen
*Keith Haverman
Kitchen

Parent Advisory Committee

*Pastor Tom Miller
*Susan A. Snow
*Darren Carlson
*Denine Marshall
*Deb Washburn
*Mark Lust
*Margie Bross
*Laura Preisman



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