

Early Learning News

childcare@stjamesgettysburg.org

December 2021

“NO ONE IS USELESS IN THIS WORLD WHO LIGHTENS THE BURDENS OF ANOTHER.” – CHARLES DICKENS

Dear Friends and Families,

Even before the Thanksgiving holiday, evidence of Christmas became apparent all around! As I drove to work this morning and circled around the square, I saw the town Christmas tree being constructed. People have begun hanging Christmas lights on their homes and soon we will see trusty old St. Nick sitting at the square for drive – by, socially distant greetings.

However, as I walked around the church this year, thankfully, it was different than last year! In March 2020, the church shutdown to in person worship due to the Covid19 pandemic and remained closed through this past May 2021, more than an entire year.

In 2020, holiday celebrations were different. We celebrated in smaller groups, for shorter periods of time, outdoors (weather permitting) and even via zoom. And even though our celebrations were different, we learned to appreciate the true meaning of Christmas and held it closer to our hearts.

So, this year, I imagine that some of our holiday celebrations will change again becoming a little more “normal” as the Covid conditions improve. However, the gift I wish for everyone will remain unchanged as we continue to navigate the pandemic together. The gift of good health and safety will continue to be a priority that no dollar amount can match. We will continue to think more of others, than ourselves. It is still about washing our hands, wearing our masks, socially distancing when we gather and staying home when we can.

So even though this Christmas still may not be like Christmases past, it will still be Christmas. It is Christmas now, Christmas 2021, and still Christmas with Covid19. However, unlike last year as we were learning as we were going along, this year we have become experts reducing the stress which gives us more time to enjoy our holiday gatherings and celebrations!

Wishing you all a peaceful and blessed holiday season,
Suzan

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- ▲ **Monday, November 29th, 2021 – Friday, December 3rd, 2021** – Conference Week. Check your child’s classroom for sign – ups.
- ▲ **Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at noon** – Gift Card Orders due for our holiday shoppers. Or shop on-line at: <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/> and use code: 8L34E11F47L35
- ▲ **Saturday, December 4th, 2021** – Breakfast to Go with Santa at St. James 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.!
- ▲ **Friday, December 10th, 2021** – The Giving Spree reveal. Thank you everyone for sharing the information with your families and Friends!
- ▲ **Friday, December 17th, 2021** – Wish Tree Gifts due. Children will open gifts on Monday, December 20th, 2021
- ▲ **Monday, December 20th – Thursday, December 23rd, 2021** – Christmas Spirit Week
- ▲ **Tuesday, December 22nd, 2021** – Christmas Adventure 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- ▲ **Friday, December 24th, 2021** – Center Closed, have a wonderful Christmas Holiday!
- ▲ **Friday, December 31st 2021** – Center Closed, have a safe and happy New Year Holiday.

Results of the Parent Surveys are being calculated. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete them! We will use them to set goals for the 2022 calendar year and publish them in the January Newsletter.