



Little Willows News

Volume 5, Issue 6

February, 2012

From the Director...

It's hard to think about next fall while we're in the midst of this season, but it is time to do so. Many local schools are registering this month and next, including kindergartens and of course, Little Willows. We will post details on the bulletin board in the hallway as we receive them.

Some parents have recently asked about the curriculum we use in the older classrooms. The skills we teach in our 3's and 4's classroom are consistent with what kindergarten teachers are requesting. Children in Little Willows will learn social skills and basic academic readiness skills through play-based activities. We strive to give children a positive "first school" experience while preparing them for a kindergarten classroom where they will then be able to more effectively learn the academics. If you would like to discuss curriculum more in-depth or specifically what setting may be the best fit for your child, please feel free to contact me.

Little Willows Staff

Program Director:

Gina Hulett
ghulett@willowhill.org
383-2700

Assistant Director:

Gina Keele

2's Class:

Megan Donnelly
Gina Keele

Transitional 3's Class:

Heidi Landes
Erica Falcione

3's Class:

Becky Smolarchuk
Mandy McMahon

4's Class:

Cheryl Wilmot
Laura Foster

Classroom News

Please check the classroom information boards for updates, special reminders, and birthdays.

Classroom highlights and previews will be provided on the back of monthly newsletters.

Announcements & Reminders

2012-2013 Little Willows Registration: For those of you interested in enrolling your child in the Little Willows Program next fall, early registration for the 2012-2013 school year will begin **Monday, February 27** for those families currently enrolled in our program, as well as members of Willow Hill Church. Registration will be open to the public on **Monday, March 5**. Registration forms will be available in the church office, online at www.willowhill.org, or on the bulletin boards in the church.

Teacher observation forms: This month you will be receiving a teacher observation form on your child. These forms are meant to be informal feedback to let you know what the teachers observe while your child is in our care. If you have any questions regarding these forms, please contact your teachers or Gina Hulett.

Valentine's Day parties: Our classroom Valentine's Day parties will be held the week of February 13th. If you are interested in providing an item for the party, please sign up on the bulletin board across from the Yellow Duckling and Orange Tiger classrooms. We will not be exchanging Valentines, but will celebrate with games, crafts, and treats!

Cold and flu season: The cold and flu season is upon us! In order to keep everyone as healthy as possible, we ask that you please remember to wash your child's hands at the beginning of class and keep your child home if he or she is experiencing any cold or flu symptoms. Remember that your child must be fever free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school. If you have any questions concerning the advisability of sending your child to school, please contact Gina Hulett at 383-2700.

School photos: Mark your calendars! Individual and class pictures will be taken during the week of March 5th. Class pictures will be taken each day, but **individual pictures will be taken only on the child's first attendance day during the week**. Information with more specific details will be sent home soon!

We will be dismissing at 11:30 on Thursday, February 16th. There will be no class on Monday, February 20th, due to the Presidents' Day holiday.



2's Purple Monkey Class

We had a great time celebrating winter last month! We talked about winter weather, read many winter-related stories, and sang some fun songs about winter. During Music and Movement time we moved and grooved to "The Wiggles"! We worked hard on our fine motor skills by using scissors to cut Play-Doh, creating paint dot pictures, making snowmen puppets, and decorating mittens with buttons and snowflakes with sequins. Be sure to check out your child's beautiful snowflake project on the wintry bulletin board in our classroom and their mitten project outside the classroom! We also played with our new "Super Sorting Pie" and "Feed the Animal" games, which test fine motor skills by using toy tweezers to pick up and sort small manipulatives. All our friends really loved these toys! For more sorting and color recognition practice, we sorted colored bears into colored cups. We also introduced our "5 Little Snowmen" felt board activity. This is a fun and interactive tool to help practice counting, as well as learning to sit and wait our turn. We will be doing more of these felt board activities from now until May. We will spend February learning that Jesus had 12 special friends called Disciples, who were not only His friends, but also His helpers. We will talk about how we can be good friends and helpers, just like the Disciples. We will also have fun celebrating Valentines Day!

Transitional Yellow Duckling Class



Wow! January has come and gone so quickly! We had a great time last month during Show and Tell as we shared all the special things that Santa brought us for Christmas. We also had fun reading the story of the "Gingerbread Man" and even made one of our own gingerbread men to take home. Everyone has been working very hard on name recognition. It's amazing how many of our friends recognize their name as well as their friends' names! This month we will be adding the letters Q, R, and S to our letter chart, and will also learn about the color pink. February will also be filled with hearts and dinosaurs. Be sure to watch for the Stegosaurus stomping its way home with your child! We will be sending teacher observation forms home this month. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's form. We are looking forward to a great February!



3's Orange Tiger Class

WOW! What a great time the Tigers had exploring our January winter wonderland! We had fun making snowflakes, snowmen and penguins! We also had fun learning about "Suzy Square" and the color white. We will begin February by visiting the circus! We have many crafts planned and can't wait to play some fun circus games with our friends. Our shape for February is "Hailey Heart" and our color is pink. Please have your child bring in something pink for Show and Tell this month. Our letters this month are O, D, Q, and Z. Our Bible stories will be about Naomi & Ruth, Daniel, Queen Esther and Zacchaeus! Be sure to check the signup sheet on the bulletin board across from our classroom if you are interested in supplying items for our Valentine's Day party. Happy Valentine's Day to everyone!



4's Blue Dolphin Class



January was a busy month in the Blue Dolphin room. We learned new letters and enjoyed our winter and snow-themed activities. The children decorated our bulletin board with beautiful snowmen all ready to play in the snow, complete with hats to keep their heads warm! We made some wonderful crafts to take home to share, such as fun sleds and yummy marshmallow snowmen! We even decorated cocoa cups and played a marshmallow math game. In February, we will be learning the letters N, O, P, and Q. We will also enjoy decorative crafts and activities in anticipation of Valentine's Day. Just a reminder to please check and remove any papers from your child's blue folder at the end of each day, as they may contain book orders and other important information regarding the program. Also, please remember to have your child use the restroom and wash their hands immediately before entering our classroom. We are trying to minimize the trips to the restroom during the first half hour of class. Thank you for your cooperation!