



# Windmill Creek Academy Gazette

Volume 11

Issue 4

December 2018

## Letter from the Director

Dear Parents,

November proved to be yet another eventful month here at Windmill Creek Academy! The students enjoyed learning about "Food Groups," "Thanksgiving," and "Manners." The students also enjoyed a massive "Turkey Feast" complete with all the trimmings. The cranberry "jello," mashed potatoes and stuffing were the children's favorites! It was a joy to see the students dressed up as Native Americans or Pilgrims as they dug into their pumpkin pie!

December also promises to bring a lot of excitement to the school as we get ready for the holidays. The Lion students are gearing up for their big "Holidays Around the World" pageant which includes ten musical numbers that explore how people in different parts of the world celebrate the holiday season. The students will sing about Hanukkah, Sinterklaas, Christmas, Kwanzaa, "Feliz Navidad," and the Three Kings. All of these celebrations provide the perfect opportunity to celebrate with family and friends. Speaking of celebrations, Santa is scheduled to pay us a visit on Friday, December 14th. His sleigh is scheduled to touch down at about 3:30. Parents are welcome to attend this most special occasion!

Are you interested in giving a gift to your child's classroom? Be sure to look out for your classroom's "Giving Tree," where the teachers and students have compiled a classroom wish list.

If you provide special treats for your child's classroom parties, please remember *NOT* to bring any food items with peanuts. Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Following are some important dates in December:

### Holidays Around the World Pageant - December 13

A Windmill Creek Academy tradition – the Lion students will perform on Thursday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m.

### School Closed December 24 & 25

The school will be closed in observance of the Christmas holiday

### School Closed December 31 and January 1

The school will be closed in observance of the New Year's Eve/New Year's Day holidays

### Visit from Santa - Friday, December 14

The school will host its annual visit from Santa and Holiday Party at 3:30. Please bring a wrapped book marked "Boy" or "Girl."

The teachers join me in wishing you, "Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa and Happy New Year!"

Warmest regards,

*Janine*

Janine Connell  
Founder & Director  
Windmill Creek Academy



## December Birthdays

West B - Decemeber 2  
Ashley B - December 8  
Ms. Kelsey - December 10  
Brantlee M - December 15  
Brady S - December 17  
Caleb - December 17  
Ms. Ally - December 21  
Ms. Iris - December 26



Karson and Bryce reenact the "First Thanksgiving" as "Pilgrims" during our Thanksgiving Feast

## Character Training

December's Character Training Values  
Joyfulness ... Cheer and Optimism  
Wisdom ... Good Judgement and Prudence



## Windmill Creek Academy Classroom Updates

### Bunnies

The Bunny classroom is an active place! Our Bunnies had their first Thanksgiving! We are so thankful to have our newest bunny, Gwen! She is Grant's baby sister and is so adorable! We can't wait to see her grow here! Vera is starting to go everywhere in the classroom. She likes going in the kitchen area and even tries to open the drawers! Elliott is trying to crawl and enjoys being on her tummy. Molly loves being with her classmates and observing everyone. Rocco is sitting up on his own and is eating solid food now. Avery is moving up soon to the Cubs and will be missed. Nora is starting solid foods now, too. She loves being in the bouncer. Jason is playing with toys and eating solid foods, too. We are looking forward to the cooler weather and spending some time under the awning. We can wait for our first visit with Santa!

*Ms. Ally, Ms. Kaira and Ms. Iris*

### Cubs

The somewhat cooler weather of November finally came through as we have been discovering the fall season. Quite a few exciting things happened this month. We welcomed the twins, Lennox and Luca! We love getting to know them and they are adjusting very well to the Cubs Corner! We would also like to welcome Avery to the class. We look forward to exploring everything together and introducing these fine new cubs to their classmates. Everyone has achieved something new. Landon is walking! Fox loves circle time. John loves animal flashcards. Caleb is walking and Javiera is walking and loves to dance. We can't wait to make our room festive with the sights, sounds and colors of the holidays. We will be learning about Hanukkah, Christmas and singing all sorts of new holiday songs. The Cubs have already learned that Rudolph has a very shiny nose! It is great to be a Cub!

*Ms. Kayla, Ms. Kelsey, Ms. Mariah and Ms. Sofie*

### Bears

We are so thankful for the month of November! We would like to welcome Vivienne & Mick to the Bears Den! The Bears learned all about using our manners and being polite. Saying "Please," and "Thank you," are important. We continue to hear our Bear students using these simple words and phrases and it is heartwarming to hear. Sharing and being kind to our friends is another concept we reinforce each day. The students truly enjoyed all the Thanksgiving preparations and the Turkey Feast! The pumpkin pie was our favorite – especially with the whipped cream on top! To close out November, we talked about the different food groups. Looking forward to December we will be learning about different holidays around the world. We will learn about dreidels during Hanukkah and decorate our room for Christmas. We are learning many new songs about the holidays, snow and winter during Music and Movement time. Before you know it, we will be saying farewell to 2018 and get ready for the New Year! We look forward to our holiday party with Santa. Hooray for the holidays!

*Ms. Alondra, Ms. Kayla, Ms. Kelsey, Ms. Lesley, Ms. Rachel*

### Frogs

November was a very busy month! We would like to welcome Frances to the Frogs' class. We would also like to thank you to Camila's family for donating some toys to our classroom. The Frogs had a lot of fun learning about our manners and saying, "Please," and "Thank you!" We made all kinds of turkey crafts with googly eyes, feathers and other media. We had conversations about what we are thankful for. The students also enjoyed the Thanksgiving Feast together here at the school. The stuffing and pumpkin pie with whipped cream were definite hits! In December we will learn about Holidays Around the World – Hanukkah, Sinter Klaas, Christmas and Kwanzaa. It's hard to believe the New Year will soon be here. The holidays are a great time to learn about other cultures and their traditions, colors and celebrations through art, songs and stories!

*Ms. Ally, Ms. Ana, Ms. Kayla, Ms. Lena, Ms. Raquel*

### Giraffes

The Giraffes had a busy month in November. We would like to welcome Liam, Karson and Bryce to our class! We continue to learn a letter of the week and a color of the week. The Giraffes enjoy wearing the color of the week on Fridays! During manners week we made a bee for our motto, "Be kind." We also played with the play kitchen and learned how to set the table as we practiced our manners. During the Thanksgiving week, we made pilgrims and Native American costumes with paper bags, paint and feathers. We enjoyed wearing the costumes to the Thanksgiving Feast. During the month of December, the Giraffes look forward to learning about "Holidays Around the World," and how children in different cultures celebrate the holidays. We will make art projects for Sinterklass, dreidels and a menorah for Hanukkah and Christmas ornaments. We look forward to our Holiday Party on December 14<sup>th</sup> and hopefully catch a glimpse of Santa!

*Ms. Daisy, Ms. Faith, Ms. Krystal, Ms. Sami*

### Lions

The Lions had a great November – we would like to welcome Joshua to our class! We had so much fun making Thanksgiving crafts, learning about the Pilgrims' voyage and the help the Native Americans gave them. Our Thanksgiving Feast was fun – and delicious! Dashing into December, we have our "Holidays around the World" pageant rehearsals; in full swing! We love learning about Sinter Klaas, Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. We love learning about different cultures and traditions. Of course, we are still working on our letters, numbers, patterns one-to-one correspondence and STEAM Centers. We continue to eat our way through the alphabet with **H**ot chocolate and **H**oneydews, **I**ce cream and **J**ell-O and more!! We are so excited to be learning and celebrating our way into the New Year!

*Ms. Ali, Ms. Kally, Ms. Kristen*



Kinley represents one of the Native Americans during our Thanksgiving Feast!



## Teacher of the Month Ms. Jennifer



Ms. Lena & Ms. Jennifer  
at the staff's Holiday Party



Ms. Jennifer takes the initiative to  
maintain the Bunny & Cub play area

Ms. Jennifer is December's "Teacher of the Month!" Ms. Jennifer is our Assistant Director at Windmill Creek Academy. In her over ten year tenure here at WCA, Ms. Jennifer has been a teacher in every classroom – serving every age group at the school. Needless to say, Ms. Jennifer knows a thing or two about children, professional childcare and team building. She has amazing organizational skills and loves keeping a tidy ship. She has both her CDA and Director's Credential and years of hands-on experience. We are blessed to have such professional and loving teachers at our school as each teacher brings her own unique gifts to each classroom! Please join us in thanking Ms. Jennifer for all she does here at Windmill Creek Academy.



## Helping Your Preschooler Learn to Give

By Kathryn Russell Selk

Every holiday season, my family enlists the help of neighbors to "adopt" a needy family — sometimes two. And every year, our son Kiernan has helped, passing out the flyers, wrapping gifts and wearing a huge grin as he helps carry everything to be dropped off. When we started the tradition, he was in preschool, and we wondered: Was he old enough to understand about giving? And is there a benefit to starting so young?

The answer, it turns out, is yes. Experts agree: Children as young as 3 can understand the fundamentals behind charitable acts, such as sharing, being kind and helping. And having your children involved in helping others not only strengthens those fundamentals, but can help them feel the beginnings of power and self-esteem. "Kids like being 'big' enough to help," says Barbara Lynn, a preschool teacher at Lowell Elementary School in Seattle. She sees this especially as they are learning at school, starting to share and "serving" others at snack time.

### Create a cycle

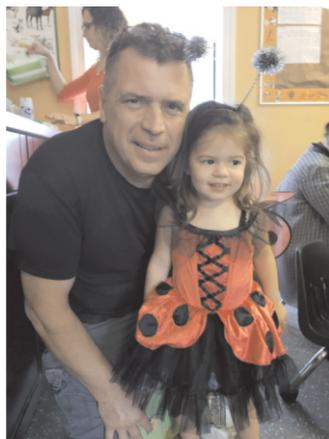
Most parents won't be surprised to learn that preschool-age children learn from watching and listening to mom and dad. So it makes sense that parents involved in charitable activities raise kids who, in turn, do the same. In a recent survey conducted by The Independent Sector, a coalition of more than 700 charities, and Youth Service America, an alliance of groups committed to encouraging youth philanthropy, there was a direct correlation between getting involved in charitable activities at an early age and doing those same things as adults. What's more, when parents volunteer or donate with their kids, they create a "cycle of service," with almost 70 percent of adults who volunteer reporting that they started out doing so with their parents.

So how can you get your young one started? First, try to match that first foray into volunteering with their interests. Do they love the zoo? Are they worried about the environment? Do they love to read? The answers can help you find charities or programs that might be aligned with their interests. Then you can start raising money, getting dirty or getting involved!

Whatever you decide, getting your child involved in giving can help strengthen not only their skills, but your family, as well.



Evelynn and Faith are BEE-YOOO-TIFUL Bees, no!?



Lilly and her dad make a perfect pair!



## Good Times at WCA!

