


# Building Bridges



**All Saints School**

nurturing the whole child through Christ  winter park, florida



~ between school and home ~

Merry Christmas

December 2017

## Important Dates:

December 13- Baby Blessing Chapel (9:15 AM)

December 20- Nativity Pageant (6:30 PM)

December 21- January 7- Christmas break

January 8th - First Day Back to School

## Notes from the Director

This month we celebrate the birth of Jesus! It is such a blessing to work here surrounded by little ones. Their enthusiasm and sense of joy are contagious. Our older classrooms will be focused on the season of Advent. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for the celebration of the most important birth in the history of the world. The children will learn all about the characters in the nativity story and how they must have been feeling on that very special night.

Each classroom in our school will have an Advent wreath. We

make them from fresh evergreens. The greens symbolize new and everlasting life brought to us by the birth of Jesus. The circular shape of the wreath reminds us that God's love has no beginning or end. The candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of his son. This year Advent begins on December 3rd.

On Wednesday, December 20th we will gather together as a school family to celebrate the birth of Jesus with our Nativity Pageant. The three year olds, PreK, and Kindergarten classes will be

performing but all are welcome to attend. The Pageant will begin at 6:30 p.m. this year.

We will be closed for the Christmas holiday from December 21- January 7th. When we return on January 8th we will be very busy with Tom Marshall black and white photos (January 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>), Fall registration (January 16<sup>th</sup>) and St. Jude's Trike-A-Thon (January 24<sup>th</sup>). Whew! Enjoy your break and please know how much we appreciate your kindness, support, and generosity. We have wonderful families at All Saints School!

In Christ,

*Kristin*



**Celebrating Thanksgiving the All Saints Way**



## Baby Blessing

Calling all new babies and their families. We will have a special baby Family Chapel on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Father Russell will bless our new babies (any babies born since last spring) and we will give them their All Saints prayer blankets. Please let the office know if you will be attending so that we can be sure to have enough blankets!



## Baby Saints

Sophia Castino (Ms. Peggie and Ms. Cheryl's threes) is over the moon about the arrival of her baby sister Ella Rose. Ella was born on November 13 and weighed 7 pounds and 2 ounces.

## Teacher Birthdays

12/12 Rosie Johnson	12/20 Sheila Aland
12/12 Joanna Pickering (Speech teacher)	(Art Teacher)
12/17 Brittany Brown	12/24 Carol Astacio
	1/1 Cindy Lowney



## Christmas Pageant

You and your family are invited to share in the joy of the Christmas season. On Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, All Saints School proudly presents our annual Christmas Nativity pageant! The Threes, Pre-K and Kindergarteners will perform the age old tale of how our Savior was born. It is a truly special event and the children are so proud of the work that they put into it!



**When:** Wednesday, December 20, 6:30 pm (Please drop off performers @ 6pm in their classroom)

**Where:** Thomas Center

*Please help us celebrate by dropping off homemade cookies or store bought baked goods in the carline on the morning of December 20<sup>th</sup>. We will have a short reception after the show.*

## Choosing Toys of Value

As Christmas comes closer we wanted to give you some ideas about choosing new toys for your children. The following guidelines are reprinted from TruceTeachers.org. Toys have high play value when they...

- \* Can be used in many ways
- \* Allow children to be in charge of the play
- \* Appeal to children at more than one age or level of development
- \* Are not linked to video games, computers, TV, or movies
- \* Can be used with other toys for new and more complex play
- \* Promote respectful, non-stereotyped, non-violent interactions among children
- \* Can be used by other children to play alone, as well as with others
- \* Can be enjoyed by all children, regardless of gender



## Fun Around All Saints







## Love Wins Christmas Outreach

For our Christmas Outreach this year we are going to provide some Christmas goodies for local families who are in need. All Saints Church has a food outreach program called "Love Wins." Once a month we deliver boxes of food to about 80 local families whose children attend Lakemont, Brookshire, and Killarney Elementary Schools. Our school is going to go above and beyond that for four families in need. Our Church Youth group and church families will also be sponsoring families.

Soon you will receive a specific list of items needed such as canned goods, Walmart gift certificates, children's toys (specific requests), and toiletries. Please consider providing a few things from the list. Many of the items can be purchased at the dollar store or grocery store. Make sure to include your little saint as you shop for the recipient family. It is so important that our children have the opportunity to give to others whose needs are so great. It helps our children develop emotionally as they step away from themselves and see the world through the eyes of another. Taking the perspective of others is a key component to healthy emotional development.

We are so excited to serve our local children in need and to give our little saints the opportunity to experience the joy of giving to other children. Look for a Sign-Up Genius email soon which will have specific items to donate! Thank you.

### *Thank you letter from a previous year's recipient*

"I'm not sure how to explain my feelings right now. I was sponsored by your church today and what I received, I can't believe! The gifts inside a green Rubbermaid container which are meant for my daughter and I are absolutely the sign prayer and asking for help is real.

The life I wanted for my daughter hasn't been a dream. We have had to live with family, share a room and go without for so long. She wouldn't know any different, but I do. I am glad and thankful not to be in an abusive household any longer, yet am frustrated by my current path. Renting a room and searching for a better career instead of enjoying life has been every day. Opening that green box was exactly every prayer I've had for my daughter! Never would I be able to take her to Disney and buy her a gift. Never would I be able to afford anything more than what you all have given us. Your gifts are so special. You really have no idea. I need you to hear me because I've felt too ashamed to ask for help and when I did you answered! So for a little girl and a mother on Christmas day, you all have blessed and even though she has no idea what awaits her I will tell you, she will be the happiest girl and me the happiest mommy!

Merry Christmas! Thank you the most sincere, true, wonderful and heartfelt thank you anyone could say. This is the best Christmas my daughter will have had!"

## What does it mean to be an accredited preschool?

### How does the Big Saints Bash play a role?

All Saints School is accredited by The National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education. Early childhood programs accredited by NAC have voluntarily undergone a comprehensive process of internal self-study and invited external professional review to verify compliance with the "NAC for Excellence" criteria. On the anniversary of accreditation, a lengthy Annual Report is filed. Feedback from the Commission as to compliance or noncompliance is given.

Through this process we are held to a higher standard of excellence in a variety of areas including our physical environment, our curriculum, our health and safety standards and the mandatory continuing education hours our teachers and administrative staff are required to obtain. All of these elements come together to help us to be an extraordinarily high quality preschool. They also differentiate us from other local preschools which are only licensed by DCF but not accredited by an outside entity.

Reaching these high standards and maintaining them does come at a cost. Your donations to the Big Saints Bash help us to fund the high cost of continuing education opportunities for our staff as well as upgrade and replace old equipment and materials. This past summer we were able to replace our See-Saw which had become dangerous. In other years we have used those funds to replace our playground surface, repaint all of our iron gates, and send our entire staff to the NAEYC conference in Orlando for 2 days for the premier training in the country.

Please consider taking part in our upcoming Bash in some way. You can be a sponsor to off-set the cost of the event. You can donate items to our auction or bid on auction items and events. You can buy a ticket to attend the event and enjoy an adult evening out with other parents. All help is welcome and so very appreciated as it contributes greatly to upholding our accreditation and high quality experience for your children.

## Looking Ahead

Tom Marshall Photos: January 9-10, 2018

Fall Pre-Registration: January 16-19, 2018

St. Jude Trike-A-Thon: January 24, 2018



## TRIKE-A-THON™



### Save the date for the St. Jude's Trikeathon!

**Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 9:30am-12:00pm**

This is a fun and exciting event where children in older 2's, 3's, Pre-K and K will ride their bikes/scooters on a closed and safe route on the All Saints campus, all while learning to give back to other kids in need.

# PTO President's Message

*Seasons Greetings, dear All Saints Community!*

May this season of Advent bring you and yours much joy. Let us pause together to treasure the wonder on our children's faces as they embrace the traditions we hold so dear. It is in these small moments that the true spirit of the season gifts us with clarity and purpose.

Our upcoming Nativity pageant, co-chaired by Catherine Long and Melissa Dancaescu, brings our faith to life with storytelling, songs and costumes that will fill your heart with gladness. Be sure to catch the looks of trust and pride and love that pass between our teachers and students as they perform. This truly is the most precious and joyful event on our calendar. There is so much meaning to share with your children as you reflect on the delight of the night together.

As we look ahead to the new year, save the date and book a sitter for our upcoming adults-only fellowship and fundraiser evening: Friday, February 23rd. This giving season is the right time to consider offering a Gift from the Heart and/or other Silent Auction items. Look for more details to be communicated through your room parents including an announcement of our engaging new classroom competition!

Advent is a time of both reflection and preparation. I think immediately of all our teachers and staff do every day throughout the year to nurture our children. One of my most favorite All Saints memories was when one of my son's teachers looked up at me on the last day before Christmas break with tears in her eyes because she was going to miss my boy. We are so fortunate to be surrounded by love and warmth. Thank you for all you do to enrich our beloved school community.

Merry Christmas,  
Marlena Templet  
2017-18 PTO President  
[marlenatemplet@me.com](mailto:marlenatemplet@me.com)



## A message from the Big Saints Bash Committee:

Next year this could be YOU! First Class Thanksgiving Feast celebration for the Lynch family. These lucky folks sat in the front row for the fabulous performance and had white glove table service during the yummy feast. Be on the look out. More exciting BASH happenings coming soon!

