



# December 2019 Newsletter

## Greetings ISP Families,

I would like to thank those families who helped make our annual service project such a success! This year our preschool students collected nonperishable food items for the St. Francis Food Pantry. Our students spent time during the month discussing what it means to give to others and what we are each thankful for. On November 26, one or two representatives from each class loaded up the cart with the many donated food items and wheeled them to the church office where they were greeted by the grateful Saint Francis Staff!

Our appreciation to Ellen Duperret Photography for taking our school pictures again this year. The fundraiser earned \$254 and provided our families with beautiful student and class photos.

A warm thanks to our families who have spent time in our classrooms sharing their family traditions or their cultures with our students. Children enjoy these experiences and learn so much about the different cultures of the International

School for Peace community. It is not too late; please come share with us!

Save the Date! International School for Peace's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends and Family Fundraiser and Silent Auction is Feb. 7, 2020 6:15 – 8:15 in the Saint Francis Celebration Center.

International School for Peace will be closed December 23—January 3.

I hope your winter break is filled with family, friends, and fun!

With gratitude and peace,

*Cathy*

"The beginning is the most important part of the work" - Plato

Ms. Carmen will be taking a short leave of absence. We wish her well and look forward to her return on 12/9

## Mission Statement

International School for Peace promotes peace within the individual, the community, and the world by immersing children in languages and multicultural experiences through play-based, anti-bias curriculum that celebrates diversity.

### Would you like to learn more about the benefits of language immersion?

The University of Minnesota has published an article answering the top 10 questions parents have about immersion. For example: Will immersion effect your child's language development? Research shows that learning an addition-

al language will not effect language development negatively at all. Check out the article:

[http://carla.umn.edu/immersion/documents/ImmersionResearch\\_TaraFortune.html](http://carla.umn.edu/immersion/documents/ImmersionResearch_TaraFortune.html)

*ISP is so grateful for our families and friends! We want to give a big thanks to:*



- Lydia Seldner for donating clothes to our school.
- Sharon Liebeskind for donating clothes to our school.
- Remi McKenzie (Isla's grandfather) for donating a filing cabinet and hanging file folders to our preschool office, and for fixing our mud kitchen!
- Art Evans for donating color copy paper to the office.
- The mystery crafter for donating beautiful flower pens for our sign-in/out station.
- Laura and Curt Aldag for their monetary donation to our school.
- Bassam Mahmood for building and installing new chalk boards by our grassy playground on the Room 10 playground.
- Christine Gery for donating diapers to our school.
- The Iyescas family for donating clothes and diapers to our school.
- Sharon Liebeskind for volunteering her time to repair our garden box, organize our custodial closet, and shop for the preschool.
- Cathy DeMers for donating wipes to our school.
- Reggie Gonzaga from Hillyard for making a special delivery to the school.
- Ryan Preble-Gaitz for pruning the trees near our grassy playground and cleaning our announcement board.
- Lily Park for sprucing up a table toy for our 2's classroom.
- Entekhab Alsaraji for Costco shopping for us.
- Otis for doing a phenomenal job landscaping our campus.
- Miles and Katia Gin for donating clothes to our school.
- The Frank Family for donating puzzles and toys to our school.
- Gaby, Cathy, and Khylia for bringing in treats for the staff.
- Ryan Preble-Gaitz for pruning our trees and repairing our chalkboard!
- St. Francis for their continued support and generosity.
- Officer Luis Cornidez with Pima County for his informative presentation to our staff.
- Jewel Johnston from ASCC for her workshop "Knowing and Respecting Families."
- Remi McKenzie for repairing a beloved wooden toy for our school.

## Giving Days

**Thursday, December 12th  
or Friday, December 13th**

International School for Peace's Giving Days are a time for your child to appreciate our staff for all they do each and every day.

Please participate by having your child express their gratitude in their own, unique way!

**Sing a song**  
(2 minute limit!)

**Give a hug**

**Bring a gift**

**Make a card**

**Give a complement**

**Make a treat**

**Do a favor**



**Thank you...**

To everyone who donated non-perishables to the St. Francis Food Pantry—what a meaningful way to contribute to our community.



# Save the Date!



International School For Peace  
hosts our 14th Annual

## Family and Friends Fundraiser and Silent Auction

February 7, 2020

6:15pm—8:15pm

Please join us in St. Francis' beautiful Celebration Center for an exciting evening to include a silent auction, a fabulous dinner with vegetarian options, special performances by each class, and so much more!



\*Tickets are limited & will go on sale in the preschool office starting January 6th!\*



**No School  
12/23-1/3**

**Winter Break!!**

**School will  
resume for  
students on  
January  
6th!**

# Save the Date!

**Spring**

**Spruce-Up Day**

**Saturday, February 29th**

**8am—12pm**





## Friendly Reminder:

If your child comes home in clothes from ISP, please wash them and return them to the preschool office.

## Pink Slip?

Please remember to check the soiled clothing bin outside your child's classroom!

## Spread the Word

International School for Peace is looking to hire a reliable custodian to clean our school! Late afternoon / early evening hours. Please contact the preschool office for more information.



## We Need You!

Our fun loving, and hard working ISP Advisory Board is looking for a new recording secretary. If you would like to hear more about this position, please contact our current recording secretary Heather Chapman at [rae\\_chapman1@yahoo.com](mailto:rae_chapman1@yahoo.com)

## Wish List

- Families to share their cultures and traditions with our classes!
- A paper cutter and a paper shredder
- A tax consultant
- A grant writer with some free time
- A reliable custodian



## Do you love your preschool?

Please consider ...



liking us on Facebook,

writing a Google Review for us,



and rating us on Great Schools!



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

**POETRY CENTER**

Hopeful Books for Families



# Our Classes are Enriched

Farsi

with Ms. Nooshin



Hebrew

with Ms. Jodi



Music

with Ms. Alice



Art

with Ms. AnaMaria



Library Storytime

with Ms. Anne



Gardening





# Precare

## Ms. Jane, Ms. Carmen, & Ms. Holli

Pre-care is a service offered to help our parents who need an early drop off. This program is held Monday-Friday. Upon arrival, all students will wash their hands. If you have time, please help us with this task. There are two classrooms for pre-care. Ms. Natalie and Ms. Maricruz's classes will meet for pre-care in Room 10. These students will begin outdoor play at 8:30am each day. Ms. Lydia, Ms. Paola, and Ms. Carmen's classes will meet in Room 22 for pre-care. A weekly lesson plan and class schedule will be posted in each pre-care class. Pre-care is a great time to make new friends, eat breakfast, and have fun with a variety of activities. Going into this season, we will have a couple of winter art projects for students to have fun with!

Happy Holidays!

# Aftercare

## Ms. Lilia & Ms. Nooshin

Happy Holiday's Everyone!

The cooler days are upon us and now that most of our students are bringing sweaters and pull-overs to school, it is a perfect opportunity to further develop our self-dressing skills. This activity requires the use of many fine motor skills: clothing fasteners such as buttons, zip-pers, snaps, buckles, and ties require intrinsic and extrinsic muscle strength, comprehension grasp, in-hand manipulation, hand preference and bilateral control and eye-hand coordination. Practice makes perfect, so please encourage this at home when possible. With that being said, we would like to take this time to remind families to make sure that sweaters and jackets that are brought to school have your child's name clearly labeled so that they are not misplaced.



Due to the sun going down earlier this time of year, we will now combine the older age Aftercare students with the younger age children in Room 10 shortly before 5pm. We make sure to have age-appropriate activities for all! As a bonus, we also ensure the older children have opportunities to show off their skills by showing the younger children how to try things they themselves have already mastered. They love be-

ing able to share their wisdom!

In gratitude,  
Ms. Lilia and Ms. Nooshin



# 2's Partial Spanish Immersion

## Ms. Maricruz, Ms. Gabby, & Ms. Holli

Dear Room 10 Families,

We are now in the middle of our school year. November was the month in which I realized just how much the children are learning! They can transition from one activity to another more independently. I see improvement in their ability and willingness to follow instructions with specific



tasks. Their attention during activities such as art and circle time is greatly improving. They love to explore the many activities in the classroom. I am looking forward to building new skills with all of them as the school year progresses.

I want to thank you all for the donations made to our box for the Saint Francis Food Pantry this year. It

was a meaningful experience for our children to share kindness in this way.

December will bring new experiences for us all. We will keep learning more about kindness, community, sense of belonging, and gratitude. Reese Hannan's family was invited to share their recent humanitarian outreach in Guatemala. The goal is to help children see the importance of giving and sharing with others.

I will share my own family tradition with the children through "Las Posadas", a Mexican celebration in which people open the door of their houses to welcome and shelter children with songs, candies, food, and piñatas. The posada will take place on December 19<sup>th</sup> and December 20<sup>th</sup>. If your child will not be in school on those days due to your travel plans, please let me know ahead of



time; I can reschedule for a day when most children can participate.

Likewise, I invite you to share a family tradition with us! I would be thrilled if a family or two could share a special cultural activity or holiday tradition with our class. It

will be an exceptional experience to learn different ways to celebrate this season of the year. It can be a story book, pictures, a little art activity, etc. It doesn't have to be something elaborate, but just a way to share your culture and traditions with us. Please speak with me to schedule a time.

Along with these moments of sharing, children will have the opportunity to create a sun catcher. The class will also create a piñata! We will need a medium size cardboard box, so ask the Costco people for one whenever you can, lol.

Snow, smells of the season, and spices will help our kiddos explore their senses. We will enjoy making our very own play dough. Sticky easels will be back and children will decorate their own trees.



This class really enjoys reading; I have a list of some of my favorite books for this season: Sleep Bear Sleep and Bear Snores On. If your child has a favorite book, we would love for you to come and read it to us.

This season can be a time for family gatherings. Our conversation will be steered toward travel and family visits. We will play with many cars, trains, and planes.

We love to dance and sing! We will introduce new and familiar classics - "Feliz Navidad", "Los Pastores", and "Jingle Bells." This month our new vocabulary will include the colors verde/green, azul/blue, rojo/red, and blanco/white. Our theme-related vocabulary will include: arbol de navidad/Christmas tree, luces/lights, Hanukkah, dreidel, menorah, sunset, sunrise, Yalda Night, Korsi, and Pomegranate.

We will explore the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah with Ms. Jodi all month long! We will sing Hanukkah songs such as "Little Candle Song," and "I'm a Little Latke." With Ms. Nooshin during Farsi time, we will celebrate Yalda Night, the Iranian winter festival.

I am expecting a very exciting and lovely month in our class.

I hope you enjoy your time with your family this season and we will see you in 2020!

Ms. Maricruz



# 3's Partial Spanish Immersion

## Ms. Natalie

Greetings Familias,

What a wonderful month of giving was November. Thank you all for your donations to our holiday food drive. You are all a great example to your children!

Let's welcome December with a big deep breath. There's lots going on during the December holidays and our littles can definitely feel it; slow down, be patient, and celebrate small milestones!



Our themes for the month of December are Travel, Senses, Winter and a continuation of Holidays and Traditions.

Winter will be introduced with a science project where the children will get to make fake snow! We will use baking soda and conditioner to explore different textures. We will also have the opportunity to paint with frozen paint and observe it as it melts, which will make for a great discussion about our winter theme.

To explore our senses the children will be making a Christmas senses book. We will be doing a taste test exploring sweet, salty, and sour foods. Our dramatic area will be turned into a doctor's office to help the children become more aware of their bodies and how to care for it.

For travel we will be discussing the modes of transportation and what it means to travel. Children will have the opportunity to create their own mode of transportation using recycled materials such as tissue boxes and bottle caps.

As for holidays and traditions we will continue to discuss what traditions we practice within our families and what traditions we have created at school. We are excited to explore Hanukkah with Ms. Jodi each Thursday and learn about the Iranian custom of Yalda Nights with Ms. Nooshin during our Farsi times each week. Again, I am extending an invitation for you to join us in sharing your holiday tradition with our class. It could be as simple as sharing a favorite book or

song, an art experience, customary dress, or a special food. Please speak with me beforehand and we can plan together!

I can't believe we are half-way through the school year! Thank you all for your feedback, help, support and trust.

Happy Holidays!

Ms. Natalie



### December Spanish Vocabulary:

Car	—Carro
Airplane	—Avion
Blurry	—Borroso
Christmas	—Navidad
Sweet	—Dulce
Sour	—Agrio
Salty	—Salado





# 3's Full Spanish Immersion

## Ms. Carmen

Hello Dear Families!

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving in the company of your family and loved ones.



Time has flown by! We are already in the month of December. During this month we will have many fun activities, art experiences and science explorations.

I want to thank Myra's family for visiting our class and sharing with us the celebration of Diwali.

We look forward to Samson's Grandma, Rina, visiting our class and sharing their tradition of Hannuka during the month of December. It is so meaningful for our students to learn first hand about these celebrations. Thank you very much for taking the time to prepare and share with us!



Thank you everyone for your donations for Saint Francis Food Pantry!

This month's themes are travel, holiday traditions, senses, and winter. We look forward to decorating our classroom with "Noche Buenas" and beautiful artwork!

We will be traveling around the world with the help of songs and books, and learning about how others celebrate holidays and traditions including Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, and Winter Solstice.



We will explore the tradition of Mexican Posadas by creating pinatas out of inflated balloons, glue, and papier-mâché. Also, our dramatic play area will turn into a gift wrapping station—how fun!!!

During the holidays, families may travel to visit their loved ones or just for fun. We will learn about the different ways of traveling either by plane, car, train or a fun camping weekend. We will prepare our passports and we will go on a trip. Vamonos!!



Winter is an amazing season! Our class will explore hibernation, paint on ice and continue reinforcing self help skills such how to put on outer-wear.

During Circle Time we will continue working on identifying colors, shapes and numbers 1-10 in Spanish. Practicing and reinforcing our social skills is an everyday focus.

It has been 4 months of beautiful experiences. Thank you for allowing me to be part of the education of your children. I wish you a holiday season full of love and peace in the company of your family.

I wanted to share that I will be absent and recovering from surgery 12/2 – 12/6. Your children will be in excellent hands with Substitute Ms. Lilia each morning and Ms. Lydia each afternoon .

I want to welcome Sebastian Chagaris to our class beginning 12/9. We are very excited to have him join us!

Love  
Ms. Carmen

### Vocabulario del mes:

Navidad= Christmas

Flor de Nochebuena = Poinsettia

Invierno= Winter

Viajar = Travel

Avion= Plane

Tren =Train

Carro = Car

Pinata=Pinata

Sentidos= Senses

Pasaporte= Passport





# 3's / 4's Language Enrichment

## Ms. Lydia & Ms. Nooshin

Hello Dear Families

Queridos Padres y Familia

سلام بر خانواده های عزیز

Thank you to those who supported our November service project and donated to the Saint Francis Food Bank.

We love this season full of holidays and look forward to sharing these moments with the children in our classroom. Our themes for December will be holiday, travel, winter, and senses.

This month we will learn about celebrations from around the world. We will talk about traditions associated with Christmas and Hanukkah. We will learn about the Iranian winter celebration of Yalda Night and taste pomegranates, one of the traditional fruits of Yalda night. We will explore the Mexican tradition of posadas and the piñata activity.



In Spanish, children will learn new words: Navidad, Pinata, Viajar and Tren.

We will learn two new Spanish songs: "Feliz Navidad" and "Mi Burrito Sabanero"

In Farsi class, children will learn how Iranians celebrate the last night of Fall, which is the longest night of the year. The students will listen to a true story that happened a few years ago in Iran. The story is about a caring farmer who risked his life for others.

We will use our sense of smell and sound to enjoy fresh pine branches and jingle bells in our sensory bin.

During circle time we will read books, sing songs, finger play, dance to music, and learn the importance of good dental hygiene during this season of sweet treats.



For more specifics and information about our class activities, please see our class bulletin board.

We welcome our families to share their culture and holiday traditions with us!!! This can be as simple as a special book you read, traditional clothing to wear, or special foods you eat. Please schedule a time with us to discuss further and set a date. Our children look forward to learning about other cultures and holidays!



Once again, thank you to all our wonderful families for supporting our positive and creative learning environment.

Wishing you and your family a very happy holiday season!

Love,  
Ms. Lydia, Ms. Nooshin





# 4's Full Spanish Immersion

## Ms. Paola & Ms. Zulma

Dear Parents and Families,



Felices Fiestas/ Happy Holidays! We have a few more weeks of fun before our Winter Break.

During this month we'll keep celebrating and embracing holidays and traditions. Our class will have lots of special visitors and guests to share their different ways of celebrating this holiday season. If you haven't contacted me for a visit and you'd like to be part of this great learning experience, don't hesitate to contact me!



We will spend time talking about traveling and visiting family. This is the time of year when most of us have that experience. We will share our traveling plans (if there are any) with our friends. Who is visiting us, who we will visit, where are they coming from and/or where we will go? This will be a great opportunity to learn about new places on the map.

We will also do a quick introduction to winter/invierno. During this time we will reinforce Self-Help skills by putting jackets on, zipping, and putting on gloves and hats. Lots of fine motor skills work!

During the last week of school (before our Winter Break) we will explore with our senses.

And to end this school period and the Senses Theme, our class will have a pajama day on Friday, December 21st. We will smell and taste hot chocolate, we will listen to the book "Polar Express" and we will bring cozy blankets, pillows and stuffed animals to have a nice and comfy day!



I will review all the academic content we studied during the last few months. We will take it easy during the next few weeks. I

don't want to overwhelm my friends with too much information. They have worked hard and accomplished so much during this time.

Big thanks to:

Caliegh and Debbie for the new toys for our class

Dan Crosby for visiting our class and his fun and educational presentation about Trees and Photosynthesis

All the families who made donations for our St. Francis Food Drive



Ms. Zulma and I are so thankful for having the privilege to work with such an amazing group of children and their families. We wish you a really nice and peaceful holiday season and winter break!

Love, Ms. Paola

