



The Shepherd's Flock Early Learning Center
ELC School News
January/February 2012



Welcome back to school! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break! This Christmas may not have been a white one but the mild weather sure was nice for travel. I hope you had special celebrations with loved ones, enjoying the true beauty of the season. The real joy of Christmas is not over if we keep Jesus in our hearts each and every day. It is my prayer that you will do so and that He will continue to reveal His unending love to you and your family. Happy New Year from all of us here at Shepherd's Flock Early Learning Center!

January Means Pre-Registration for 2012-2013 School Year

Pre-registration for the 2012-2013 school year is offered first to families with children currently enrolled in The Shepherd's Flock Early Learning Center. The deadline for this process is **Friday, January 13**. When the families with children currently enrolled in the ELC have completed registration for fall of 2012, we will move to the waiting list and fill in all remaining preschool and kindergarten positions. Because people on the Waiting List are guaranteed notification regarding availability by January 31, we must close pre-registration to families with children currently enrolled in the ELC promptly on **January 13**. **Families that miss the deadline, in fairness, are placed at the end of the waiting list.** In a separate online attachment sent with this newsletter, you should find Pre-Registration information including the form to indicate your preference. Please read and fill out all of your materials and **return the form with the required \$100 registration fee to your child's current teacher by the January 13 due date.** Please note that if a class is not at or near capacity, we will be unable to offer it. In the unfortunate event that this would happen, the ELC Director will contact the parents and discuss other options. If an alternative choice cannot be provided, the registration fee will be returned. Likewise, if a class fills beyond capacity forcing us to close that option which prohibits us from accommodating all the families, the same procedures apply. As you know, we structure our day so that two classes pair up for snack, large motor activity and a circle time. When student numbers are such that there is not an even number of classes of the same session, we will pair the class with another that is closest in age. This still allows children the opportunity to broaden friendships and get to know another teacher. Lastly, we try to have a good gender balance in each class; we do not wish to have less than 3 of a gender in any class. If this is not possible, we will opt to have an all gender class.

Register By January 13 for 2012-2013 School Year



ELC Sunday

Please join us on **Sunday, January 8** as we celebrate the Early Learning Center! If you have ever thought about worshipping with us here at Shepherd of the Valley, now's the time to do it. The Shepherd's Flock staff will be on hand and we would love to have you join us! Refreshments will be served. Help us celebrate 20 years of this wonderful mission!

Traditional Service: 8:00

Sunday School for adults & children of all ages: 9:15-10:15

Contemporary Service: 10:30

Special Days

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School

Please note that Shepherd's Flock will **NOT** be in session on **Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 16th**. We will honor Martin Luther King Jr. by learning about him during the days surrounding that time. As part of our curriculum, we teach the children that he was a great role model for Christ-like behavior, who preached the word of God. Through books, songs, and discussions, the children will learn all about the remarkable man he was.

Valentine's Day

Valentine celebrations will take place in the classrooms with each teacher conducting special activities in her own way. Your February classroom calendar/newsletter will contain instructions about Valentine cards and how they should be signed and addressed.

Consignment Sale Approaching in Early April

This will be the 11th year that the Shepherd's Flock has put on a Consignment Sale for items relating to children...from toys to clothing to maternity items to furniture. It is a big fundraiser and is essential in helping to manage a continually increasing budget. With an event this large, it is so important that everyone pitch in and help out. There are many different jobs from which to choose. There is also a big incentive to volunteer and you don't even have to be associated with the ELC to participate. Volunteers who help out a minimum of four hours (whole hours) will be allowed to shop the pre-sale and get first choice of items from the sale before they are picked over! Pick up a Twice Blessed brochure from the ELC Parent Information Table. It includes detailed information and a Volunteer Sign Up Form. You can also sign up to volunteer on the Parent Board near the gym as the sale dates approach.



The Twice Blessed Consignment Sale is a great way to clear out things you no longer need for your child, as well as a way to prepare for the next stage of your child, or perhaps the new child that's on the way! Sellers receive 70% of the sale price and the school gets 30% for the advertising, set-up and work. Not a bad deal! In order to sell at our Consignment Sale, you must purchase a Consignment Seller Packet. Packets will be on sale January 17–20 under the skylight in the Church entry from 11:20-11:40 a.m. and 12:20-12:40 p.m. The packets cost \$15, or pay only \$5 when you volunteer 2 hours or more. After the week of January 17, packets may be purchased in the church office. Tell your friends! Selling is fun and easy to do! If you would be willing to help sell the packets the week of January 17th please sign up at the Parent Board now. Be watching for more Twice Blessed volunteer opportunities! Thanks!

The actual Twice Blessed Consignment Sale will be **Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14, 2012**. You will want to take note that **Friday, April 13th classes are not in session**. Please partner with a friend and watch each other's children so that you may volunteer or shop the sale. There will be no child care provided. Mark your calendars...if you plan to sell, start saving wire hangers and safety pins...clean out those drawers and closets and attics...start telling everyone with whom you come in contact about The Twice Blessed Consignment Sale at Shepherd of the Valley! It's great for buyers and sellers, and it's a huge benefit for our school and our children!

Thanks for Lunches at Conference Time

Thank you to the moms who provided a delicious meal during the two days of November conferences. It was so nice to enjoy a lovely meal with a chance to unwind between conferences on those busy days. The teachers appreciated your thoughtfulness. Special thanks to:

Laura Reynolds, Alison Swaim, Amy Dahlke, Becky Bonefas, Tara DeGroote, Joni Kinnan, Laura Phillips, Jodi Swaim, Gina Swanson, Holly Krueger, Tricia Evans, Nikki Opsal, Ann Mars, Jan Caruthers.



Cookies & Carols – What Fun!

We extend a big thank you to all of our families who donated cookies and treats for our Cookies and Carols Christmas Programs in December. The performances were wonderful and entertaining for all! We hope you enjoyed the fellowship and refreshments afterwards as well. Also, thanks to some wonderful volunteers who managed the kitchen, keeping the cookie platters plentiful and the punch flowing. We appreciate your time. Thank you to: **Kelsey Aikin, Erin Dodd McConnell, Karen Schoon, Amy Haas, Amy Dahlke, Shelli Osthus, Lisa Wyatt and Lisa Loecke.**

This time we sent leftover cookies to Sunnyview Care Center in Ankeny. As you might imagine, many extended family members visit the residents during the Christmas season. The folks at Sunnyview were excited to receive the cookies. What a great way to spread a little joy at Christmas time!

Data Entry Help Needed

Each spring the Shepherd's Flock has volunteer work for a few individuals willing to donate time doing data entry. This task must be done here at school but may be completed on your own time. The job may be done while your child is here in school or even at night once the kids are in bed! If interested, please contact the director, Diane Hensley at 225-1952 ext. 14 or diane@sotv-wdm.org. Thank you for your consideration!



ELC Information Sent Electronically

By now, we have had half a school year to adjust to the on-line sending and receiving of school information (newsletters & classroom calendars). We'd like to thank you for adapting with us as we've moved through this important process. Making the change from hard copy printed information provides a substantial savings to the school and the church, as well as helping the environment.

Happy New Year to you and your family!

Warmly,

Diane Hensley
Director, Early Learning Center

Thank You, Cutters Club Volunteers for January & February:

January 3-6 – Nicole Crawford, Jennifer Nyberg, Shelli Osthus

January 9-13 – Amy Dahlke, Lisa Wyatt, Kelsey Aikin

January 17-20 – Laura Reynolds, Meredith Jones, Nicole Crawford

January 23-27 – Lisa Loecke, Laura Brown

January 30-February 3 – Sarah Sanftner, Kathleen Worth, Sarah Trospen

February 6-10 – Amy Burd, Jenny Rubino, Suzie Bean

February 13-16 – Wendy Rickert, Julie Harne, Laura Phillips

February 20-24 – Amy Dalke, Gretchen Sandfort, Sharisa Carrington

February 27-March 2 – Shawna Boeding, Gina Swanson, Tricia Evans

