



The Preston Royal Handprint

December 2011/January 2012

Preston Royal Preschool, 5600 Royal Lane, Dallas TX 75229, phone 214-987-3446

Ms. Kitty's Corner



Kitty Ammann, Director

I am certain you will notice significant changes in your child over the holidays. We are always amazed by the leaps in maturity and great strides in comprehension that occur between Thanksgiving and January. At PRP we strive to challenge each child

just enough to promote and encourage the mastery of new skills and competencies, without causing unnecessary frustration. At home keep offering activities to promote fine motor development and keep the environment rich with words used in conversation and to describe all the activities of your child's day. Do keep reading to your child every day. It is the foundation of so many different aspects of learning. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at Preston Royal Preschool!

Celebrations of Many Cultures



The fall and winter seasons feature many holidays, such as Diwali (Hindu Festival of Lights), Eid al Adha (Muslim Festival of Sacrifice for Abraham and Ishmael), Ashura (Muslim Day of Mourning), St. Lucia Day (Sweedish and Norwegian Festival of Light), Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Lunar New Year. PRP teachers will share with children stories, songs and activities for some of these holidays. We do not teach theology, but we do hope to show the children that there are many different customs of the world's cultures. We recommend that you explain your own family's beliefs and customs to your children, and answer questions they may have about the practices and traditions of other families.

Summer and Fall/Spring Applications

Applications for Summer 2012 and Fall/Spring 2012-2013 will be available on Tuesday, January 10, 2012. All current families need to re-apply for next school year. Forms will come home in bookbags and will be available on the PRP website under "Forms." Please share this information with any families that might be interested in joining our preschool. Applications, along with enrollment fees of \$100 for summer and \$200 for fall/spring, are due Tuesday, January 24, 2012.

Date	Happening
12/1-12/6	\$ Tuition Due
12/2	Pizza for Lunch
12/7	Chick-fil-A Spirit Day Fundraiser
12/13	Pizza for Lunch
12/16	Holiday Program, Stone Soup, Crafts 10:30am - noon
12/19-1/2	School CLOSED for Holiday Break
1/3	School RESUMES
1/3-1/6	\$ Tuition Due
1/4	Chick-fil-A Spirit Day Fundraiser
1/10	PRP Applications for Summer 2012 and Fall/Spring 2012-2013 available
1/13	Pizza for Lunch
1/16	School CLOSED for Martin Luther King, Jr Day
1/24	Pizza for Lunch PRP Applications DUE for Summer 2012 and Fall/Spring 2012-2013
1/26 & 1/27	Pajama Day – Students and Teacher wear PJ's to school

*See pages 6 and 7 for a printable calendar

Holiday Program, Lunch, and Crafts for Families—December 16, 10:30—12:00

PRP's holiday program and party is Friday, December 16, 2011. All family members are invited. The program officially starts at 10:30am with the children's program and wraps around noon following a parent/child craft and our lunch inspired by the story Stone Soup.



This year we are trying something new. We will conduct the singing portion of the program in the church sanctuary. We are excited to give all of our parents and grandparents the chance to actually see their child, and not just the heads and backs of other adults. You certainly are still encouraged to sing along with us!

Here is the schedule

9:00am - MWF and 5 day children report to their classrooms with a vegetable to give to their teacher. Vegetable details will come from your child's teacher.

10:15am - TT children report to their classrooms with a dozen muffins, cookies, or crackers that their parents will then take to the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

10:25am - All parents, grandparents, siblings, and parent representatives (if you absolutely can't make it) should settle into seats in the sanctuary with camcorders, iPhones, and big grins.

10:30am – Let the show and fun begin!!

Part A: The Program – The older children enter first and sing a few of the more musically complex songs. Then the rest of the students join them and (most) stay near their teacher to sing songs. If your child has a case of stage fright, he or she may sit with you.

Part B: The Party – Parents, teachers and children go to Fellowship Hall for crafts and soup time. The parent or person who came as parent representative takes responsibility for the child from the teacher once we are in the Fellowship Hall.

Noon - End of party. There is no extended day "lunch bunch." Happy Holidays!

Stone Soup for PRP

In the story Stone Soup, a hungry vagabond declares that he can make soup with only a pot of water and a stone. The onlookers scoff, but one by one, they bring a favorite ingredient believing that no one can make soup without onions, or tomatoes, or carrots. Soon, everyone is treated to a bowl of delicious soup and the chef is a hero. There are many versions of this story that involve animals, soldiers, or a peddler making latkes for Hanukkah. Your child will hear at least one version of the story, and will be invited to add an ingredient to our holiday party lunch on Friday, December 16, 2011

We wish you all the joys of this special time of year: memorable activities with your family, healthy children, planes that take off on time and land safely and peaceful moments in which to enjoy, and appreciate your blessings.

Ms. April, Ms. Autumn, Ms. Caroline, Ms. Carolyn, Ms. Courtney, Ms. Emily, Ms. Gloria, Ms. Karen, Ms. Kim, Ms. Kitty, Ms. Laurie, Senora Mary, Ms. Mary Ann, and Ms. Noelle

Sharing Books and Canned Food

To give children a concrete way of understanding that there is something they can do to help someone, PRP offers two collection boxes in the hallway during December.



One collection box is for new and gently used books for The Family Place, the organization that works to prevent domestic abuse. The book drive is part of PRP tradition.

The second box is for non-perishable food items for the North Texas Food Bank which benefits men, women, and children in need in thirteen North Texas counties. With Sesame Street introducing the muppet Lily, who sometimes does not get enough to eat, the food drive is a simple way for a child to be part of the solution to a complex hunger problem. Every ten pounds of food feeds a family of four for a day. PRP Parents' Club has set a goal to collect 500 pounds of food between Wednesday, November 29 and Wednesday, December 14, 2011



*Filling tables.
Improving lives.*

If you are a Tom Thumb Shopper....



... please add Preston Royal Preschool's organization number 5280 to your reward card. Tom Thumb donates a percentage of your total bill to up to 3 organizations registered to your reward card. Applications are available at PRP's front desk or at the grocery store in customer service.

Picture Plates are Coming to Town

If you ordered a photo plate, it is in progress. Plates will hopefully be available for pick-up on Friday, December 16, 2011.



Updating your child's school forms

If you have moved, changed any phone numbers, or any of your emergency contacts have changed since you filled out your child's enrollment forms, please give us the correct information right away. Also, if your child has had immunizations, hearing or vision screenings since the beginning of school, please help us update his or her health form.

In the News: Preventing Child Abuse

In light of the disturbing news coming from Penn State and The Second Mile, here are some tips from CAPA (Child Abuse Prevention Association) to help parents prevent or detect abuse:

- Be involved in your children's activities.
- Notice when someone spends a lot of time with your child. Talk with your child about what they do, who else is there, what kind of games they play, etc.
- Believe your child. Listen seriously and sensitively to what your child says.
- Teach your child to "Say no, get away, and to tell someone," if anyone tries to touch him or her inappropriately.
- Teach your child, "Your body belongs to you."
- Explain to your child not to keep secrets that feel scary or uncomfortable.
- Go through rules with your babysitter when your child is present.

Also remember:

- Bad things sometimes happen even when we do our best.
- Discuss abuse prevention in a constructive manner, just as you would other safety concerns. Fear does not keep children safe.
- If abuse occurs, it is not the child's fault.
- Report the abuse immediately and seek medical help.
- Remain calm and take what your child says seriously.

For additional information from CAPA, please see <http://www.childabuseprevention.org/>. Also, the Boy Scouts of America has a parent's guide for preventing various types of abuse aimed at boys ages 7 – 13. This information for parents of both boys and girls is available at <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/ypt/pdf/46-015.pdf>

A Big Sister and Brother at PRP

KD McCann and Alex Fernandez welcome a daughter, Camilla Alejandra Fernandez. Congrats to big sister Julianna!



Kelly and Paul Stus welcome a son, Logan Thomas Stus. Congrats to big brother Jonah!

Tips for New PRP Parents

The Holiday Party – As a MWF parent, you do not need to camp out for a good seat in the sanctuary. Drop your child off as usual by 9:00am, go have a cup of coffee, and return to the school around 10:15 to find your seat in the sanctuary.

Next School Year - You will need to submit an application and fee for next school year in order to communicate your wishes on number of school days and lunch bunch days that fit your family and your child's schedule.

Applying to Other Schools

For those families applying to kindergarten or another preschool, please follow these steps to help us send a completed profile on your child.

1. Turn any required forms you get from the other school (permission to release information, evaluation, etc.) to Ms. Kitty, Ms. Emily, or Ms. April at the front desk.
2. Please provide a pre-addressed envelope.
3. The recommendation packet for the first school is free. Packets for additional schools are \$20.00 each. Please turn in the fee with each additional request.
4. It takes us at least 14 days, not including holiday breaks, to complete evaluations and send records. Please get requests to us as soon as you have them.

Clean Closets for April Garage Sale



If you are cleaning out closets and outgrown toys for the new year, please consider saving these items to donate to the PRP all school garage sale on Saturday, April 21, 2012.

Directory Updates

Please make the following updates to your printed directory.




1. New address and phone for Carlos and Olivia Fonts (in Ms. Felch-Feck's class), 13641 Ashridge Drive, Dallas, 75240 Home is 214-335-4387
2. Ms. Autumn's class welcomes Alex Carroll Parents are Elka and Jon Carroll of 4629 Twin Post Road, Dallas TX 75244 Home and Mom's cell 469 363-9477, email is <mailto:elkacarroll@gmail.com>
3. Ms. Laurie's TTH class welcomes Chase Harvey Parents are Kathryn and Steve Harvey of 4433 Lorraine Avenue, Dallas, TX, 75205 Home and Mom's cell-214-205-5887, email is kathrynpiet@aol.com
4. Ms. Noelle's class welcomes Connor Knocke Parents are Sunny and Craig Knocke of 6046 Lupton Drive, Dallas, TX, 75225 Home 214-361-4612 Mom's cell-214-289-5963 and email is sknocke@me.com
5. Ms. Noelle's class welcomes Caroline Trotsuk, (Ms. Mary Ann's granddaughter) Parents are Carol and Patrick Trotsuk of 1305 Marble Cove Lane, Denton, TX, 76210 Home 940-272-1305 Dad's cell 940-594-0457 and email is <mailto:pattrotsuk@hotmail.com>

Keeping Our Children Safe at School

We have noticed some potential hazards and want to alert you.

- No calling or texting once you pull into the school grounds. Is that call really worth the risk?
- Shoes with traction please. Kids slip and fall while climbing and walking in a wet hallway if they wear slick bottom shoes or boots.
- Remove articles from your child's neck that could become entangled on the playground equipment.

New Weather Closure Policy

 Preston Royal Preschool will follow Jesuit High School's decision to close or delay opening due to inclement weather. Please check local television stations or <http://www.jesuitcp.org/> for information when there is ice or snow. If Jesuit announces a delayed opening before or at 10:00 am, we will open at the same time. If Jesuit opens later than 10:00, we will remain closed for the day.

If PRP closes for non-weather related reasons, you will be notified by email and on the Announcement Page of the PRP website. PRP is not affected by gas curtailment.


We changed this policy to "follow Jesuit" since its closure is announced on TV and on its website, and the campus is close enough to have comparable conditions to ours. We do not follow DISD, because it sometimes remains open for budgetary reasons and school lunch program when it is unsafe to risk having small children (their parents and teachers) on the roads for preschool. We understand the impact a school closure has on working parents who must still venture out to their places of employment.

Chick-fil-A Spirit Day on First Wed

Make a run through the drive thru or come inside Chick-fil-A on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 and January 4, 2012 for our spirit day fundraisers. When you place your order, please tell the cashier you wish to support Preston Royal Preschool. This offer is good at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The address of our Chick-fil-A is 12120 Inwood Rd, Dallas TX 75244 (north of Forest, near Lowe's)



Pajama Day – Jan 26 and Jan 27

 On Thursday, January 26 and Friday, January 27, 2012, students and staff wear their pajamas to school as a special treat.

Spotlight on Parent Involvement 2012

Please update your 2012 personal calendar to include these February – May dates for closures and parent events for the remainder of the school year.

Feb 20 – School CLOSED for President's Day
March 3 - Pancake Breakfast and Work Day
March 12 – 16 - School CLOSED for Spring Break
March 24 - Back up Date for Pancake Breakfast and Work Day
April 6-9 – School CLOSED for Easter Break
April 21 – All School Garage sale
May 1 – Parent/Teacher Spring Conference; school CLOSED for students
May 15 - Teacher Appreciation Dinner for Families @ 6:15
May 23 – Last Day of School

Sign up for Summer Session at PRP

The summer session at Preston Royal Preschool meets two days a week and focuses on seasonal and outdoor topics, including the seashore, ocean inhabitants, the rainforest, deserts, mountains and outdoor fun. We purposely slow the pace in the summer, but we continue to learn about exciting new things.







The session is held for June and July on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 AM until 12:50 P.M. Children bring lunch both days. Early arrival care at 8:00am is available in the summer, but Extended Day (aka lunch bunch) is not. The summer session ages are 2-6. The children moving from Ms. Karen's class to Kindergarten are welcome to come back for the summer. The enrollment fee for summer is \$100 and is due Tuesday, January 24, 2012 along with the application. This fee is only refundable if there is no opening for your child. Enrollment for summer school is for the entire session of June and July, unless special arrangements are made with the director.


Prize to Readers of the Handprint

If you are the first, fifteenth, or twenty-eighth parent to email kimberlyroo_93@yahoo.com (there is an underscore between "roo_93"), then you will win a \$5 gift card to Starbucks.

December 2011 at Preston Royal Preschool

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
28	29	30	1 DECEMBER Tuition Due by the 7th 	2 Pizza for Lunch 	3	4
5 <i>Ashura</i>	6	7 Eat at Chick-fil-A for PRP Spirit Day Fundraiser	8	9	10	11
12	13 <i>St Lucia Day</i> Pizza for Lunch 	14	15	16 10:30-noon Holiday Program for Families  No extended day	17	18
19 CLOSED for Holidays	20 CLOSED for Holidays	21 <i>Hanukkah</i> CLOSED for Holidays	22 CLOSED for Holidays	23 CLOSED for Holidays	24	25 <i>Christmas</i>
26 <i>Kwanzaa</i> CLOSED for Holidays	27 CLOSED for Holidays	28 CLOSED for Holidays	29 CLOSED for Holidays	30 CLOSED for Holidays	31	

January 2012 at Preston Royal Preschool

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2 JANUARY CLOSED for Holiday	3 Tuition Due by the 7th 	4 Eat at Chick-fil-A for PRP Spirit Day	5	6	7	8
9	10 Applications for summer and next year available online	11	12	13 Pizza for Lunch 	14	15
16 MLK CLOSED -Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <i>Lunar New Year</i>	24 Applications DUE for summer and next Year  Pizza for Lunch	25	26 Pajama Day - Wear your pj's to school	27 Pajama Day - Wear your pj's to school 	28	29
30	31					