



From the Head of School

Pre-k/Kindergarten Program, Pajama Day, and Lessons & Carols Coming Next Week

Ho! Ho! Ho!

What a busy time! This week, we enjoyed seeing all of the amazing work at the Art Show on Tuesday, and always enjoy having family and friends participate with us during our Wednesday Chapel, especially for our Eucharist. AND we have a busy week coming up!

Come Enjoy the Pre-kindergarten/Kindergarten Holiday Program Next Tuesday

Do not forget to join us in the church on Tuesday, December 15th at 10:00 a.m. to enjoy the Pre-kindergarten /Kindergarten Holiday Program. It does not matter whether you have a child in those grades as it is just too much fun to miss and never fails to get us in the holiday spirit!

Pajama Day News and Notes

Next Thursday morning is Pajama Day, and at 8:15 a.m. our school cheerleaders are going to warm us up with several cheers in the Parish Hall. This will be followed by our annual Story Time and a cup of hot chocolate. Be sure your children's pajamas keep them warm and please do not let the children wear slippers; regular school sneakers or athletic shoes are expected and will help to keep them safe! This year we are expecting the children to either wear actual pajamas or come in uniform. While we realize many wear a wide variety of things to bed, the only thing acceptable this year is actual pajamas

Head of School letter continued on page 2

Pajama Day Dress Code Information

Be sure your children's pajamas keep them warm and please do not let the children wear slippers--regular school sneakers or athletic shoes are expected, and will help to keep them safe! This year we are expecting the children to either wear actual pajamas or come in uniform. While we realize many wear a wide variety of things to bed, the only thing acceptable this year is actual pajamas or their BES uniform. It will be so much easier to enforce, and will help ensure the cheerful spirit for everyone on this special day.



REMINDER: JANUARY HOT LUNCH DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 11TH!

Parents, please remember that tomorrow, December 11th, is the last day to order your child's hot lunches for January.



No Extended Day on Friday, Dec. 18th

Parents, please remember that there will be NO EXTENDED DAY following the *Lessons and Carols* service on Friday, December 18th. Dismissal will be at noon that day.

SIBLING APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR 2010-2011

It's never too early to start thinking about where your children will be attending school next year. Classes are already filling up, so we encourage you to turn in your sibling applications now and avoid the New Year's rush. You can find an application on our website, www.BeachesEpiscopalSchool.org, or you can pick one up directly from our Admissions Director, Heather Wainright.



Head of School letter continued from page 1

or their BES uniform. It will be so much easier to enforce and will help ensure the cheerful spirit for everyone on this special day. We will end the day on Thursday with parties starting at 2:00 p.m., except for the pre-kindergarteners who will celebrate starting at 11 a.m. in the morning.

Reminders about Lessons and Carols Service

All children are to come to school at the regular time on Friday, December 18th, and can wear Christmas dress-up clothing if they wish. This does not mean they can come in jeans and other casual clothing! If they do not wish to dress up, they can wear their regular school uniforms. Please plan to join your child for this very special *Lessons and Carols* service starting at 10:45 a.m. We would like you to sit with your children, so please wait outside of the church to join them as they are entering the church. Each grade level will stand during the service to sing a song that has been specifically chosen for them. We would like you to stand with your children when it is their turn and sing with them. We have many faculty and parents who have made this service possible for our students, and we are most appreciative of their extra effort. After the service, baskets will be in the entry way of the church to collect donations that will be used for financial aid for students who could not otherwise be a part of the BES family. Your generosity will be very much appreciated.

Early Dismissal, No Extended Day on Friday, December 18th

School will be dismissed at noon on Friday, December 18th and there will be no Extended Day, so please remember to pick your children up! There will be no newsletter next week too, but we will send home a reminder about next Friday's activities.

Calvin Coolidge once said, "Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas." Have a great weekend, stay warm, and have a wonderful holiday season!

Bill Stewart
Assistant Head of School

ChurchChat

News from St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church



St. Paul's by-the-Sea Celebrates Christmas

St. Paul's by-the-Sea wishes you a blessed Christmas and Hanukkah. We invite you to join us in the thankful celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Below are the services and times for our Christmas celebration.

Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve): 5 p.m. Family Service,
10:30 p.m. Carols and Festival Eucharist

Dec. 25th (Christmas Day): 10 a.m. Service with Carols

PSO CORNER

ART SHOW: Thank you to all who supported the Art Show and also thank you to all the volunteers.

FISH TANK: The fish tank in Stormes Hall is seeking monthly sponsors. The cost is \$90 and it covers all food and tank cleaning for the month. The monthly sponsors are featured with a photo near the tank, so be sure and check each month to see which family is currently sponsoring the fish! If you are interested in sponsoring our "fish friends" please contact Laurie Warner at 247-9194 or warner01@comcast.net.

SCHOOL STORE OPEN EVERY THURSDAY MORNING: Our sixth grade students will have the School Store open every Thursday morning with cases full of fun and favorite things to purchase. The Smencils and Crazy Bones will be available again this year as well as an assortment of other great items! Come and visit the School Store from 7:45 - 8:00 a.m.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES: There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer at our school. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer in any upcoming events please contact Julie Komaroski at 249-4360 or komarosj@bellsouth.com.

FILL-A-STOCKING CHRISTMAS

OUTREACH PROJECT: Thank you, Kristin Walker, for chairing and everybody for supporting this outreach project. Many stockings were stuffed and children in our community will enjoy a wonderful Christmas thanks to all of you! Our 4th, 5th and 6th graders, along with many parent volunteers, helped to stuff 100 stockings and spread lots of holiday cheer this week. Many thanks to all!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PAJAMA DAY/ HOT CHOCOLATE: December 17th, 2009 at 8:05 a.m.

Volunteers are welcome to help serve the children hot chocolate. This year should be much easier than in the past - we are using chocolate milk, so no mixing needed. Just heat and pour! It is too much fun to miss. Please contact Julie Komaroski if you are able to help at 249-4360 or komarosj@bellsouth.net.





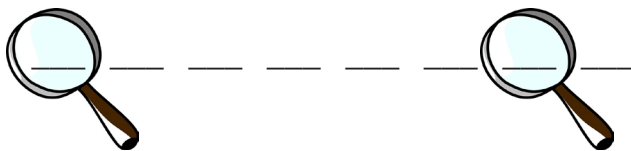
Parent Social Jumbles

*Two words to unscramble because we are out of time,
So look below and follow the rhymes:*

Here's a word to unscramble, with a little twist.
Two letters are needed to add to your list.
Once you've gathered all the letters, you might just be,
the winner of the tickets to the Social and a movie!

Unscramble this word:

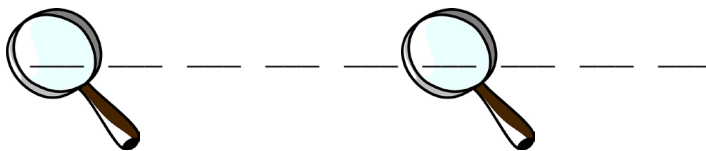
E Y E L U D I T



We hope you and your family have a joyful Christmas season.
What a wonderful time of year - "Jesus is the reason!"
When we return from school, we'll be curious to see,
who has unscrambled all the words to find the "Social Theme" mystery!

**The final word is also listed this week.
Two letters from this scramble you must seek.**

T E L M E O S I T



My days as a poet are now drawing near,
I'll see you at the Social, March 5th of next year!

Last week's word was "Gingerbread" and the letter we were looking for was the letter N.

Grandma Says

"Grandma Says" is a feature of Growing Child Magazine

NO MORE PACIFIER FOR PIGGY

Bernette Ford and Sam Williams Boxer Books, 2008

In this simple little tale, Piggy discovers that when he tries to talk with his friend Duck, or even smile at him, his pacifier gets in the way.

When he begins to play with Duck, he drops his pacifier on the ground. But fortunately, he has a backup in his pocket. Nodding happily, he is ready to play again. Then he has such a good time that he laughs, and the pacifier drops to the ground again.

When alas, he has no more pacifiers, he is at a loss about what to do, since his chief activity has been to use and hold his pacifier. His wise friend Duck points out that he is missing all the fun.

Piggy then has the good sense to realize the truth in this observation, and then begins to talk and play happily-at the same time.

At this time when the American Academy of Pediatrics is recommending pacifier use as prevention for SIDS, many parents and kids may find themselves in the situation where the pacifier becomes a habit long after its use has served its purpose.

Some children just seem to enjoy the sensory pleasure of the pacifier more than others. My youngest son was happiest when he had one in his mouth, and one in each hand, frequently lovingly rubbing one on his cheek, so I know whereof I speak. (His older brother used a pacifier briefly as a baby, but when it had gone missing during a trip, he never looked back.)

So, what to do when the pacifier seems to be getting

in the way of happy development--when children are so "plugged-in" that they are not able to talk or laugh freely, and when other kids begin to look at them oddly? This is when a pattern of behavior could truly become a problem, when children are not able to move on.

With very young children, social and language development are not so affected, so, though parents may not like it, the pacifier has not yet become a problem.



In some communities, the "Passy Fairy" makes a visit to carry off the loved pacifier, ready or not. In earlier times, I remember when parents used to be advised to put an obnoxious substance on the thumbs of children who sucked their thumbs. But with sucking pacifiers (or thumbs, or carrying blankets, or any other habit), it is usually best if the child can see the sense in abandoning the no longer needed practice, rather than having the matter decided and controlled by parents.

When parents arbitrarily decide the time has come to give up a loved object, children are frequently left feeling powerless, wondering what just happened to them.

Just as in the story, Piggy discovered that the pacifier was not necessary, and even got in the way, so too children need to learn that they do not have to depend on the objects, coming to that time of readiness themselves. This happens slowly, as parents help them to wean themselves away, such as by limiting the pacifier to stay in their room for a while, and then pointing out gently how much fun the child had playing without it, or remarking how well the child could sing (or talk!) when there was nothing in the mouth.

Even reading a book like this starts the child thinking about her own pacifier. At some point, she will come to the point where she can say, happily, "No more pacifier."