

DAY SCHOOL NEWS

Newsletter of St. Thomas Day School
3602 Hawthorne Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Where Learning is Fun!

JANUARY 2010

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a wonderful break and made fun memories with your families! It is hard to believe that we are already in 2010 and enrollment will begin for the 2010/2011 school year soon...February 1st to be exact! Priority Enrollment (current families, alumni and church members) begins on February 1st and then enrollment opens to the public on March 1st. Forms will be sent out by mid January and will also be available on the website. Please remember that you must attach the registration fee to your application to reserve your spot. If you have any questions, please let me know.

-Kelly

FOUR AND FIVE YEAR OLD CLASS

Teachers: Joan Bowles and Kelly Kane

Thank you to all who sent in gently used toys for the Food Pantry. We collected a lot of toys and distributed them on three Thursdays in December. All of the donated items were used! Thank you also for the donations for our Angel Tree children...because of your generosity there were some happy children on Christmas morning! In December we learned about Christmas and Holiday's Around the World and also had some

parents come in and share their family customs. We finished our color review and talked about the number 9. We also worked on the letters Jj, Kk, and Ll. We made a lot of Christmas projects and listened to Holiday music. We ended the month with a fun Christmas Party on the last day of school! In January we will talk about Winter, work on our skill booklets and continue working on our letters. We are very excited to have Miss Carter starting in January! Happy New Year!!!

Miss Joan & Miss Kelly

MIXED AGE CLASS

Teachers: Laura Harbison and Diana Vicenti

Happy 2010!! We hope you had a relaxing and safe Holiday season. December was such a fun month at St. Thomas. We started off with Holiday's around the World, we looked at Bolivia, Puerto Rico, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa traditions. The Christmas theme always lends itself to lots of awesome art projects and we did not disappoint!! We had fun making pine cone Christmas trees with Rudolf, gingerbread houses, reindeer food and we especially hope you loved your special ornament! Thank you to Maria and

Suzi for a wonderful class party....and to Charles Arthur for entertaining us with his mandolin and guitar.

Next month we will talk about Winter, Forest Animals, Dental Health and Germs!

Everyone has had marked improvements in their fine motor skills and we are so proud of them!

Keep up the good work.

THREE-DAY CLASS

Teachers: Rebecca Shigley and Lisa Wilkes

Is December over already?!!! This month we talked about Christmas around the world. We made Menorah's, Kwanza necklaces, and star of David ornaments! We also created Santa's out of gourds and Christmas Tree pine cones! We hope that you all enjoyed the gifts that the kiddos created for their families! We had a lot of fun this month! Thank you to the mom's who came and provided a fun filled party for our three day friends! Weren't the snowman marshmallows so cute? Another big thank you to all the families who donated gently used toys to the food pantry! Those donations were greatly appreciated by local families in need! Thank you too for all the generous toys and clothes that were also donated for the Angel Tree! The Day School collected so much that we were able to give to a third child in need! This is such a great lesson that we were able to share with the kiddos! Thank you again for making a difference this year in the lives of people in need! We hope that everyone had a safe and happy Holiday season, and that you enjoyed the snow! We look forward to a busy and fun filled new year!

TWO-DAY CLASS

Teachers: Rebecca Shigley and Lisa Wilkes

Glitter Glitter and more Glitter, that sums up December! We talked about Christmas's around the world and the Christmas season! We were very crafty, made lots of homemade gifts and sang Christmas Carols! Thank you to our moms who stepped up and helped with a wonderful Christmas party for our two day friends! Thank you too to our generous families who donated lots of gently used toys for the food pantry! Rebecca and I were there the days that the food pantry distributed them and the families were beyond grateful! Another wonderful Thank you to all the families that donated for the angel tree. Between all the classes we collected so much that we were able to give to an extra child in need this holiday season! What a wonderful lesson that we are able to share with the kiddos! We hope that you enjoyed your holiday season and we look forward to a fun and busy new year!

SIBLING RIVALRY

Rivalry happens between children in most families. Having a brother or sister is wonderful, but it doesn't mean they will always get along. The good news is that in most cases, the difficulties will be worked out without doing too much damage to the "rivals" or their eventual relationship. Rivalry within limits can even be a learning experience. They get practice in developing problem solving skills and learning how to negotiate, make compromises and share. It is okay for siblings to have negative feelings about each other, but it is not okay to hurt each other.

Parents can help by:

- *Allowing negative feelings to be shared within the family. It's okay to get mad.
- *Encourage children to talk about their feelings.
- *Remaining calm and not getting upset when children talk about how they feel.
- *Recognizing the individual differences, talents and interests between children. Avoid comparisons between children.
- *Showing problem-solving skills to children, such as how to listen to each other and how to think about and make choices before taking action.
- *Setting limits and ground rules for working out problems and then backing off!
- *Paying more attention to children when they are cooperating than when they are fighting. Catch them being good.

Parents should learn to allow and encourage children to work things out between themselves whenever possible. Parents can assist the process by setting some basic ground rules (e.g. no hitting, hurting, etc...). Then after the rules are understood, parents can step back to put the responsibility for solving problems into their children's hands.

St. Thomas Day School follows Richmond City Public Schools for closings and delays. If Richmond City Public Schools are CLOSED, we are CLOSED. If Richmond City Public Schools have a 1-hour delay, then we will open at 9:00am with no early time program. If Richmond City Public Schools have a 2-hour delay, then we will open at 10:00am and extended day will be offered Monday-Thursday.

2009-2010 BOARD MEMBERS

Kirk Candler- Chairperson
Tracey Wingold- Secretary
Ed Riley
Susannah Raine-Haddad
Fiona Tower
Kinsey Thomas
Suzanne Vinson
Stacy Murphy-Johnson
Rob Peck
Nancy Marston-Rechenbach

TAX ID NUMBER

Tax Time is right around the corner. Our Tax ID # is 540600404 for those who need it for tax purposes.

REMINDER FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER