



Paradise Valley Cooperative School

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DECEMBER '09 NEWSLETTER

Director News

Melanie

Program Evaluation: Please go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=R7H9kIKHhTqpQXGnoZ8o9w3d3d> to complete the Fall Program Evaluation! I decided to do this online to save paper!

FT Families Holiday Plans: Sign up sheets are posted outside each FT door! Please sign up for the days you WILL attend! There may be space for some drop in care of PT families! Watch for more news.....

Enrollment Promotion: We enrolled 3 new full-time families last month, but unfortunately 3 part-time families left! Please continue to spread the good word about our programs! This promotion will end on December 31st!

Parent's Night Out: There is so much going on this month, I hope you will take some time with your spouse and leave your kids safe at PVCS on Saturday, December 12 from 3pm-8pm! Do some shopping or go to dinner! Sign up in the lobby if you'd like to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!! \$25 for one child, \$20 each for two or more in a family!

Holiday Performance and Dinner: In the past, we have had a potluck on the night of the performance, but I decided to make it easier and have ARENA catered in! They are giving us a great deal, so I hope you will all come at 5:30 before the show at 6:30 for dinner with the PVCS community! Each adult dinner ordered comes with a free kid's meal! We need an accurate count by December 16th so sign up in the lobby if you will join the feast!

SNOW: It has become an annual tradition for a big pile of SNOW to be delivered to our playground on the day of the performance so dress your kids in winter apparel and come with your camera! Snow will be delivered by 9 am on December 17th! If your child does not attend on Thursdays normally, please feel free to stop by and play with your child anytime!

Fundraising News

Melanie

I moved the "brick wall" to the lobby! We have made about \$1200 so far this year! Thanks to everyone who has participated in the various events so far: Bake Sale, Art by Me, Barnes & Noble and Sweet Tomatoes Family Night, the Fall Festival and the leftover chips/treats sales in the lobby! And thanks especially to those families who put each event together!!

This month we will have Parent's Night Out and a Scholastic Book Fair! And in January a Family Night at CHUCK E. CHEESE! Save January 11th for an evening with our PVCS community and Chuck E.!! Chuck E. will stop by the school in the afternoon to personally invite us to join him at his place that evening! More details coming soon!!!

Some of the money we've earned will go for our SNOW this month, plus I am planning to build a wall between rooms 1 and 2 sometime in January. I'll need some volunteers, so look for more info. Coming soon!!!

INFANT News

It's Christmas time, the best time of the year!

November was a good month we had a lot of fun. But there is some sad news, baby Chase will be out for the next couple of months & we will all miss him very much. Can't wait till he comes back. But don't worry, Tatum, Victoria & I will hold down the fort!

For the month of December we will continue to work on our physical development as well as our communication skills. We will also be doing a little bit of arts & crafts.

I hope you all have a blessed month & a great Christmas! And remember to sign up for Parent's Night Out! I will be with the younger kids-babies and one year olds!!

Teacher Citha



IMPORTANT DATES IN DECEMBER

- December 11:** CC Reports
- December 12:** Parent's Night Out
- December 13:** Staff Dinner
- December 17:** Holiday Performance and Dinner AND Snow delivered by 9am!!
- December 14-18:** Scholastic Book Fair
- December 18:** Last day before Winter Break for Part-time Families
- December 24-25:** NO SCHOOL!
- January 1:** NO SCHOOL!
- January 4:** Part-time classes resume

Nutcracker
at the Orpheum Theater; featuring several PVCS students and teacher's daughters. December 22nd and 23rd. Tickets on sale through Ticketmaster or the theater.

PT Twos News

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families and loved ones. Thank you to everyone who helped out with our classroom feast. The food was delicious and we enjoyed the company of our family guests. We're glad you could come and watch the children sing their Turkey Song.

Cognitive: Last month, we focused on activities that used the different senses (tasting, seeing, touching and smelling). We'll continue in December with the sense of hearing. In preparation for our winter program, we listen to and sing different songs and "make music" with different objects. We'll try to identify some mystery sounds and compare loud and quiet noises.

Social / Emotional: We'll continue to practice some pro-social skills. Asking to join a game or activity, and respecting each others' personal space and verbal requests are social skills that foster a gentle and caring classroom.

Language / Literacy: In our circle time, we'll take the time to talk about the holidays. If your family has a holiday tradition, please let us know so we can use these as talking points for our class to encourage group discussions and help increase our vocabulary.

Physical/ Gross: We'll try out some games like Simon Says, Follow the Leader, and Red Light Green Light, so we can follow auditory (listening) and visual cues, and keep our bodies active.

Fine: We'll introduce some tracing activities and lacing games to develop some fine motor skills.

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for the Winter Program and Dinner on Thursday, December 17th. Our children will also be making art and craft projects so we look forward to having our parent helpers in class this month!

As the temperatures continue to drop, please make sure that the children are dressed in warmer clothes. Check those backpacks to make sure that their extra clothes are also appropriate for this chilly weather. Please continue to read the weekly emails for current updates to our schedules and important reminders for this month.

Progress reports will be distributed on December 11th; there are no parent teacher conferences for this term, but you're welcome to schedule one if you'd like to meet to discuss your child's report. As always we're for you if you have any other questions and concerns about your child.

Teachers Lynda & Teacher Jennifer

PT Threes News

November was a fun filled month in the three's class. We talked a lot about fall (leaves, the changes in the weather) and Thanksgiving. Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Thanksgiving feast so much fun – we appreciate your help! We are thankful for all of the time that you spend helping in our classroom – we love having an extra set of hands around. Since November went by so quickly we will be carrying over some of our learning goals into next month. December is such an exciting month with so many fun holidays. Our class will be doing lots of fun gingerbread and holiday activities, and we will also talk about some of the traditions of Christmas and Hanukah.

Social Emotional – We are going to continue to work on circle time behavior. The kids are beginning to get the idea of taking turns to talk at circle time. We are going to keep practicing those important skills, as well as encouraging kids to actively participate in counting games that require following directions and taking turns. This month we will also be talking about family traditions related to the holidays. These discussions will help us identify how our families are the same and different.

Cognitive – The kids have been enjoying the counting activities that we have been doing at the math table and circle time. We will keep working on counting groups of objects as well as recognizing numbers. At circle time we will play some counting and number recognition games and read some counting stories. Our dramatic play area is going to be transformed into a toy store this month. The students can role play buying holiday gifts for friends and family. At the end of the month we will even add wrapping paper and tape so the kids can practice wrapping presents. As many of you know, kids tend to use lots of tape when they are wrapping presents, so if you have some extra rolls of scotch tape feel free to bring them to school, we will put them to good use. We could also use wrapping paper if you have extra at home.

Language and Literacy – This month we will be reading lots of fun holiday stories. We will encourage students to join in and read along as we read stories that are repetitive, like The Gingerbread Man. In the writing center we are going to continue to work on writing our names, and we will be making holiday cards. If you have any holiday cards, blank cards, envelopes or holiday stickers that you would like to contribute to our writing center we would appreciate it!

Physical – We will be using our fine motor skills to grasp markers as we begin to practice writing our names. At the art center we will use a variety of paint brushes, markers and crayons. We will also be doing some holiday beading projects, which are great for hand eye coordination. As the students create at the art table they are developing fine motor control that

will help them develop the coordination they need to form letters and write their names.

Wow! We have a lot planned for such a short month – there are only 3 weeks of school in December. Each class will be having a holiday party, so watch for more information coming soon. Also, Thursday, December 17th will be the PVCE Holiday Dinner (5:30) & Performance (6:30). ARENA will be catering pasta & salad dinner-tickets on sale early Dec. We hope to see you there! Thanks!

Teacher Paula, Teacher Debbie and Teacher Lisa

PT Fours News

November was a fun filled month in the four's class. Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Thanksgiving feast so much fun and successful! We loved learning what all the children were thankful for and that they tried something new. December is an exciting but short month and we will be focusing on traditions and learning about the different holidays.

Social Emotional – This month we will learn more about manners as well as expanding on our conflict resolution skills.

Cognitive – We will be learning about traditions across the world including Mexico, Italy and Sweden as well as in our families for the December holidays. We will also be working on patterns and matching for one to one correspondence in math. For science we will have some fun and different textures for the kids to experiment with in the discovery table.

Language and Literacy – We will be reading all about the December holidays and learning vocabulary associated with those holidays and traditions. We will also work on another class book together about our own traditions. Writing letters to Santa and making holiday cards will also develop our writing skills.

Physical – We'll be doing lots of tracing and cutting this month to work on our fine motor skills. Outside we'll be practicing kicking, throwing and catching.

We have a lot great art and activities planned for such a short month – there are only 3 weeks of school in December. Our class will be planning a holiday party for Wednesday, December 16th, so watch for more information about that. Included in our party will be a book exchange so that all of the kids will go home with a gift from a friend.

Teacher Terry & Teacher Kristen

PT Toddler News

November was a busy month in the toddler's class. We had a lot of fun learning about big and small in different ways and the kids enjoyed playing with each other every day. We talked a lot about sharing toys, which belong to everyone and about how we need to take turns doing activities. Playing with the bubbles in and out of class and splashing water was something they really enjoyed and it gave them lots of energy.

In the month of December we will work on decorating cards and snow flakes. We also will talk about the holidays by reading different stories, and doing some art projects. Finally, we will discuss the cold weather & snow and what we should be wearing by dressing up like a snowman which we will be making soon.

I'm looking forward to a great time preparing for the upcoming holidays!

Teacher Lama

FT Twos News

December is here and the sharing season has arrived! This month is a great time to talk about how important it is to share and make friends. There are so many fun and creative Christmas activities and this month ends with a fun Christmas party. Last month we all worked very hard on our Thanksgiving song. Having all of the parents come for the end of the month party made it a very special occasion. Just these last couple of days it has gotten a lot colder, don't forget to start bringing jackets and a hat for the cold mornings.

Cognitive: This month the unit that we will be focusing on centers around winter, sharing, Christmas, and family. When working on the "winter" theme we will be working with how the seasons are different. We will discuss how animals migrate and also how other animals hibernate. We want to continue working with sharing. We will be creating gifts for our family and friends that we make with our own hands.

Social/Emotional: Christmas is a great time to allow our students to reinforce these skills. A central aspect of our school is creating a community where the parents and children are all happy to make something special and learn. We finalize the month with a big Christmas party where all of the families in the school celebrate a fun year of community and learning.

Language and Literacy: Our stories will focus on winter and Christmas. The books will have central characters based on Christmas and winter themes. We normally start the first week with a fun book and repeat that book, among others, throughout the month.

Physical: Winter is coming and the temperatures are starting to drop. It isn't as cold as some of the more northern states, however as we have seen over the last couple of days it can get pretty cold. Let's start early this year and have our students get in the habit of wearing their jackets and hats to keep warm. With the cold months come more

colds and flu and we want our students to stay healthy and happy. We wash our hands a lot in school! Please continue to reinforce washing hands at home. ☺

Parents: The Thanksgiving party was a great success and I would like to thank all of the parents for coming in and helping. Everyone was so cute and the song that the children learned went very well. These parties are a great addition to building a sense of community in the classroom and without your help this wouldn't be possible.

Miss Dulce Harbison

FT Threes News

The month of November seems to fly by! I trust all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and some good family time. Thank you for coming to our show. The kids might not have sung very loud but they sure did look cute! This past month we worked on patterns, letter recognition, and shapes. All the kids can identify the first letter of their name. In December we are going to work on recognizing all the letters in our names. The children enjoyed making all the Thanksgiving and turkey crafts. We worked hard on directional words, like "Up", "Over", "Next To", and "Under" by playing with the turkey on the stick craft.

In December we will begin the month learning about opposites and continuing with directional words. We will get in the holiday spirit and begin talking about all the different holidays in December. We will focus on the colors Red, Green and Blue.

Cognitive (Math/Science) We will start the month by introducing opposites: In/Out, Big/Small, Over/Under, Back/Front. With toys on all the children's minds, we will compare and sort different toys in the classroom. We will also continue to work on patterning; the children have really improved with their patterning skills.

Language/Literacy We will discuss the different holidays in the month of December and learn some new vocabulary pertaining to holidays such as Christmas, Hanukah, Christmas Carols, and Menorah. We will focus on the colors green, red and blue and make class books about the colors. We will introduce some new games called Name Bingo, and Blind Pick. Both of which will work on letter recognition.

Social/Emotional I learned that the children are "thankful" for a lot of things this past month! We will continue to talk about gratefulness, traditions, and families. We will also discuss the importance of both giving and receiving gifts during the holiday season.

Physical (Fine/Gross) We will be playing a lot of "Follow The Leader" and "Simon Says" to practice directional words (inside/outside, over/under, and up/down). Tracing and cutting is a daily activity that helps build fine motor control. We will continue to work with scissors and tracing.

As a reminder to parents, please check your child's mailbox/cubby for daily artwork or important paper work. In addition to our Sunday email updates, we will be posting upcoming information and/or important events on our

classroom door. Also, please remember to sign up on the classroom door for the holidays as to which days your child will be attending school, so we can be properly staffed. Look for more information about a holiday program.

Thank you for all your support. We are looking forward to a great month!

Teacher Erin and Teacher Debbi

CLASSIFIED/WANTED ADS

Free Classified/Wanted advertising for current families: Please submit a 50 word or less classified ad to sell or buy anything from A-Z to melaniejo@cox.net by 25th of month for placement in next PVCS monthly newsletter.

Gift drive!

Ashlyn, Kristen's daughter is collecting gently used or new clothes, toys, games and gifts for the children living at Sunshine Acres Childrens Home. There are 120 children ages 5-18 and are mostly boys. Please wrap gifts and indicate if for boy or girl and what age. Thanks!!

NEEDED:

PLASTIC COKE BOTTLES-shaped liked ornaments! FROM WAL-MART (Turn in to Teacher Terry)

Thomas Train table, play board, 85 piece set and Roundhouse - \$175 bps123@cox.net

