

Dover Bethany ELC

December 2017

Christmas Pageant

The children will be performing for our annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 17th at 9:15 am. All of the children will be singing songs or performing skits with their classes. Even the babies will be participating! This is the second time that DBELC has been invited to hold our Christmas pageant on a Sunday during DBUMC church service. We are extremely excited to have this opportunity and we are eager to take advantage of it. This is, after all, our biggest and most important center event of the entire year! We know how busy the holiday season is for everyone, so hopefully you will be able to join us! Your presence at the pageant is crucial. Without your children, there would be no pageant. :) We are asking on that Sunday morning, please have all children here and ready to go by 9:00 am. We will be meeting downstairs. All young and older toddlers can meet in the Older Toddler Classroom (the middle room). All preschoolers and pre-kindergarteners can meet in the Pre-Kindergarten Classroom, and all school-agers can meet in the School-Aged Classroom. When dropping your children off in those assigned classrooms, your children may be uneasy. It is out of their routine, and we expect that. Please allow us to handle the transition while you return to the sanctuary to find a seat. We can't wait to see you there! The children enjoy sharing these moments with you!

DBUMC Christmas Eve Services

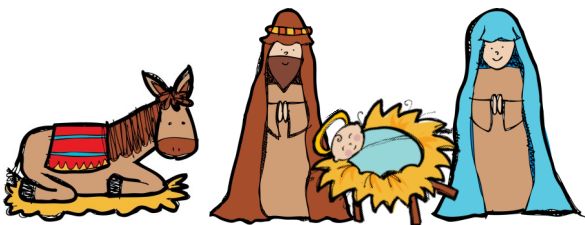
7:00 and 8:30 pm

Join us on Christmas Eve as we prepare for the coming of Christ our LORD into the world. There will be worship, a message, and special music as we embrace the Advent season. Invite friends and family and worship with us on that special evening.

Christmas Day Service

10:00 am

Take time on Christmas morning to worship our Lord Jesus.



For onto us a
child is born.
Isaiah 9:6



Holiday Schedule

DBELC will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Monday, January 1st. Please fill out the holiday schedule in your child's classroom for when your child will be attending during the holiday week so I can schedule staff accordingly.

2018 Tuition Reminders

DBELC accepts payment in the form of cash, personal check, or money order. We also offer automatic withdrawal of your tuition payment (forms are at the Parent Board), which is a simple and stress-free way to pay your tuition. Payment is due on Monday mornings. Any payment received after 9:00 am on Tuesday is considered late and a \$10.00 late fee will be attached to your account. Place tuition payments in the tuition drop box outside of my office. Please do not give payments to teachers or other personnel of DBELC or DBUMC. Unless paying in cash, you do not need to put your payment in an envelope. Please write your child's name in the memo line of your check. All unpaid tuition must be paid to the center by the end of this year. Any unpaid balances will result in suspension of your child's enrollment until the balance has been paid.

Thanks, Parents!

Thanks to all who attended and donated food for our Thanksgiving Feast! Everybody left with full bellies and smiling faces! We really appreciate when families are able to attend this event as it is an opportunity for the teachers and staff of DBELC to show our appreciation to all of our families for trusting in us and allowing us to be a big part of your child's development. Thank you to everyone who attended the Operation Christmas Child packing party. With everyone's help, the church was able to pack and ship over 1,000 boxes to needy children all

Breakfast Changes

Starting this week, breakfast will be served from 7:45-8:30 am. If your child arrives before 7:45 am, please take your child directly to the appropriate classroom. All children eating breakfast must arrive and come to the cafeteria by 8:20 am.

Emergency Operations Plan

Each December, I take the opportunity to remind you of our emergency evacuation and operations plan. Each year, our plan is reviewed and any changes are approved by York County Emergency Management and Operations. The Northern York County Regional Police are notified each year of our location, operating hours, and general enrollment numbers. All staff members receive yearly fire safety and emergency plan training. We are certified in both Pediatric First Aid and CPR. In the case of fire or other internal emergency, teachers' priority is to get the children and themselves out of the building to a safe location as quickly as possible. Evacuation routes are mapped in each classroom and practiced regularly. At the sound of the fire alarm, teachers are required by state regulation to get the children out of the building as they are as quickly as possible, regardless of weather conditions. Once the children and teachers are out of the building, we gather at our meeting location, which is along the fence by the basketball courts. Attendance is taken and a plan of action for the children and for contacting parents is developed. In the case that we would need to seek shelter, our shelter location is Pastor Sal's house directly next to the church. If an emergency were to take place and we needed to seek shelter or safety in a secured location within the building, we have determined "safe zones," that include all areas without outside windows, such as bathrooms. If a confrontation or intruder would occur in the building, we enter "lock down" mode, that signals teachers to lock all classroom doors and gather the children as far from sight as possible. If a situation would arise that would prevent us from leaving the building, we are prepared and have enough supplies available to bunker down for at least 72 hours. Our emergency plan is always available for you to review at the parent board. You may review the copy available, but please do not take it. If you have any questions or concerns, contact me.

Ms. Trish's Vacation

I will be on vacation and unreachable from January 8th through January 19th. If you have any issues or concerns that arise during that time period, please see your child's class's appropriate group leader: Ms. Sam (infants and toddlers) or Ms. Shana (preschool and pre-kindergarten). All school-aged questions can be addressed to Ms. Sandy. Any payment, scheduling, or business related questions can be directed to Ms. Shana. In an emergency situation, you may contact Pastor Sal at 717-292-2716. Please know that I will also be unable to respond to email communications during that time period.

Infants

What a wonderful time of year as we celebrate Christmas and the most special gift of all, Jesus. Our little angels are growing so quickly. November was very eventful in the baby room. We took a few walks outside, sang Thanksgiving songs, and read a lot of fall themed books! Thank you to all the parents who provided food for our Thankful Feast. In December we are very excited to make Christmas crafts and practice singing for our pageant on December 17th. This is our last couple of weeks with Ms. Amy, as she will be leaving at the end of December to continue teaching dance and drama. We will miss her but we wish her luck and know that we will be seeing her back with us soon! Please be sure to keep your child's extra clothes bag stocked with size and weather appropriate clothing!

Young Toddlers

We can hardly believe it's December already! We would like to welcome Avalon to our class! She is very observant and definitely getting well acquainted. Happy birthday to our big two year olds: Braylee, Nolan, and Brianna! We love watching them grow. In November, we made fall color wreaths that you can see decorating our hallway. We also made Indian corn with

bingo dotters. We did a lot of hand motions and songs for November. Our favorite song of the month was *Scarecrow, Scarecrow* (printed below). Our sign language for November was turkey! Christmas will be here before we know it and we have already started preparing for it. In December, we will be learning about winter, Christmas, and the birth of baby Jesus. We have begun practicing our songs for the Christmas Pageant. Please make sure you let us know if you will be attending. We would like to encourage all of our friends to attend the Christmas Pageant. Our friends work hard and are excited about it!

Scarecrow, Scarecrow

Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle

Scarecrow scarecrow turn around.
Scarecrow, scarecrow touch the ground.
Stand up tall and blink you eyes.
Raise your hands up to the sky.
Clap your hands,
Then tap your knees.
Turn around and tap your feet.
Scarecrow, scarecrow touch your toes.
Scarecrow, scarecrow tap your nose.
Swing your arms so very slow,
Now real fast to scare the crows!
Touch your head, jump up and down.
Now sit down without a sound!



Toddlers

Thanksgiving flew by and Christmas snuck right in! We can't believe it is December already, but we are very excited to let the holiday season inspire us. In December, we will be focusing a lot on our senses and sensory activities (what is cold, warm, smelly, smooth, rough, soft, hard, etc).

We will also be focusing on the color red and all things merry. We enjoyed learning about the color brown (all things fall) and all the different things we could find that are brown. We will be having our class's Christmas party on December 20th, pajama day on December 22nd, and show'n'tell on December 29th. Please bring in something RED to share that day. We are busy practicing for the Christmas Pageant! Please let us know if your child will be able to attend the pageant on December 17th. As a morning reminder, please make sure to drop your child's belongings off in our classroom at the beginning of the day. Do not allow your child to take items into the young toddler class or leave items in that class in the morning at drop off. It is tough for us to get upstairs to check for misplaced items every morning.



Preschool

For the last two weeks of November we covered community helpers that we see at the places we go. We read stories about doctors, nurses, dentists, and teachers. We talked about how they help us and the tools they use. We looked at some different kinds of animal teeth noticing how big they were compared to ours. We also did a week of cashiers, bus drivers, and garbage collectors. We counted coins as we put them in a bank, took turns being the cashier, and made trucks go under bridges/through tunnels. We made a chart about what we want to be when we're older; it can be found above the circle time calendar. We have started decorating for December and Christmas, by putting up/decorating our tree, making our own elves, making chain garland and a wrapping a big star topper for the tree. We have been practicing our Christmas program songs. We will be singing reindeer songs; we are excited to sing them for families and friends at the Christmas Pageant! Our friends have been talking about the silly things their elves have been doing and getting their decorations out at home. The next two weeks will be full of more Christmas fun. We will be making a gift for our families, listening to festive music, and doing some baking. As always, please be at school by 9:00 to get the most out of our circle time and learning activities. We plan busy days to keep our friends learning and making good choices. Make sure your child has extra clothes for the colder weather, including a spare pair of shoes in case of accidents. We will go outside daily too, so please send gloves, hat, and winter coat to bundle up. Fresh air is the best defense against germs!

Pre-Kindergarten

During the month of November, we used trees and the story of Thanksgiving to help us explore math concepts, art activities, and cultural differences. We used leaves and nuts to create number sequences, counting, identifying 1-10, and sorting by attributes. We are also introducing the concept of addition and subtraction using the tree elements. The tree parts, such as the bark and leaves, we used for texture rubbings and exploring individual creativity.

We appreciate your efforts at home in completing the thankful "leaves" homework assignment! Our Thankful Tree is filled with personal stories and thoughtful messages. Our class was very excited to learn about the story of Thanksgiving through song and fingerplays. The children are now aware of the cultural background of the Native Americans. We explored Native American music, clothing, lifestyles, agriculture, and beliefs. We made number dream catchers, which incorporated lacing and fine motor skills.

Our Thankful Feast was delicious! Thank you to all the families who were able to attend and/or donate food items. We hope you loved our "turkey dinner" song! If you weren't able to attend, a video of our performance was uploaded to the DBELC Facebook page. Please check it out!

We look forward to our activities and projects coming up in December. It will be a busy month, as the holiday season tends to be. As the end of the year draws near, the excitement of Christmas builds! We have begun practicing for the upcoming Christmas Pageant. We encourage all DBELC families to attend this year's pageant!

We would like to send out a BIG "Thank you!" to Riggins's mom, Mrs. Keeny, for the holiday scented playdough that she made for our class. It is a big hit!



School Age

Season's greetings! As November draws to a close, the school-agers have begun their preparation for the holidays! We hope that each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that the children enjoyed spending their Thanksgiving break with us. Our Laserdome field trip was AMAZING! The kids had a blast (and so did we)! Our only complaint was that our time went too quickly and before we knew it, it was time to go home. The children were extremely well-behaved and kind to each other during the trip, which made us very proud of each and every one of them. It may be a little while before we can take another big trip like that, but we appreciate all the families who allowed their child to attend the field trip and the children for working so diligently to earn the trip. Some pictures are posted below! With the holiday season upon us and Christmas quickly approaching, hot topics of conversation include food and restaurants (I am sure that you cannot imagine that big kids like to eat!) and what we want for Christmas. We tasted and voted on popcorn samples and voted for our favorites for an upcoming fundraiser. Hopefully we will have the fundraiser information before Christmas. We will be doing some fun Christmas projects and talking about the birth of Jesus and the real meaning of Christmas. We are continuing to work on social skills, specifically using kind words (not calling each other names) and speaking to each other and teachers respectfully. Homework club is still going strong. Remember that it only lasts for 15-20 minutes. Kids may continue to do homework after that time, but the other children are allowed to move around the room and get noisy. We do have a schedule change. We have decided that instead of going directly downstairs for snack after we get off the bus, we are going to spend some time outside or in the bike room to get rid of some of our pent up energy from school. We are excited to plan some fun activities during the holiday break, such as a movie day, Christmas present Show'n'Tell, game day, and a very special fondue day (cheese and chocolate)! Please keep an eye out in our classroom for upcoming events. Please remember to fill out the holiday week attendance plan sheet, so we can anticipate how many school-aged friends will be with us.

Because our Christmas pageant is on a Sunday again this year, the school-agers have the opportunity to participate. We are very excited, but we need to know which friends have permission to participate and can attend the pageant that Sunday (December 17th). We will be acting out the Nativity Story. Only children who are able to attend the Christmas pageant will be given parts so please make sure that if you sign-up to participate, your child will be able to attend the pageant. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside of our classroom. Please sign-up soon! We need to start practicing!

We are currently working with Ms. Rhea, from the STARS program, to continue improving the quality of our before and after school program. You may notice some positive and exciting changes in our classroom coming soon.

