



PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

January 10, 2021

BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR! We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and New Year's Day. It is so nice to be back, with all the children's happy faces.

SNOW! This week, we learned about snow. Did you know that every single snowflake starts as a speck of dust?! The water clings to the dust and freezes, forming a crystal. The children learned many other facts about snow, too. Snowflakes are all different, just as God made us as His unique and precious children. During Jesus' Time, we followed the Wise Men to visit the baby Jesus, and were relieved to learn that Jesus' parents fled to Egypt, escaping wicked King Herod!

BRIGHTWHEEL: Do you have the Brightwheel app yet? We will use Brightwheel to do touchless sign-in and sign-out for your preschooler. This will help us remain compliant with licensing, so that we continue to have accurate records of pickup and drop-off times for each child. This coming Wednesday and Thursday, January 13 and 14, we will conduct a trial run! As you pull up, please have the camera on your phone open and ready. The teachers will walk you through this quick and easy procedure. It takes only seconds. If you need an invitation to Brightwheel, Miss Marshall is happy to send a new one via email. Contact her if you need help getting signed up. There are many helpful YouTube videos to get you started.

A BIG THANK YOU to all our families who gifted our classrooms with such lovely things for the children at Christmas. The kids are so excited about the new items! We love and appreciate all of you!

COOK'S NIGHT OUT: Our next fundraiser will be a take-out event at Café Mexicali on Tuesday, January 19. We will send home a coupon to use so that your order will help Trinity Lutheran School and Preschool! Watch your child's folder as the day gets closer.

NO SCHOOL OR CHILDCARE Monday, January 18, for the Martin Luther King Holiday. Trinity will be completely closed.

COLORADO SHINES SCORE: Miss Marshall received our Shines review, and we are a 3-star school! Where do we shine? Our highest scores were for our staff and classroom environment. We also received solid scores for family partnerships. Our lowest scores (which were still good scores) involved administrative paperwork. Our final score is based on the lowest score received among the categories. It is good to receive feedback from others, as it helps us to improve our program overall. It was an interesting process during the pandemic, with lots of documents to scan, a classroom video to send in for review (no children present), and a ZOOM interview with Mrs. Mary. Thank you for 100% parent participation in our online surveys last spring! It helped us maintain a solid score. Here is an explanation from the Colorado Shines website on what those stars mean:

A Colorado Shines rating (Levels 1-5) gives parents peace of mind. The Colorado Shines rating means that the program is licensed, in good standing with the state, meets health and safety standards, and is regularly monitored.

Programs with higher ratings (Levels 3-5) have completed a process to show quality programs and practice in all areas that Colorado Shines reviews (see bullet list below).

Colorado Shines rates the quality of Colorado's child care and preschool programs for children ages 0-5, based on how well each program:

- Supports children's health and safety
- Ensures the staff are well-trained and effective
- Provides a supportive learning environment that teaches children new skills
- Helps parents become partners in their child's learning
- Demonstrates good leadership and business practices

Once a program receives a rating, Colorado Shines provides support to help the program continue to improve its quality.

~~~MARK YOUR CALENDARS~~~

**MONDAY, JANUARY 18: NO SCHOOL OR CHILDCARE DUE TO THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 19: COOKS NIGHT OUT AT CAFÉ MEXICALI**

**JANUARY 25-29: NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK, WITH DAILY ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE!**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12: CLASSROOM VALENTINE'S DAY PARTIES WITH A CARD EXCHANGE.**

