



# THE SUNNY SPROUT UPDATE

December 2023

For the little learners and their caregivers at Hope Ridge Preschool

## Looking Ahead:

- 12/5 Raffle Basket Donations Due**
- 12/6 P.O.P.S. Secret Santa Event**
- 12/7 P.O.P.S. Raffle Basket Assembly**
- 12/11- 12/15 Christmas Choral Programs**
- 12/18 - 1/2 Christmas Break**
- 1/3 School Resumes**



## ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

I am ready for some holiday Joy! What about you? I truly love this time of year. All my senses seem to come alive. The sights, the sounds, the smells and let's not forget about the tastes of Christmas. Bring on the cookies! This month the children will be introduced to themes surrounding Christmas. I look forward to seeing and hearing how excited the kids get for Christmas to arrive and walking the hallways and classroom and seeing all the decorations that the students create. We have already had the pleasure of hearing some fun Christmas songs as prepare for their Christmas programs.

We are excited to be able to invite you to join us for some merriment and celebration as the students participate in our annual Christmas Choral Concert! Students will be performing the week of Dec. 11th - Dec. 15th. Please check the schedule below or check with your classroom teacher. The concert will last about 15- 20 minutes, following there will be photo opportunities, refreshments and our annual holiday basket raffle! Grandparents, siblings and babysitters are invited to attend.

Here is the schedule for the upcoming programs:

Monday, December 11th AM: M-TH 4's (Ms. Golias)

Monday, December 11th PM: M-TH 5's (Ms. Golias)

Tuesday, December 12th AM: T/TH AM 3's (Mrs. Shaver)

Tuesday, December 12th PM: T/W/TH PM 3's (Mrs. Shaver)

Wednesday, December 13th AM: M/W/F 4's (Mrs. Blakeslee)

Thursday, December 14th AM: T/W/TH 4's (Mrs. Hildebrecht)

Thursday, December 14th AM: T/TH 3's (Mrs. Turner) \*Special time 10:15

Thursday, December 14th PM: T/W/TH 4's (Mrs. Hildebrecht)

Friday, December 15th AM: M/W/F 3's (Mrs. Turner)

On behalf of the staff at Hope Ridge Preschool, I wish you a blessed Christmas with the ones you love, creating memories that will be treasured forever.

Best Wishes,

Stacey Hartman, Preschool Director

*(Continued on the back)*

# OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21: 2:00 - 3:30 P.M.

- Teachers and staff will be available to answer questions.
- Tour our facility - children welcome!
- Registration and program information available.
- In House Registration:  
Wednesday, January 24th, 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.
- Open Registration:  
Saturday, February 3rd, 9:00-11:00 A.M.

Please share with friends and family that are looking for a quality preschool experience.

## December's PLAYFUL Learning Checklist

1. Help your child build fine motor skills that she'll use later when she's writing by giving her a mound of play dough, cookie cutters and a plastic kids' knife. Invite her to use the tools and play with the dough.

2. Show your child the front and back of a coin and explain that the front is called {heads} and the back is called {tails}. What does she notice on each side? Ask her to guess whether the coin will land on heads or tails when you flip it in the air. What side landed on top?

3. Encourage your child to learn about surface tension. Drop several drops of food coloring on a plate. Pour a small amount of milk on top. What happened to the colors? Now, add several drops of dish soap in the middle of the milk. What happened then? {The milk and food coloring are made of molecules. Those molecules stick together. Because the milk has a lot of fat, the food coloring does not mix into it. When the soap is added, however, it breaks down the milk fat and decreases its surface tension.}

4. Pour half a cup of vinegar into an empty soda bottle. Place 1 tablespoon of baking soda in a balloon. Stretch the balloon end over the opening of the bottle - making sure that it is secure. Then dump the baking soda that's sitting in the balloon into the vinegar. Hold onto the bottle and watch as the chemical reaction creates a gas that fills the balloon.

5. Explain that some words are made up of two separate words that stick together. These special words are called compound words. For example, {snowman} is made from the word {snow} and the word {man}. {Butterfly} comes from {butter} and {fly}. What other compound words can you think of together.

6. Give your child a handful of marshmallows. Ask her to count them. Then help her divide the marshmallows into two piles. How many marshmallows did she place in the first pile? How many in the second? Now, invite her to divide the marshmallows differently. How many are in each pile this time? Encourage her to continue finding different combinations that make the same number when they're added together. {This is a great way to begin teaching addition.}

7. Help your child learn about gift giving. Give her a dollar to spend at the dollar store. Explain that she may only use the dollar to buy a gift for someone else - a birthday gift, holiday present, etc. Brainstorm some of the recipient's favorite things and then help your child find a gift that he'll enjoy.

8. Read Jan Brett's classic "The Mitten". Is the story about something that really happened {nonfiction} or is it pretend {fiction}?

9. Read the book "Snowmen at Night" and discover silly things snowmen do while we're sleeping.

10. Count the number of days in the month of December. Talk about any exciting events you will be doing together {birthdays, holidays, trips, etc.}

© Playdough to Plato



## P.O.P.S. News

### Annual Raffle Basket Fundraiser

One of our biggest fundraisers of the year. Tickets will be sold before and after each choral concert. Please consider donating personally or if your business would be willing to donate (even if doesn't match your theme).

### Ticket Pricing.

1 ticket \$2  
3 tickets for \$5  
7 tickets for \$10  
15 for \$20  
(Cash only)

### Classroom Themes

Blakeslee - Pamper Me  
Golias 4's- Barbie  
Golias 5's- Snow Day  
Hildebrecht AM - Man Cave  
Hildebrecht PM- Date Night  
Turner MWF - Gift Card Tree  
Turner TTh - Coffee Lovers  
Shaver AM - Cleveland  
Shaver PM- Pet Lover's  
Teachers - Lottery Tree

**All items must be turned in to your teacher by DEC 5th!!!**

P.O.P.S. will need help assembling the raffle baskets. If you are available and would like to participate, they will be meeting on Thursday, Dec. 7 in the cafe at 9 AM.

Please also consider signing up to help sell raffle tickets. Be on the lookout for a sign up link coming soon through Brightwheel.

## Hope Ridge United Methodist Church Happenings

**ADVENT SERMON SERIES**  
**"AN UNLIKELY ADVENT", Dec. 3rd - Dec. 24th**

Sundays 8:45 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**  
**Sunday, Dec. 24th**  
7:30 in the WFLC

Hope Ridge Preschool, Inc.  
"Where Children Love to Learn and Learn with Love."  
9870 Johnnycake Ridge Rd.  
Mentor, OH 44060  
Phone: (440) 639-8817