

Woodbrook Early Education

A ministry of Woodbrook Baptist Church

It's crazy to believe that it is already 2024. December flew by and always seems to. I very much enjoyed watching the children sing (or stand) in the Christmas program. It is one of the best days of the year at WEE and always brings a smile to my face. I love seeing the progression from two year olds to Pre-K. I also love that so many family members are able to join us. It is such a warm, family feeling!

As I thought about 2024, we often think of resolutions or goals we want to make in the new year. This is a very abstract concept for our children. It might be fun to ask them if there is something new they would like to learn or try in the new year. We did it in the blue room on the first day back this year and I loved their ideas. It ranged from learning to write their name themselves to learning how to ice skate. They each thought about their own ideas and what they wanted to do. These moments are some of my favorite as a teacher. Posing questions and giving the children time and space to think about their own answers. I always remind them that they have their own brain and to "think, think, think" of their own ideas.

I also wanted to remind you all to remember that your child is only their certain age at that moment. I know it's weird to think about but they are only 3 years, 8 months and 5 days old once (for example). I think if we remember that it's easier to appreciate the moments/stage they are in right now. Also helps us remember that the temper tantrum they are having or their refusal.

As we look at winter weather ahead, they have never really seen snow. So, while as adults we might moan or complain about cleaning off the car or what it takes to bundle them up to go out, they are experiencing it for the very first time. When we look at it that way, it may help us be more patient as we help them prepare to go out to play in the snow. Last month, when we got even just a few flurries, they were so incredibly excited.

So, as I said at the Christmas program, take the time to appreciate these moments now. I know things seem overwhelming at times but if we try to look at things this year from your child's perspective, it can help you remember what is important. You should give yourself grace when your "to do" list doesn't get done. It will, eventually. Appreciate each day like it's your first time seeing snowflakes too!

With love,
Ms. Angela



WOODBROOK
EARLY EDUCATION CENTER



Inclement Weather Closings & Delays

As we move into December the possibility for winter weather begins to increase. The WEE Center uses Baltimore County Schools as a **guideline** for closings and early dismissals due to snow or inclement weather. Closings, delayed openings and early dismissals are aired on local radio and TV stations.

If Baltimore County announces a delayed opening of one (1) hour, WEE will open at 9:00AM. There will be NO Before Care on these days.

If Baltimore County announces that they will close schools early, there will be no After Care.

If Baltimore County announces that there is no after school or evening activities, it will be at the WEE Center's discretion if there is no After Care.

If Baltimore County announces that schools are closed, WE WILL ASSESS THE WEATHER AT 7:00AM TO MAKE A DECISION IF WE WILL CLOSE OR OPEN LATE. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE DO NOT TAKE THIS DECISION LIGHTLY AND WANT TO BE SURE EVERYONE (STAFF AND FAMILIES) CAN TRAVEL TO SCHOOL SAFELY FROM THE MANY DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE COUNTY.



Red Room

It is crazy that we are celebrating 2024 - Where does the time go?| Your children are such a blessing to us all , and we express our thankfulness for you all making our thankful luncheon a great success!

We jumped right into preparing for Christmas, the birth of baby Jesus, and all that it holds! In December the children were busily working on all their gifts they are making for their Moms and Dads, as well as working on learning the songs for our Christmas program! In December we focused on the true meaning of Christmas, our math skills, and language skills. The rest of December, we focused on the Bible story of Christmas through puzzles, books, songs and crafts. We enjoyed having so many families join us for the Christmas program and party afterwards! Thank you all for coming and for donating items

to help make our party a success! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! In January we will be exploring various Winter topics-the first week back we will talk about how we celebrate the New Year. Then we will learn about Winter Animals and Winter Weather. We shall finish up the month with a look at opposites and will continue learning about colors, numbers, and shapes recognition, as well as name recognition. In addition, we will work on expanding our vocabulary, becoming more sociable, and continue work on Math and Science. The Red Room teachers are looking to watching your children continue to grow and mature during the second half of the year. We tend to see more cooperative play after the return from Christmas break - it is such an exciting part of our job to watch the children interact and get back with their friends after the holidays!

Happy Birthday to Leo on 1/20 and Kai on 1/26!

Love, Ms., Karen, Ms. Sharon, Ms. Michelle and Ms. Aleia

YELLOW Room

Welcome back! We hope you had a happy and relaxing holiday break! December was filled with lots of holiday joy! From learning about the Story of Jesus' Birth, Christmas trees, and Hanukkah, plus so much more! We were never bored! The class is still working hard on letters, numbers and patterns too. In January many fun

- winter themes will be taught: • New Year Celebrations. • Winter Weather • Artic Animals • Asian New Year.

The Yellow room teachers are looking forward to a fantastic second half of the school year and we want to all our families wish a happy, healthy, and blessed New Year!

Happy belated birthday to Nicholas on 12/15 and Ms. Bess on 1/1!

Love, Ms. Bev, Ms. Jordan, Ms. Bess
and Ms. Judi



Blue Room



In December we had so much fun celebrating Holidays Around the World and learning why we celebrate Christmas. We were so happy that so many family members could join us for our Christmas program and party. Thank you so much for your generosity with your gifts to us as well as your contributions for our class party.

We will have such a wonderful January learning all about snow, ice, and winter animals. We are looking forward to all the fun we will be having in January.

Your children are working so well together. They have made so many great friendships. Some of the skills practiced every day are letter recognition and engaging together at circle time. We are working on rhyming, opposites and beginning to trace our names.

Thank you for sharing your children with us.
Happy Birthday to Caroline 1/24!
Love, Ms. Angela, Ms. Dominique, Ms. Ellie,
and Ms. Celina,



Green Room

Dear Parents,

Christmas is such a special time with children! It was been a pleasure to see the children's excitement each morning when they saw the new place where Frosty The Green Room Elf was hiding in December. Ms. Claire, our music teacher, said that the Green Room class did a terrific job with the Christmas songs at our Christmas Program! It was so rewarding seeing how well the children sang!

Themes and Activities in December:

The Green Room friends learned about the first Christmas when Baby Jesus was born. The children learned new vocabulary from this very special story: Nativity, Advent, and Savior. They also learned that God loves us so much that He sent His son to save the world!

We also celebrated Christmas Traditions. On December 6th, we had a special visitor come to WEE...St. Nicholas! This is a German tradition that WEE likes to celebrate. This was a surprise... St. Nicholas snuck into the school while the children were resting, and left candy for each child! So exciting!

Some of the Christmas activities we enjoyed were: making and decorating Christmas Trees and ornaments, wrapping presents, listening to stories about Santa Claus and reindeer, and enjoying "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas".

What will we be learning?

In the midst of all the holiday fun, we worked on the letters: Ww Nn, Zz, and Mm, initial sounds in words, writing our names using upper and lower case letters, recognizing the number of syllables (beats) in words, retelling the story of Baby Jesus, identifying characters in a story, and learning the difference between fiction and non-fiction books.

For Math, we worked on ABB patterns, connect the dots with numbers, write numbers 1-10, count by 10's, color by numbers, and recognize numbers 1-20.

January News

During the month of January, the Green Room themes will be: polar/arctic animals, hibernation, and the season of winter. We will also celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. and the important lessons he taught people.

We will work on the following skills. Writing the letters and knowing the sounds of: Aa, Xx, and Yy, matching upper and lower case letters, recognizing sight words, recognizing opposites, ABC patterns, which number is bigger, counting by five's, and working with double digit numbers.

Did you know that in the Green Room we are getting ready for Kindergarten? During center time, the children work in small groups and rotate through three activities, similar to the Kindergarten structure. Each day the type of activities are: a math or pre-reading skill, a fine motor skill, and free play. Also at least once a week, the children will participate in a STEM activity and an Art activity.

Happy Birthday to: Felix on 1/28!

Thank you for sending your children to WEE! Your children are blessings to us each day!

We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

With God's Blessings,

Ms. Betsy, Ms. Carol, & Ms. Dawn

Purple Room

Happy New Year Purple Room Families!

We are very much looking forward to the second portion of the school year with your child and your family. In December, we learned about the letters Nn & Zz. We focused on the initial sounds, as well as tracing/writing them. We worked with opposites to really grasp the concept that the two words mean completely different things (antonyms), rather than another word that means the same thing (synonyms), which can sometimes be confusing. We focused on tracing/writing numbers, and began the concept of more/equal/less. Our pattern was ABB in December. We will continue recognizing our last names in print, as well as identifying the letters that make them up. We will continue with our current morning, snack/lunch prayer, and our patriotic song, "You're a Grand Old Flag". We will learn new of each of those in February.

During December, our themes were Hanukkah, Advent, the Nativity, the story of Baby Jesus, St. Nicholas, and American Christmas traditions. We truly hope that Advent brought you to know the love of Christ, and prepared you for His birth. We hope your Christmases were very special.

In January, our focus will be on letters Xx, Aa, Yy, & Kk. We will match upper/lower-case letters. We will listen for syllables in words and clap them out. We will introduce counting by 5's, and demonstrate using tally marks. ABC will be our pattern come mid-January, and our number focus will be 11, 12, 13, & 14. Making comparisons of size/shape, as well as sequencing, are skills that will be introduced. In other areas we will be continuing to work on our fine motor competencies.

Our January themes will be winter, hibernation/migration, and arctic animals. We will wear pajamas (yes, again!) to celebrate the bears hibernating in our classroom, have fun building block igloos, pretend to ice fish (and maybe ice skate), as well as have indoor "snow"! We will learn about MLK, Jr. and talk about peace. Our January door tags will be birthdays (month & date). Please reinforce your child's birthday at home.

Happy Belated Birthday to Nathan on 12/4, Micah on 12/21, and Tilghman on 12/29. Happy January Birthday to Wyatt on 1/5 and Olive on 1/26!

We wish each of you a very happy, healthy, and joyful New Year!

With Gratitude,

Love, Ms. Stacie & Mr. Nate

Art News from Ms. Carol

We had so much fun in December with our holiday and winter themed projects. The Red Room learned about artist Charley Harper and made cardinal in the snow paintings using bubble wrap. The Blue and Yellow Rooms also made bubble wrap paintings to create a forest snow scene. All the classes studied Norman Rockwell's snowman painting and did snowmen themed projects. The Red Room made model magic snowmen, the Blue and Yellow Rooms did snowmen collages and the Pre-K classes made model magic snowmen snow globes. Pre-K will continue to do some winter themed projects in January when they make a watercolor painting of birch trees in the snow. The Blue and Yellow Rooms started January with a skyline collage that included fireworks created by stamping koosh balls. In the coming weeks they will be learning about the Northern Lights and using chalk pastels to recreate them. They will also be doing a Matisse inspired collage of hot chocolate. The Red Room will also be learning about Matisse and making their own Matisse collages along with some Mondrian inspired collages. Throughout January all the children will be working on new skills such as masking, blending, and creating patterns.

Love, Ms. Carol

Music Notes from Ms. Claire

The children had so much fun singing songs about Christmas. They were so excited to share the Christmas songs in with you at our annual Christmas program. Upon our return after the holidays, we have been learning some songs about Winter. The children enjoy using instruments and dancing scarves. It's great to see their enthusiasm and participation in movement. Happy New Year!

Love, Ms. Claire

Science Findings from Ms. Dawn

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We have been having such a joyful time in Science! In December we talked about electricity and we made Christmas lights shine bright! It was so exciting!! We also had a special visitor from the Green Room! Arihaan's mom is a science teacher and she helped us make a big volcano. Thank you for sharing your time with us!

In January we will begin to learn about simple machines: levers, pendulums, screwdrivers, can openers and more! We will talk about what energy is needed to make it work. I am excited for an energetic month!

Love, Ms. Dawn

Fall Survey Results

Positives:

- Welcoming, safe, fun environment
- The staff and directors are what make this school so special.
- LOVE the new playground!
- After care teachers are kind and loving
- Creative activities, dedicated and loving teachers, specials
- Showing my child what kindness and love is all about
- Loving and engaging, very nurturing
- Class Dojo and the pictures
- Great communication from all
- Schedule and organization
- Staff and location
- Can't say enough about the staff! Love everyone and their attitudes!
- Supportive to children on an emotional level. Well rounded curriculum.
- Prayer and Bible reading/stories
- Kindness of everyone
- Hours of operation
- Engagement and genuine care for students and families
- Always amazed at the creative ways teachers bring learning to life
- Reasonable rates
- Play focused curriculum
- My child feels so loved

Suggestions & Questions:

- More opportunities to get to know other parents/families.
- Create an online survey form to waste less paper
- Wish you had K-5th Grade!
- WEE notes are not always easy to read as a picture in Dojo
- Why do we pay for the full month of June? The WEE Center charges a full tuition for June because tuition is calculated as an annual price and then divided into 10 equal payments for the duration of our school calendar.

Sasha's Care Kits

In the Fall, Woodbrook Baptist Church held a memorial service for a WEE School Graduate and WBC community member, Sasha. She attended the WEE School in the early 2000's. She was in class with my daughter Emily and our Pastor, John's daughter, Audra. During the service, Sasha's Dad noted that she had a special affinity for children who seem more fragile or seem a little lost. She saw something of herself in them. She also saw something of herself in some of the people standing on the corners of Baltimore with cardboard signs. Shortly before she died, she had a plan to put together and distribute little care packages of essentials to these people we drive by.

WBC and WEE have a wish to make Sasha's plan a reality. We are collecting items such as: granola bars, socks and toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant (all travel sizes). There will be bins inside the WEE doors. We would like to be able to tell her family that we wanted her good plan to come to fruition in Baltimore. Thank you for anything you can do.

This beautiful Magnolia tree was planted outside the WEE playground in memory of Sasha.



BOX TOPS

Please continue to check your receipts for Box Tops. You can download the Box Tops app on your Smart Phone and choose Woodbrook Early Education Center as the school. This is an easy way to help raise money for the WEE Center.



Do you need labels?

Try Mabel's Labels!

In your web browser type in www.campaigns.mabelslabels.com and click on the box on the right hand side that says "support a fundraiser."

Find Woodbrook Early Education Center and enjoy shopping!



SAVE THE DATE

Monday, January 8th

Monday, January 15th

Tuesday, January 16th

Monday, February 19th

Thursday, March 7th

2024/2025 Registration Opens

WEE CLOSED-Martin Luther King
Birthday

Open Registration Begins for
2024-2025

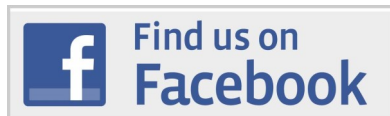
WEE CLOSED-President's Day

WEE CLOSED/
PROFESSIONAL DAY



WOODBROOK EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

25 STEVENSON LANE



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