



Hello Dear Families!

I trust you & your family had a fun & yummy Thanksgiving. We sure had a lot of fun here at the Preschool. Our Pilgrims, Indians & Turkeys had lots of fun & giggles as they sat around their harvest tables to enjoy the feast. The Staff & I would like to take a moment to thank all our parents who provided food, treats, & help to make this special event run smoothly. We couldn't have done it without you!!!! And, yes the break was lovely, but it is always great to get back to school & all be together again.

It is the most wonderful time of the year!!! It is so fun to see & hear the excitement of our preschoolers as Christmas Day gets closer & closer. How they love making decorations for their classrooms & for their home. Glitter & glue is everywhere! The sounds of Christmas Carols are ringing through our hallways as the children practice for our delightful Christmas Program that will be performed Tuesday & Wednesday, December 18 & 19, at 11:30 in our Sanctuary. Of course, the scents of Christmas cinnamon, nutmeg, peppermint, & hot chocolate, are wafting down the hallways & throughout our classrooms & their homes.

So on behalf of myself & our Wonderful Staff we wish you the most important gifts that this season has to offer, that is Love, Peace, Joy-filled moments, & lots of happy memories to treasure!

God's blessings to you & your family,

Karen Wilson



*The Miracle of Christmas*

*The Wonderment in a small child's eyes,  
The ageless awe in the Christmas skies...  
The nameless joy that fills the air,  
The throngs that kneel in praise & prayer...  
These are the things that make us know  
That men may come and men may go,  
But none will ever find a way  
To banish Christ from Christmas Day...  
For with each child there is born again  
A mystery that baffles men.*

*Helen Steiner Rice*



*Please join with us as we share a little of what the holiday is about during our Christmas Programs on Tuesday & Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30a.m. in our church sanctuary.*

**Celebrations & Holidays**

From birthdays to holidays, we do like to celebrate at **FUMPS!** We especially like to honor the traditions of all the children and families in our program. When you enrolled, we had each family fill out a 'Getting Acquainted' form and you were invited to share your customs & traditions with your child's classroom. When you share these special stories, foods, and items representing your traditions and children are invited to explore them, it helps foster respect for other cultures and authentically reflects the diverse heritages of our preschool community. It also strengthens the connection between home and school.

We encourage each of you as families to join us in our celebrations. Even if you cannot be with us, please share your family traditions, recipes for holiday foods, and any special items that reflect your heritage and family history.



**A Call for Oranges...**

In January we celebrate our local heritage by eating and crafting with citrus. If you have a tree and have citrus to share, please bring a bag to the preschool (but not until January). We will be having oranges for snack, making juice, printing with citrus and sampling all different varieties of our local gems.



Let's welcome **Ava Olivia**, little sister of **Marley** in the Friendly Fish, born October 31<sup>st</sup>, 6lbs 5oz, 20 inches long.



Thanks to everyone who participated in our See's Candy fundraiser! Thank you to past board member **Ann Pfeifle** for adding, picking up, sorting and delivering the See's candy order for us- we raised over \$2800 for our scholarship fund!

Thank you to **Michelle Shanta** and **Carmen Herrera** for making picture days run so smooth. Thank you to **Antony** in the Sunny Sunflowers and mom, Rita, for the raisins; **Henry** in the Friendly Fish and his family for the Ritz crackers and apples; **Vincent** in the Dancing Daisies and parents, Robert and Jennifer, for the bags of apples; **Elliot** in the Cute Kittens and mom, Heather, for the tissues.

We are so grateful for any and all donations of snacks and supplies to help support our school. Please fill out the "Donations from Parents" sheet in Mrs. Furby's office each time you bring something in, then look for your name in the newsletter!

As you can see we are truly blessed by your generosity and willingness to participate in our program wherever you are needed. Thank you all so very much and may you get back the generosity you give away a thousand times over!

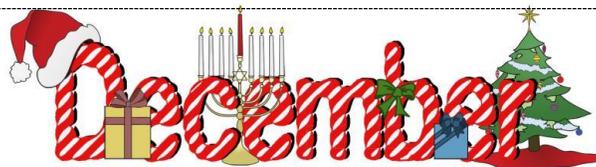


**Children's Evening with Santa**  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm-7:30pm.

Want to have some time to wrap gifts, shop, bake, decorate, catch a movie, or go to dinner? We would love to make that easy for you to do.

**Please register by December 5 in the Preschool Office.** (30 children is the limit, ages 3 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade)

A donation for future events for our children's ministry program will be appreciated.



	4 & 5	Hanukkah & Latkes
	11 & 12	Celebrate Las posadas
	17- 21	<u>No Lunch Bunch all Week</u>
	18 & 19	Christmas Programs 11:30
	20 & 21	Christmas Parties
	25	Merry Christmas
Jan	1	Happy New Year
	7	Preschool Closed for Teacher Training
	8	Preschool Resumes

#### Happy December Birthdays to...

Dancing Daisies		
Fletcher Ballantyne	12/8	
Ariana Carranza	12/18	
Ruby Lamarre	12/30	
Makenzie Minor	12/31	
Friendly Fish		
Noomi Gray	12/9	
Kira Butler	12/13	
Luke Mayer	12/15	
Ainsley Richey	12/19	
Frances Carranza	12/24	
Marley Olario	12/27	
Little Rascals		
Joseph Thomas	12/18	
Emery Dortch	12/23	
Cute Kittens		
Penelope Jacobsen	12/1	
Graham Wright	12/7	
Lucky Ladybugs		
Danny Shafer	12/7	
Grayson Lopez	12/26	
Eva Yrugaray	12/31	



#### Hats Off to our Sunny Sunflower Teacher...

Mrs. Selma Vasquez first came to FUMPS when her daughter Krystal was a Pooh Bear. Selma spent one morning cooking homemade tortillas in the classroom and we watched her natural ability with the children. Our first opening was for Nutrition teacher, so we excitedly offered the position to her. She Accepted, Krystal went to kindergarten at St. Catherine's, and her son Anthony started preschool as a Pooh Bear. As openings came available, Selma moved into our youngest 3's classroom as assistant teacher and then to lead teacher of her own Cuddly Cow class. Born in Guanajuato, Mexico, and growing up in Eagle Mountain with two brothers and two sisters, Mrs. Vasquez moved to Anaheim, met and married her husband Tony. They celebrated their 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary last June. Krystal works for Riverside's Municipal Court and is mommy to Selma's first grandchild Isla, who is in 3rd grade at Camino Real Elementary. Her son Anthony lives in Riverside. Selma enjoys the outdoors and camping. She loves animals, (not rodents, reptiles or crawly things!) and collects sunflowers and LLadro. We celebrate her 26<sup>th</sup> year with FUMPS and her 15<sup>th</sup> year with the Sunny Sunflowers!

#### And to our Outside/Assistant Teacher...

Mrs. Vaughan has lived in Riverside since she was 5. She graduated from North High School, San Diego State University & earned her Master of Science Degree from Cal State San Bernardino in Educational Counseling. Married to her husband Jim since 1997 who is Assistant Principal/Athletic Director at Poly High. They have 3 children who Nancy feels are all growing too fast: DJ, a Junior at UC Irvine; Kati, a sophomore at UC Santa Barbara & Jerry, an 8th grader at Gage! Nancy has worked in daycare, as a counselor in a Provisional Accelerated Learning Center in San Bernardino & a private High School in Running Springs. All of her 3 children attended preschool which she feels prepared them socially & academically for Kindergarten. Because she does relate well with this age group, has a great sense of humor, lots of energy & enjoys being part of their learning experience, she completes her goal everyday 100%, by making our playground a fun, safe & loving environment for all preschoolers! Mrs. Nancy Vaughan keeps our playground activities exciting & challenging, not to mention creative & organized.