

GREENWOOD SCHOOL NEWS



December 2016

A Newsletter for the Greenwood School Community
Greenwood School, Inc., Metro Bldg. 3, 6525 Belcrest
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Website: www.greenwoodschoolmd.org and Email: greenwoodschoolmd@verizon.net

CALENDAR

December 8th

Sonny Frazier Toy Drive
ENDS!

December 13th

Bake Sale – Metro III
11:00-1:00 pm
Pre-K & Kindergarten will sing!
Sponsored by FOG

December 17th

Date Night - 4:30 -8:30 pm
Sponsored by FOG

December 24th – Jan 2nd

Winter Break - *School Closed*

January 3rd (Tuesday)

Greenwood Reopens

January 23rd

Date Night - 4:30 -8:30 pm
Sponsored by FOG

January 16th

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
School Closed

January 20th

Inauguration Day
School Closed

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

"Happy Holidays" and "Happy New Year" from all of us to all of you! We wish you the best for a joyous holiday season and a prosperous and peaceful new year!

December Tuition

We would appreciate your December tuition payment in a timely manner to facilitate the staff payroll before our holiday break.

Snow Policy

As the winter approaches, we would like to remind parents of our inclement weather/emergency policy. (Attached to this newsletter.) Additional copies are in G-80 & G-90.



We are once again using the School Messenger system this year to communicate school closings/delays immediately through text and email messages. If you are not enrolled in this system, enrollment forms are in the "forms" box inside G-90.

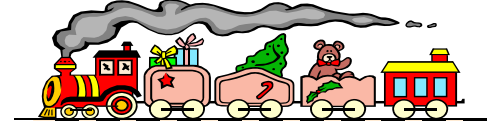
If you ever have a question as to the status of Greenwood's opening or closing, please call 301-277-6877 for an updated message, or check on www.opm.gov/status on Federal Government Operating Status.

The Greenwood Staff is especially thankful for the wonderful parental support you have given us this year. Classroom volunteering, FOG events, food and clothing drives had GREAT support!

THANK
YOU

Holiday Giving

We invite you to contribute again to the **16th Annual Sonny Frazier Toy Drive**. It provides gifts to local children at this time of great need. Mrs. Frazier expressed her sincere gratitude for last year's generous support. Please bring a new unwrapped toy, puzzle, etc. to help us support this LOCAL charity (Inside G-90).



Deadline is Thursday, Dec. 8th

Nine families received three generously filled bags each of food for Thanksgiving, along with gift cards for turkeys. **46 coats** (double from last year!) were donated to the Brentwood Family Crisis Center. We are grateful for this wonderful community!

FRIENDS OF GREENWOOD

'Tis the season for giving, sharing, and celebrating with our communities and families. Greenwood School is a true testament to that spirit. We have several events on tap for December that will bring our community together.



FUNDRAISING

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent fundraisers! Big thanks



to **Chipotle** and to our Greenwood families and friends! What an impressive turnout! Our fundraiser was a successful record-breaking event, raising a whopping \$697 for the **Friends of Greenwood Tuition Assistance Program**. This year, we've already helped 2 teachers with tuition assistance thanks to your generous contributions! As you consider your end-of-year donations, please remember FOG – donations can be made via <http://greenwoodschoolmd.org/fog/donate> or by simply clicking on the "Donate Now" button on the Greenwood website. If you are a federal employee, please consider donating to FOG through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The CFC code for FOG is 35592.

Important: Greenwood Parents Communication!!!!

We are using the School Messenger system again this year to communicate school closings/delays immediately through text and email messages. If we don't yet have your cell number or your email, please complete and submit the School Messenger Contact Form at your earliest convenience.

Bake Sale -

Calling all bakers for the **December 13th** Holiday Bake Sale!



Please consider donating individually wrapped homemade or store-bought baked goods or time. Historically, savory items have sold very well! **All baked goods should be delivered to the Little Big Room by 9:30am on December 13th**. The sale will run from 11 am to 1 pm and will feature delicious holiday treats. Please come out and support Friends of Greenwood! The October bake sale raised about \$325--let's set a new record this month! Questions or able to volunteer? Contact Colleen Nugent at ybk9@cdc.gov.

December 17th Date Night: Pajama Party!!!



Need time to prepare for the Holidays? Or is everything is ready but you're exhausted and need to rest? Either way, take four awesome hours on

December 17th with peace of mind that your child is in good hands and having a lot of "pajama fun" with friends at Greenwood! Our next Date Night is scheduled for Saturday, **December 17th, 4:30 – 8:30 PM**. Please register online by 10 PM Thursday, **December 15th**. **Registration and payment:** <http://greenwoodschoolmd.org/fog/date-night>
Menu: Waffles, eggs, fruit and milk
Any other questions? Please contact **Emily Gilcher at emilygilcher@gmail.com**.



You shop. Amazon gives.

Will you be doing most of your holiday shopping on Amazon? Great! Because your shopping on AmazonSmile will support Friends of Greenwood!

How? Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice – FOG! Start your support by simply clicking on the AmazonSmile button on the Greenwood website (<http://greenwoodschoolmd.org>).

Infants

Brenda, Beatriz, Rina & Nati

November was an exciting month. The infants enjoyed being a part of the Thanksgiving Feast.

Leyla and Josie are rolling around the mats, exploring things. Ivy is now crawling around the room. Mia and Maurcy have become finger painting artists. Vivienne and Tad are now visiting the Toddler Class. Vivienne will transition in January, and Tad will be moving to a new school.



Remember to send hats and mittens for our morning walks.

Please have a safe winter break. We are sure that we will see many changes in our infants upon their return, and we will welcome 2 new infants.

Toddlers

Ms. Monique, Ms. Marina & Ms. Tomiya

We would like to thank the parents for their generous donations for the Thanksgiving baskets.

For the month of December we will be talking about the different holidays - Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas. We will be learning new songs and doing a lot of Holiday Art



Projects. The children will also make a special gift for their parents, and will bake some tasty treats. Fun, Fun, Fun!

We welcome Vivienne to our Toddler Class in 2017. Welcome, welcome!

We would like to thank our parents for their support this year.

Happy New Year – 2017!

Two's

Mirsa, Rossina, Flor & Sonia

November was the month of celebrating fall through projects, songs, stories and finger plays. We learned about families and celebrated Thanksgiving. The children really enjoyed talking about their families and making turkeys with their hands.

The month of December will be spent celebrating and learning about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Christmas through the sights, smells, sounds and tastes of the season. We will be decorating our room with stars, candles, lights, dreidels, stockings

and a big fireplace. We will make special foods to eat and listen to holiday music. We will also read stories to help us enjoy the holiday season.



Please remember that we try to go outside every day. Send warm clothes including hats, scarves and mittens.

Spanish words to practice at home:

- Turkey - *Pavo*
- Leaf - *Hoja*
- Thank you - *Gracias*
- Good morning - *Buenos dias*
- Hands - *Manos*
- Star - *Estrella*

Two's

Ms. Ashley, Ms. Tammy, Ms. Mirette & Ms. Alicia

Wow! It is hard to believe that November is over and December is here already. Our class had so much fun learning about Thanksgiving, families and turkeys.

December is an exciting time for the children. We will be making holiday decorations, as well as discussing the different holidays that we celebrate. Our families have so many diverse holiday traditions. Please feel free to share them with our class.

Our theme for this month will focus on sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of the season. The children will be doing a variety of learning activities and art projects to complement these topics. During circle time our songs will reflect the holidays, and you may hear your child singing "Driedel-Dreidel-Driedel", "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", Jingle Bells, or "Feliz Navidad".

We also look forward to our holiday cooking projects, such as: potato latkes, fruit loop candy canes, reindeer sandwiches and hot chocolate.



Our Holiday Party will be on December 16th. The sign-up list will be posted in our classroom. Also, your child will pick a name for our classroom gift exchange. Details about the exchange will be sent home soon.

December Spanish words:

- Snow - *nieve*
- Cold - *frio*
- Reindeer - *reno*
- Cookie - *la galleta*
- Merry Christmas - *Feliz Navidad*

- Please sign in and out everyday
- Please wash you hands upon arriving and departing school
- Please have weather appropriate clothing in your child's cubby

Three's

Dominique, Sharon & Nikki

We spent November learning about families – differences and similarities, things we do together, how we help each other, and healthy foods. We had were busy getting ready for our Thanksgiving Feast. We made turkey handprints, beaded necklaces, harvest crowns, and muffins for our feast. The feast itself was a lot of fun. We ate cranberry muffins, popcorn, oranges and carrots.

We learned lots of new songs and really liked singing "Thanks for Food" and "She'll be Comin' 'Round the Mountain".



We are very excited for December. We are looking forward to a month full of Winter Celebrations (as well as "giving and sharing".) We will be

learning about "Holidays Around the World" including; St. Lucia Day (Sweden), Sinterklaas Day (Holland), Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and other Christmas traditions around the world. (If you have a tradition you would like to share, please let us know.)

We will also continue to work on letter and number recognition and incorporate activities that help with this into our daily lessons.

We will end the year with a Holiday/Winter Party on December 21st. We will have a sign-up sheet posted soon for those who would like to contribute.

Three's

Robin, Leslie, Martha & Yolanda

The month of December brings with it the opportunity for our class to discuss the many ways "we" celebrate. Every family has their



own traditions for the holidays and we would love to share them with the class. If you

have not already done so, it is not too late to complete the paper that was sent home. We look forward to reading them with the class.

This month we will learn about the letters Kk and Cc, and we will also be discussing the celebration of Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and the New Year.

If you have something special you'd like to share with our class (a cooking project, art activity, story, etc.), we'd love to have you join us in class.

Please make sure your child has weather appropriate clothing to wear!

Pre-Kindergarten

Jennie, Andrea, Maria & Graciela

The Thanksgiving Feast ended our unit on Native Americans. The class looked great wearing the necklaces and shirts that they worked so hard to make.

In December we will explore the holidays through all of our senses. We will focus on the similarities of the different holidays through cooking projects, making decorations, music and stories.

The letters for the month are: **K, Y & N.**

Even though the weather is getting colder, we will still go outside to play. Please make sure your child has a warm coat, hat and mittens or gloves.

We would love to know what your family does to celebrate the holidays. Please let us know if you do something special, so that we can share your celebrations with the class.

Have a great holiday!



Pre-Kindergarten

Ms. Emonica, Ms. Lonnita & Ms. Pat

Last month was our busiest month, trying to tackle our subject matter and objectives this year, while giving the children unforgettable moments to celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving. Our Thanksgiving feast was truly wonderful.

We are continuing to learn to write first and last names, and phonics sounds. Your children should be able to write 1 – 10, and some of the letters of the alphabet this school year. We ask every parent to spend some time with your children

assisting them with their writing skills. Writing and phonics are the preliminary skills for reading, so they will be able to read and write simple words. We also ask you to continue practicing the basic skills; cutting, pasting and coloring, and encourage your child to complete projects at home to advance capability and independence. We will concentrate on reading and writing this year.

December dates to remember:
Winter Holiday Program & Luncheon
Dec. 9th at 11:00.



Kindergarten

Ms. Karen, Ms. Cheri, Ms. Jovany & Ms. Johanny

Congratulations to the children for putting on a terrific Thanksgiving Play! All of their hard work really paid off! We had fun learning about the Pilgrims and Native Americans. We also wrote about and drew pictures of what we are thankful for.

This month we will learn about holidays celebrated in December. We will focus on Hanukkah, Christmas, Las Posadas and Kwanzaa. If you would like to share a holiday tradition or lead us in an activity, please contact Ms. Karen.



Holiday Happenings:

December 9th 12:00-1:00 Holiday Feast - Please sign up on the parent bulletin board if you would like to contribute food. We have peanut and egg allergies in our class so do not send in any products which contain these ingredients. We would love to have parents and siblings join us for lunch.

December 16th from 9:30-10:30 Gingerbread Houses - Please see the sign up sheet on the parent bulletin board. We welcome parents to join us for this fun activity.

When we return to school after the holiday break we will begin a project with a special friend, *Pete the Cat*. A stuffed Pete the Cat will go home with a different child each weekend. **All Kindergarteners will get a chance to take Pete home. Names will be drawn from a bag.**

Pete will be sent home in a bag that includes the stuffed cat and a notebook for parents to write about your child's adventure with Pete. The bag contents will need to be returned to school on Monday. Please take a couple of pictures with Pete and email them to the kindergarten email. In June, a booklet including photos and stories will be sent home with each child.

Also in January we will begin Star of the Week. If you have not had a chance to send in a few pictures of your child please do that soon.

Let's give a warm welcome to our new student, Antonio, who will begin in early December.

I will begin scheduling mid-year conferences in January. If you need to discuss your child's progress sooner please let me know.

December Birthday:
Alexander 12th

