



# PARENTS' POST

E.L.P of The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church



December 2018

## From the Director

Your children are precious to us and we thank you for allowing us into your lives and families each and every day. It is an honor that we get to serve your family by caring for and teaching your child. There is nothing more important than you entrusting us to care for and love your child in your absence.

We feel like a family here at ELP, and we consider each and every one of you as part of the family too. We start off our days here at ELP with a staff prayer and devotional time. We love to pray for each other and for your families and children too. This week one of our devotional activities included the teachers each naming the things that they are thankful for at ELP. It hopefully comes as no surprise to learn that the teachers named, "friendship, support, family, love, and joy" as some of their most treasured things they love about being a teacher at ELP.

We love your children and we wish your family a very merry and Christ filled Christmas this year!

Cindy

# Peace on Earth

## Let Your Light Shine!

**Monday, Dec. 3rd 9:15**

**Live and Love Christmas**

**Don't Just Survive It!**

**Our 3rd Annual family Advent celebration**

**Written by: Rita Van Sickle**

**Free Childcare, provided by WCPC**

Parents, grandparents and friends, join us in ELP's Family Advent Celebration! This celebration is meant for families to bring the focus of Christmas back to the reason for the season, the birth of Jesus! It is simple, warm, fun and outwardly interactive.

The format is outlined in a handout, but you will make it your own. Advent begins soon, four weeks prior to Christmas.

Choose one day each week to participate in this journey of the Christmas story. You will be telling the story, building family relationships, and making Christmas memories that will last a lifetime.

Feel free to share a photo or a comment of your experience each week on our ELP Facebook page. If you are not on Facebook and want to share it, just email it to [elp@wcpc-tx.org](mailto:elp@wcpc-tx.org) and we will post it on our site for you. You can also post it on your own page. This will help encourage and build our community of Christmas lovers. Invite your non-ELP friends to join you. We will have extra copies in the office, but we hope you can come Monday and gather with us to learn more!  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS! KEEP IT SIMPLE! MAKE MEMORIES.....**

## Mark Your Calendar

**The Night Tree Celebration**  
December 5 @ 6:00 P.M.

**Nativity Animals Visit**  
December 11,12,13

**Last day of ELP**  
December 19 (regular, full day)

**ELP Resumes**  
Tues, Jan. 8, 2019

**Motor Movement**  
Jan 8, 9, 11

**Snow Days**  
Jan. 15 16, 17

**MLK Holiday (no ELP) Jan . 21**

## Gather for The Night Tree

ELP is hosting its 4th annual decorating of the Night Tree. This celebration comes from the book "The Night Tree" by Eve Bunting.

We will gather at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, Dec. 5 in the side yard. It will be dark so bring your flashlights and wear your pajamas.

We will read the book, decorate the tree for the birds and squirrels and also enjoy hot chocolate and Christmas carols.

Bring your family to this simple Christmas celebration and make memories!

If you will miss this event, feel free to borrow our book and have a family night tree event at home.





## PVO News

All ELP Parents are members of PVO . PVO stands for Parent Volunteer Organization. Our Parent Volunteer Coordinator is Sarah Parker.

Thank you for your help in November by supplying the fish sticks and bread for our fun Thanksgiving Picnic. Thanks also to those of you who were able to come and help prep and serve.

You may be hearing from your room moms soon and learning about ways you can support the class for December fun. Look for emails about Christmas party dates soon, and also teachers may be asking for donations of various classroom items for special projects. We appreciate your support, you guys are the best!

## Parent/Teacher Conferences, no regular classes

ELP will not be holding classes Tuesday-Thursday, February 5, 6, & 7, due to Parent/Teacher Conferences. A sign up sheet will be posted outside each classroom door after the first of the year to schedule your conference.

Further information about conferences will follow in next month's newsletter.

## Away in a Manger-Live Nativity

ELP will have a live nativity again this year. We will even be having camel and donkey rides for the children. This hands-on experience is sure to be a memory for your children and will hopefully help put the true meaning of Christmas in their hearts. The Nativity will be here on December 11-13. Parents and siblings are welcome to join us. See the calendar to see your class schedule.



## Registration 2019-20

Registration Packets for next year, 2019-20, will go out in January, watch your child's backpack.

**Registration will be due by Noon on Thursday, February 7.**

Science Fun will be offered to all PreK and Transition students. It is a super fun and hands-on science based class which will be offered Thursdays afternoons and Friday mornings. It is a favorite among our students!

Tell your friends and neighbors: Public Registration will be held Wed. February 13 at 6:30 pm.

## Words of Wisdom from Wise People

Only a life that is lived for others is a life worthwhile. Albert Einstein

The crisis of yesterday is the joke of tomorrow. H.G. Wells

Charity, to be fruitful, must cost us. Mother Theresa

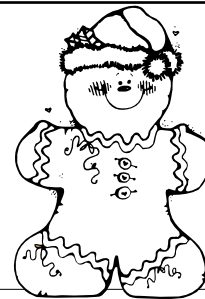
What you value is what you think about.

What you think about is what you become. Joel Weldon

Love is not blind -  
It sees more, not less.  
But because it sees more,  
It is willing to see less.



PRAYERS GO UP....  
BLESSINGS COME DOWN



## A Super Easy and Calming Activity (and it takes only 10 minutes!)

Here's a favorite PLAYDOUGH RECIPE shared by Kristi Zerangue, Flamingo, PreK teacher:  
(found at: [livingwellmom.com](http://livingwellmom.com))

1 cup flour  
1 cup water  
2 teaspoons cream of tartar  
1/3 cup salt  
1 tablespoon vegetable or canola oil  
Food coloring  
Wax paper

In a 2 qt. saucepan, add 1 cup flour, 2 teaspoons of cream of tartar, and 1/3 cup salt. Add 1 cup of water and 1 tablespoon of oil.

On med/low, and stir. It will be a little lumpy. That's okay. Keep stirring until it starts getting a little solid. If the stove is preheated this could take only 20-30 seconds. Once it is a little more solid, add food coloring. Keep stirring ... as it thickens. Once it starts sticking to the spoon, you know you are about done. Remove dough and put on wax paper to cool. Once cool, knead it 1 to 2 minutes.

Feel free to add your holiday scents too! Store well and enjoy!

## Do You Believe?

Do you believe in Santa Claus? Or better yet, what do you say to a child who asks, "Daddy, my friend Billy said there isn't really a Santa Claus!" Is that true?

Whew! Sometimes kids ask us questions that we don't feel adequately prepared to answer. Like, "Where do you go when you die?" and "How do babies come into the world?" Most of us stammer and sputter and bark out a bundle of facts that we later regret having said. Our kids walk away with a puzzled look on their faces. There must be a better way, right?!

The answer may lie in the following story. One day a priest was walking down the street and saw a little boy jumping up and down trying to ring a doorbell. Either the boy was too short or the doorbell was too high and he wasn't succeeding. The priest, wanting to be helpful, reached over and rang the bell for the boy, then looked down and said with a knowing smile, "What do we do next, son?" The little boy looked up and said, "Run like heck!" We often assume to know what our children are thinking or feeling and we act or talk out of this assumption and ignorance. That's when we get into trouble. The answer lies not in knowing the exact right answer but rather in first LISTENING – and reflecting back their questions. Our job then becomes easier because we will get additional information from the child when we reflect and now know if she needs reassurance, loving support for what she is thinking, a simple answer or is really asking for an in-depth response. Both parties are left feeling satisfied, supported and closer.

Back to the original questions. You reflect back, "It sounds like you are wondering if Santa Claus is real." If your child says, "Well, I think there is a Santa Claus because I see his toy shop at the North Pole on TV," then you know what your child needs is gentle reassurance for his beliefs. You don't need to torture yourself wondering if you are lying to him or ruining his future trust in you.

The next time your children surprise you with questions about Santa Claus (or life and death or sex or other BIG questions) you will know that the best answer lies not in what we say, but instead, in listening to what is behind the questions and providing support and reassurance. Besides some of us still believe in Santa!

## "Merry Christmas To All, And To All A Good Night!"

A Good Night Prayer for you to pray with your preschooler:

### Heavenly Father

By Kim Lugo

[Heavenly Father](#), up above

Please bless this child that I love.

Let her sleep all through the night.

And may her dreams be pure delight.

When she wakes, be by her side

So she can feel your love inside.

As she grows, please don't let go

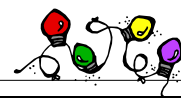
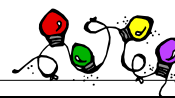
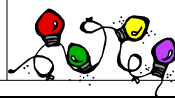
So she will know you hold her soul.

Amen.

## Avoiding the frenzies

Accidents are more likely to happen when parents are overly busy and tired. Use these tips for reducing holiday stress.

- Hire a baby sitter instead of shopping with your toddler. (WCPC offers a Parents' Night out Dec. 9th 4-8pm)
- Shop early and consider internet shopping.
- Don't accept every party invitation.
- Set aside one or two days to do your Christmas baking. Send your toddler to a friend's house and later, return the favor. The freezer can be your friend.
- For family dinners, have a potluck supper. It's fun and a major stress reducer.
- Try to maintain your toddler's usual routines, including naps and bedtimes.
- Encourage older children to help with holiday preparation and daily chores.
- Remember the simplicity of the first Christmas. When you focus on that, you won't feel guilty for down-scaling



## Messy Play or Sensory Play?

You might have seen the terms 'messy play' or 'sensory play' when you search online. Both can be used interchangeably and mean the same thing.

So what exactly is messy play and sensory play? In short, it is an activity that engages a child's senses including eyes, ears, nose, mouth, touch, balance, or movement.

According to Piaget's theory of development, children from the age of zero to eight are in two different stages of development: the sensorimotor stage from ages zero to two and the preoperational state from age two to around seven or eight.

In both of these stages, play through experimenting and exploring their environment is critical for development.

The sensorimotor stage from birth to two is all about using the senses to explore this brand new world. How things feel, taste, sound, look like, and how your baby moves in order to explore these things aids in their cognitive learning. They quickly learn how much strength they need to pick up a block or if something feels soft or hard.

Growing Hands On Kids, November 2018

## I Am Thankful For....



Each day in November our Transition Toucans filled a large pumpkin with words describing what they are thankful for! They, of course, had lots to say each day! Enjoy reading just a few, nothing is better!

Ava- "mom and Dad"  
Declan- "The Bible"  
Logan "Legos"  
Max- "Going in the Toucan class"  
Collin- "God"  
Liam- "Videos"  
Rosie- "2 cats"  
Noah- "My puppy"  
Hadley- "My Family"  
Avyukth- "Food"  
Violet- "Devotional Time"

## Gifts for Children

What shall we give the children?  
The Holidays are almost here.  
Toys and games and playthings,  
As we do most every year?

Yes, for the magic of toyland  
Is part of the Yuletide love  
To glad the hearts of childhood,  
But, I shall give something more.

I shall give them more patience,  
A more sympathetic ear,  
A little more time for laughter  
Or to tenderly dry a tear.

I shall take time to teach them  
The joy of doing some task.  
I'll try to find time to answer  
More of the questions they ask.

Time to read books together  
And to take a long walk in the sun.  
Time for a bedtime story  
After the day is done.

I shall give these to my children,  
Weaving a closer tie,  
Knitting our lives together  
With gifts that money can't buy.

## Need a Recipe For Christmas Dinner?

*From our PreK Penguins (so precious!)*

**Cherry Pie:** (From Zia: age 5)  
"Get a truckful of cherries. Mix Powder with milk to make dough. Flip it like a pizza. Put it in a pan. Take the stems off the cherries, and put them in the pan to decorate with. Put it in the oven at 1 degree. Watch a TV show, and then take it out of the oven. One person can eat it"

**Turkey** (From Memphis: age 4)  
"Catch the turkey in the backyard. Scare the turkey and the feathers fall out! Put it in the oven at 5 degrees for 5 minutes. Use chopsticks to eat it."

**Light Brown Cupcakes** (From Eisol: age 4)  
"Get something soft; it's a part of the cupcake. Put it in a bowl, you cannot mix it. Put it into, you know, cupcake paper. Put lots of cupcakes in the oven at 10,000 degrees for 10,000 hours until it gets the right side color. You put sprinkles on top, and cream. But not when it's hot or it melts. This makes 10,000 cupcakes for everyone to have!"




## Make JESUS the 1st Gift Unwrapped on Christmas Morning

During chapel this week, each child made their very own Baby Jesus doll from rice and nylons. We do this each year to teach our children that Jesus is God's ultimate gift to us, and that He was given to us at Christmas time as a baby.

*Try something new this year:* With your child, box and wrap your little Rice Baby Jesus on Christmas Eve just before bedtime. Explain that before the family dives into unwrapping gifts or playing with what Santa brought, that Jesus will be opened up and celebrated FIRST. There is nothing more important to our little ones than being first! I promise this activity will make a big statement and make a lasting memory as your family will be placing Jesus right in FRONT on this Christmas morning. This is right where HE belongs!

# DECEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 Night Tree Celebration 6:00	6	7	8
9	10	11 9:15 Ducks 9:45 Robins 10:45 Owls/Bluebirds	12 10:15 Cardinals 11:00 Flamingos 11:30 Owls/Bluebirds	13 9:15 Ducks 9:45 Robins 10:15 AM Penguins 11:00 Owls/Bluebirds 12:15 PM Penguins 13:45 Toucans	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Holidays				School Begins Jan. 8		

