



CENTER NEWS

La Tijera UMC and Center for Children

Volume 1, Issue 6

December 2010

Mayola's Corner

As we venture into Advent I like to stop and look back at the year in review. We have been so blessed. So many goals have been accomplished, and we have been given new hope for the upcoming year. Although we rarely stop to think of all of our blessings and things we are thankful for, it is with my deepest sincerity that I say thank-you for continuing to make La Tijera a safe and happy place for our children.

Through this year's budget cuts, layoffs, and hardships La Tijera has been able to withstand all these obstacles and continue to provide our families with the same quality of care. We were able to launch a low cost food program, serving hot lunches to our children.

You can opt to bring your child's lunch or purchase a low cost hot lunch if you desire. The children love having a nutritious and balanced hot lunch each day. Look at our menu, sign-ups for December are going on now.

A special thank-you goes out to Tricia, (Amanda & Kevin's mom), Katinka (Sofia & Maddie's mom), Ivana (Jia Li's mom) and my entire staff for coming together and making our Thanksgiving Potluck a success. I am especially thankful that everyone took time out of their busy schedules to come out and celebrate with us on such short notice. I'm thinking there are some party goers here! Don't forget there will be another reason to celebrate on December 16th

when Mrs. Lyda's "Winter Musical" takes place. How much fun is that! Don't forget to mark your calendars.

As you approach the end of the year and are looking at your blessings, I hope you will continue the Center for Children as one of them. Donations (beyond your tuition) to the Center are tax-deductable. We hope you will consider us as you make your year end giving. Our Parent Handbook will also be available via email or mail. Please see the Office for further information.

Dates to remember:

December 3rd Parent's Night Out

December 11th Yard Sale

December 12th Parade

December 16th Winter Musical

December 20th -22nd classes

Holiday Parade

Come out and join us on December 12th for the Annual Holiday Street Parade. Show you pride and have some fun, marching together in this annual event in Westchester. Come in your La Tijera shirt and let people know about our Center. At the Parade there will be tons of fun as prizes, music and food are available to share. Booths open at 10 am and the parade is at 2 pm. The parade starts at Loyola Blvd and Manchester, heading east to Emerson and returns. There will be crafters and raffle prizes. This will be a great event!!!

Stage 1

Some can wave, some can talk. Some can crawl, some can practically walk. Some can hold their own bottles, some can feed themselves and all are coming along in leaps and bounds!! In other words, we're having lots of fun in Stage I!

We'd like to wish all our families, teachers and administrators a safe and warm Holiday Season! Let's all give to the charity of our choice!

Thank you and God Bless.

Stage I

Stage 2

We would like to wish all our families, "Happy Holidays." We also want to welcome Nancy Ramirez to our classroom as our new teacher. We would like to remind all our parents that the Center will be closed from December 23rd to January 2nd. We will reopen on Monday January 3rd. We want to thank you all for a wonderful year, and for your help on our monthly calendar board. Please remember to label all your child's belongings. Thank you and we hope to see everyone back next year!

Stage 2

Stage 3

We are so excited that the holidays are right around the corner! We are ready to celebrate the Curriculum for this Month. Our little angels will be exposed to the different holidays of the season; Christmas, Kwanza and Hanukah. They'll learn letters, E,F,G, the number 4, rectangular shapes and the color red. They will learn to take their shoes on/off, throw a ball and stand on one foot. Thanks to all the parents for your continued support and have a wonderful Holiday!

Stage III

Ms. Lynnette/Ms. Claudia

Transition

We welcome Ms. Jennifer, our new teacher, to our wonderful program. During this cheerful month our children will explore and enjoy by creating special Christmas art projects and practicing Christmas and New Year's songs. Also, we will learn some more letters and numbers.

We wish all of our parents, teachers and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope and pray the new year will bring peace, prosperity and happiness for each and everyone in our lives. TRANSITION —Ms. Mary



Room 5

Holidays are here! It's the most exciting time of the year for our children. They just can't wait for Christmas. We are still following our curriculum, however we are going on a slower pace for all the fun holiday activities. Thank you parents for your cooperation and making our Annual Thanksgiving dinner possible. Our children were wonderful in their performance. They enjoyed rehearsing the turkey song.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays!
Ms. Lupe

Room 3

Thank you to all the wonderful and supportive parents of Room 3. The class has some exciting memories from Halloween and the Thanksgiving Program and Dinner. We voted that everything was "tasty"!!

In the classroom, we are continuing to learn to build one day at a time. We build to strengthen our friendships, we build to increase our learning and thinking skills and we build to recognize that each day is a new learning experience.

♥♥♥Ms. Mal

P.S.—We're counting and watching for a special visitor. Shh!

Shh.....He's on his way to town!!
S_n_a

Extended

We've ended our third month of school. My, did time fly. We have exciting activities planned for December, which include Tuesday art with Mrs. Lynnette, decorating our Christmas tree with homemade ornaments and learning about the true meaning of Christmas. We wish all of our families a safe and happy holidays!!

**Mrs. Sharon
Mrs. Suzy**

Hot Meal Sign Ups!!!!

Return this form with a check for the days you would like to order. \$3 a day.

November 29-December 3

- November 29: Spaghetti Os, Corn, and Orange Wedges
- November 30: Fish Sticks, Fries, and Carrot Sticks
- December 1: Franks & Beans, Apple Carrot Salad, and Brownie
- December 2: Chicken Nuggets, Fries, and Pudding
- December 3: Pigs in Blankets, and Fruit Cup

December 6-10

- December 6: Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, and Rolls
- December 7: Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich and Carrot Sticks
- December 8: Tacos, Refried Beans, and Pineapple Chunks
- December 9: Chili w/ Beans, Corn Bread, and Jello
- December 10: Fish Sticks, Corn, and Green Salad

December 13-17

- December 13: Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Salad, and Rolls
- December 14: Beef Stew, Corn Bread, and Peaches
- December 15: Pizza, Celery Sticks w/ Ranch, & Corn on the Cob
- December 16: Beef Fried Rice, Oodles of Noodles, String Beans
- December 17: Sloppy Joes, Glazed Carrots, and Jello

November 29-30

- December 20: Salami on Rye, Chips, and Apple Wedges
- December 21: Grilled Cheese, Chicken Noodle Soup, & Oranges
- December 22: Salisbury Steak w/ gravy, rice, and mixed veggies

Welcome New Teachers!!!

In the month of November, La Tijera Center for Children welcomed two new teachers to our staff. Let us introduce them to you.

First, Nancy Ramirez began teaching at the beginning of November. She came to us through a reference from Ms. Jessica. Nancy discovered her passion for working with children when she was eighteen. So over the next few years, she worked to complete the necessary credits in Early Childhood education to become a teacher. Her goal is to complete her Bachelors degree to become an elementary teacher.

Jennifer Parks joined our staff on November 22. She will be completing her Associate's degree in Childhood Education next month from El Camino College. She is excited to be joining our team. Jennifer says that she is "envious of [children's] energy and at the same time astonished at their enthusiasm for each new day."

Please help us in welcoming Nancy and Jennifer to our staff. Nancy is working in Stage 2 and Jennifer will be working in Transition as she learns about our Center! We are excited to see them in action!

Name _____



December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Advent Book Study Begins	29	30	1	2	3 Parent's Night's Out	4
5 Lyda Preaches	6	7	8	9	10	11 Yard Sale Greening of the Church
12 Holiday Parade Communion	13	14	15	16 Winter Musical 6 pm	17	18
19	20	21 Ad Council	22	23 Center Closed until January 3rd	24 Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm	25 Merry Christmas
Extended Program Full Day						
26 Christmas Potluck	27	28	29	30	31 Happy New Years	

Schedule of Events

- **November 28**—Advent Begins!!!! Book Study at 2 pm in Chapel Lounge
- **December 3**—Parents' Night Out 6-10 pm; \$15 for one child, \$25 for two children
- **December 5**—Lyda Preaches
- **December 11**—Yard Sale
- **December 12**—Communion in worship.
- **December 12**—2 pm—Westchester's Annual Holiday Parade
- **December 16**—Winter Musical at 6 pm. Bring cookies to share after the program!
- **December 21**—Ad Council if needed
- **December 23**—Center closed until January 3
- **December 24**—Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 pm
- **December 26**—Christmas Potluck at the Parsonage.

Music and Spirit

Music & Spirit . . . do you hear what I hear?

It's that time of year . . . the air is a bit crisper, the winter sun shares it's fragile warmth, and a sense of wonder is all around. Unfortunately, so are crowded stores, insane traffic, and a list of things to do that no one could accomplish! The chaos and stress of the season sometimes seems overwhelming . . . but then I hear the familiar melody of a Christmas carol . . . and the magic of Advent and Christmas once again fill my heart. The waiting for the Christ Child has begun and the music of December brings us closer to the joy of Christmas. So, when things get too crazy, when time is short and money is tight, when there are no more parking spaces to be had at the mall . . . take a deep



breath and sing. Sing carols, both old and new, and remember "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given."

—Lyda Eddington

Music and Healing Prayer

Music & Healing Prayer – another opportunity at La Tijera

Have you ever felt like . . . you wanted to be more connected . . . you wanted something different . . . you wanted space to listen . . . to be heard . . . to feel . . . to pray . . .



Then come and immerse yourself in the deep waters of prayer and music in our evening candle-light experience the first Sunday of every month at 6:30 p.m. On January 2nd, renew yourself with prayers for ourselves, others and the world with music and silence that speaks to the heart.



La Tijera UMC and Center for Children

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Rachel's Ramblings

It is hard to believe that we are already into Advent and preparing for Christmas. Music is playing in all the stores. Ads are arriving from every which way encouraging us to buy something else. Our calendars are getting packed with events. As we are thinking about the gifts to buy, the parties to attend, and the food to prepare, I pray that we take a step back and remember what all this build up is about! Pause for a moment and remember Christmas...remember God-with-us...remember the Birth of Jesus.

For the next four weeks in worship, we are going to participate in an Advent Conspiracy. We are going to talk about doing Christmas differently. I hope you will join us as we re-

flect on how to put Jesus at the center of our Holiday. On November 28th, we will "Worship Fully...and things will be different." December 5, Lyda will be preaching "Peace...strength to hold on." December 12th, we will be talking about "Give More Joy...to get through the tough days." Finally on December 19th (the Sunday before Christmas) we will be focusing on "Love...gotta have it."

In addition to worship, we have a Book Study beginning on November 28th as well. We will reading through, "Christmas from the Backside" by J. Ellsworth Kalas. This first week, we will read Chapters 1&2. I still have three copies of the book for anyone who

would like to be a part of the group. We will meet at 2 pm on Sunday afternoon.

I hope you will join us for Christmas Eve Services on December 24th. We will be worshipping at 6:30 pm through music, scripture, reflection, and candlelight. It will be a wonderful and magical evening. Invite your family and friends to join us as we marvel at the great gift that God gave to us when he became human to teach us the way.

Whether you celebrate with us, or with others I hope that you have a Blessed Christmas and you feel the love and light that this season brings.

Peace, Pastor Rachel