

# BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

## PRESCHOOL

[brightbeginningsva.com](http://brightbeginningsva.com)

**Charlottesville's Early Childhood Leader Since 1984**

### NEWS FROM THE FRONT DESK:

Another great week has come and gone here at Mill Creek! Be sure to keep your eye on the lobby tree for your child's ornament. Each class is making an ornament to help decorate! Ms. Jaszmine and the Dolphins had the school smelling like the holidays with their apple and cinnamon ornaments! Yum!

Pay close attention to the upcoming events, this week is a busy week for our PreK classes. Don't forget to join us Friday December 18 for our PreK holiday program at 10am! Come see your little one spread holiday cheer for all to hear! The Dolphin and Octopus classes have been working hard on learning their songs!

The teachers have been working hard on decorating their classroom doors for our holiday door contest that kicks off Monday! Please be sure to go on our Facebook page at anytime during Monday – Wednesday and cast your vote on your favorite door. You vote just by "Liking" the picture. The teachers are in the running for some extra holiday cash! The staff will also be participating in an "Ugly Christmas Sweater" contest on Friday December 18<sup>th</sup>. You will also have your chance to vote on these beauties by simply visiting Facebook and liking the ugliest sweater!

In preparation for our little holiday break your teachers will start getting a head count of the children who will NOT be joining us the week of December 21-23 and the week of December 28-30. Please remember we will be closing at 1pm on December 23 and Wednesday December 30. Anyone picked up after 1pm will be charged the Late pick up fee of \$3 per minute. Getting a head count helps us staff accordingly for these days! Thank you!

**December 11, 2015**

### DATES TO REMEMBER!

**December 12** – Elf

Workshop has been **CANCELLED!**

**December 14** – Door

Decorating Contest – Vote via our Facebook page for your favorite door

**December 16** – Voting ends for door decorating

**December 17** – Pre-K Cookie Exchange

**December 18** – Holiday Parties/ Pre-K Holiday Program / Ugly Sweater Contest via Facebook

**December 23** – School Closes at 1pm.

**December 24**- CLOSED

**December 25**- CLOSED, Merry Christmas!

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### WHATS NEW?

Baby Sign Language

Yoga

Music Class

Gymnastics/Dance

Spanish Class (coming soon!)

# CLASSROOM NEWS!!

## NEWS FROM OUR PENGUIN FRIENDS:

Hello everyone it was a good week in the penguin room. I would like to welcome Louie and his family to our room also we would like to welcome Ms. Patrice to our room.

Our theme this week was Hanukkah and our letter of the week is "Qq". For fine motor we decorated sticks, pine branch painting, played "what scent is this?" and spaghetti texture. For art we made a Hanukkah menorah, dreidel painting, ginger bread men, Hanukkah Star of David and decorated the letter Q. For reading literature we read "Biscuits Hanukkah", "12 days of Christmas", "Mouse's first Christmas", "Merry Christmas big hungry bear", and "Counting Christmas". For gross motor we enjoyed "Jingle bells", "climbing up the chimney", "walk on the roof", surprise, and jump jump! For practical living we practiced these skills carting for baby, splash soap ducks, picking up food with tongs, doggy doggy where are you, and walking the dog.

A reminder to all please make sure you label all cups and food with the your child's name and date also please bring in jackets, hats and gloves it has been cold on the play ground in the mornings. I also would like to thank all of you that came to parent conferences. On Friday December 18th is our Christmas party there is a sign up sheet, the theme is the night before Christmas so please have them wear their Pajamas! Thank you!

## NEWS FROM OUR STARFISH FRIENDS:

We were so happy to have all of our little babies back in the Starfish room on Monday! Seeing everybody's smiling faces made our week! We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and an even better long weekend. It seems when we have long weekends and the kids come back they all have new things to show us! Which we are thrilled to hear about. James H. showed us that he can crawl now and Olivia showed us that she is doing wonderful with sitting up by herself! We did lots of decorations to the room for CHRISTMAS. Yes, I said it. CHRISTMAS! We learned that the most famous Christmas colors are red and green. We have plenty in store for our little babies for Christmas! Which we are so excited about. During our morning circle time we sing Christmas songs and Emma-Reese and Jackson's face just light up with joy. Please be sure to check your child's cubby at the end of each day in case there is paperwork to be sent home. Have a wonderful weekend and we will see you on Monday!

## NEWS FROM OUT SEA TURTLE FRIENDS:

This week in the Sea Turtle room we had fun making our Christmas gifts! Hope you love them! We had a lot of fun with art projects and sensory this week. Edible sand was a really fun one for the babies. They loved the feeling of it and it helps that they were able to put it in their mouth! June had the biggest smile when she smashed it on the table. Bird loved swishing it all over the table. We also had some fun with food coloring and oil in a bag. The babies loved looking at the colored bubbles it created. Nate was so excited; when he picked the bag up he loved it! They enjoyed making snowflakes with a soda bottle for art. Oscar banged it all over his paper. They also really enjoyed the spider web discovery basket. We put toys in a basket and made a win out of string. They had fun trying to get the different sized toys out of the basket. This week was packed full of cool fun!

## NEWS FROM OUR OTTER FRIENDS:

We had a busy fun week in the Otter Room decorating our classroom for the holiday season and can't wait to do more holiday crafts. The children really enjoyed doing the Hanukkah star, pine branch painting, snowflakes, melting snowman, and the Kwanzaa necklace with black and red noodles. For gross motor they really enjoyed "surprise", walking on the roof, jingle bells, climbing the chimney and free playtime. Gavin, Kailyn, Will and John love the Christmas books and will sit forever to listen to them, they really show interest in story time as well as all the other children do. For fine motor we put peppermint in a bag, oranges and a few other things for what's that smell? And we had fun with the cooked spaghetti sensory. The children had so much fun doing the Christmas tree project with the sugar cones and all the yummy treats to

decorate them with 🍌 they also enjoyed snacking on them while decorating their trees.

Don't forget our Christmas party is December 18th at 10:00am and its dress down Friday so wear you ugly Christmas sweater or you Christmas pajamas. The teachers will be wearing them for the

Ugly Sweater Contest 😁



Noelle making a Snowman!

# CLASSROOM NEWS!!

## NEWS FROM OUR WALRUS FRIENDS:

This week we worked harder than an elf the day before Christmas. We got our classroom door decorated just in time. We made ornaments for the tree in the lobby. We learned all about the letter "Nn". We made party plans for next Friday. We started another COUNT DOWN CHAIN. Very excited for our four-day weekend. There is nothing more important than spending time with the family. We danced this week, we sung a lot, and we rocked it out. And it all started with a new room arrangement. Rearranging a class provokes new and more classroom creativity. Including children in on the decision-making helps build a positive sense of ownership. We will be working on two new important parts of our room. Do to the strong interest in dinosaurs we will be making DINOSAUR LAND!!! If you have anything dino that you would like to part with, we'll take it! On the other side of the room we have CAR WORLD!!! We are planning for roads, ramps, loops, and racing! Have to many cars? We'll take them as well!

## NEWS FROM OUR DOLPHIN FRIENDS:

It was a great week in the Dolphin room! The kids have been having so much fun learning the holiday songs we've been practicing! In language arts this week we created a winter word list, talked about Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and spent some time story telling. In art the class had a lot of fun making snow globes with Ms. Jordan. We had a blast making our applesauce and cinnamon ornaments! The class loved that it was messy. For math this week we spent some time on counting backwards, and measuring how tall everyone is. I hope everyone enjoys his or her weekend, see you Monday!



Alex helping make the applesauce and cinnamon ornaments for our lobby tree! They sure did smell delicious!

## NEWS FROM OUR GYMNASTICS CLASS:

This week in Gymnastics the three year olds enjoyed stretching games, and dance movement. Our four year olds were working on balancing and continued to work on the importance of stretching!

## NEWS FROM OUR OCTOPUS FRIENDS:

This week in the Octopus class, we learned about Kwanzaa! Kwanzaa is an African holiday that is celebrated on December 26<sup>th</sup>, and is based on 7 principles: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination) Ujamaa (supporting each other), Nia (purpose), Kumbaa (creativity), and Imani (faith). In class we discussed the traditions behind Kwanzaa, and made a venn diagram, comparing Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas! We also made Kwanzaa mats and read some great Kwanzaa literature, including: "It's Kwanzaa Time!" By Synthia St. James, and "Lil' Rabbits Kwanzaa" By Donna L. Washington! Next week we will be learning about Christmas! Don't forget to bring in a dozen cookies for our cookie exchange, Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>!



An Octopus class birthday tradition! Shane is making his rounds around the son 5 times, in honor of his 5<sup>th</sup> birthday! Happy Birthday Shane!



# CLASSROOM NEWS!!

## NEWS FROM OUR MUSIC CLASS:

### Music Class with my Preschool Friends

This Week We:

**Started with our welcome song, "I'm So Glad You're Here"**

Every week this song gets a little more crazy, a little more funnier, and yes louder!

**A telling of the sad story that happened to my Grandma last year**

We sang "Grandma Got Ran Over By A Reindeer". (*change "beer" to "juice"*)

**A telling of the happy story from when I was a little boy**

We sang "Frosty The Snow Man"

### **Thumb Drum**

We learned all about the Thumb Drum and took turns playing it.

Objectives:

Exploring Musical Instruments

Songs Can Tell Stories

Songs Convey Feeling Both Happy and Sad

### Music Class with my Toddler Friends

This Week We:

**Started with our welcome song, "I'm So Glad You're Here"**

My friends are really starting to open up and have fun with this song.

### **Ten Little Monkeys**

We read Tina Freeman's book, "Ten Little Monkeys Jumping On The Bed".

### **Ten Little Monkeys**

Singing and dancing to this hit song. Great for building math concepts.

### **Thumb Drum**

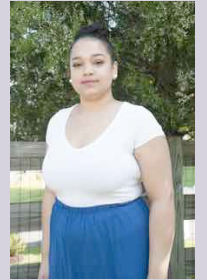
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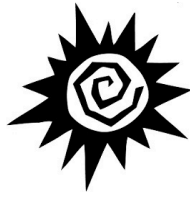
Objectives:

Instrument Exploration

Music Can Be Written

*"Music is the movement of sound to reach the soul for the education of its virtue." Plato*





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GOOD NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES

October 2015

**Do you have something nice to say about Mill Creek?** Our staff love to hear your feedback! Please give us a 5 Star review on Google and we'll give you a coffee card just for being awesome! Thank you for all of your support – for being part of our BB Family!!

Do you need some Christmas cookie ideas?

This link has plenty!

<http://kidsactivitiesblog.com/63665/christmas-cookies-intro>



**Did you see this on our Facebook page? If not – go “like” our page!**

