

## NOVEMBER 2021

In this month of Thanksgiving, let's try to remember to show gratitude, to say thank you, to those around us. This year more than ever we need to look for reasons to be thankful! But some are easy - Thank you to all the teachers who lovingly care for our school children and take each one along their learning path. Thank you to the children who bring us such joy! Thank you to our wonderfully encouraging and supportive parents. And to our extended support staff, thank you - you're the best!

### Health Thank-You:

The teachers and I want to thank all of you parents for being so cautious concerning your child's health. We appreciate that you are keeping your child home when they may be ill. You are taking such good care of your child while also taking care of and protecting the entire school community. Together we can accomplish what none of us can accomplish alone! Thank you very much.

### Nature's Classroom:

Everyone is enjoying time spent in our new outdoor area, Nature's Classroom! Thank you to the many who contributed to this fundraising effort.....primarily parents, but also former students including Russ Davidson, jr. of Redwood Trees and Lawncare, Investors Bank who awarded us a \$4,000 grant and of course the generous matching gift donor. An extra 30 minutes of outdoor educational time each day is a real blessing! We are grateful for this space and for the (mostly) beautiful Fall weather.



### Upcoming Dates:

Nov. 2 Election Day - Here in school, we will vote on our preferred outdoor play space - the playground or Nature's Classroom!

Nov. 4 & 5 School is closed - Teacher Convention

Nov. 22 & 23 Thanksgiving celebrations for the children in the classroom

Nov. 24 - 26 School is closed - Happy Thanksgiving

### Regarding the flu shot, we must have:

-Flu shot documentation OR

-a note from your child's doctor claiming medical exemption OR

-a note from you claiming religious exemption. (Please note that once you claim religious exemption, you must refrain from any additional immunizations) **This is required by the state of New Jersey by December 31, 2021, for children 6-59 months of age in order to return to school in January.**

## NOVEMBER OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

First - **thank you** for all the coats! 146 were collected in total along with 38 Scarves, 46 Hats and 34 Pairs of Gloves/Mittens ☺

### Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection

This Christmas YOU can make a difference! Through Operation Christmas Child you can reach out to a needy child by filling up a shoebox with toys, school supplies and other gifts for children. Bring your gift-filled box to the table in the front entryway by Thursday, November 18 (all boxes must be here by 4:30 PM). Be sure to label your box with a gender/age tag which you will find in the brochure coming home with your child and please include a check for \$9 (made out to Samaritan's Purse). If you prefer you can choose the "Follow-Your-Box" option available online. (see [www.samaritanaspurse.org](http://www.samaritanaspurse.org)).

### Food Pantry Donations

We are accepting food pantry donations November 22 and 23. Look for a collection box by the front doors. All food will be donated to a local food pantry. Much needed items include pasta, pasta sauce, mac & cheese, jelly, cereal, beans, chili, tuna, tomato soup, sugar, flour, canned fruit cocktail, canned corn or peas, coffee, and tea.

In this season of Thanksgiving, let's take time to pause and give thanks. I hope you enjoy this blog post written by Holley Gerth:

In an experiment, two groups of people were given a list of words. One had positive words and the other negative. They were then both given the exact same story about a man. A simple tale. When asked to describe this character afterward, can you guess which group was complimentary and which critical? It all depended on what they'd recently been thinking about.

In other words, we prime our minds by what we put into them. Our perspective on our experiences is, at least in part, predetermined. Perhaps Paul understood that when he said, *"Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise"* (Php. 4:8).

And because of this, I'd like us to do a little experiment of our own: *Let's start giving thanks now so that we really are ready for Thanksgiving this year.* What's below is a quick and simple countdown that we can go through ahead of time . . .

Day 1 - *Who* in your life are you thankful for? Think of at least one person.

Day 2 - *What* is a memory that brings you joy? Look back and see God's goodness in it all over again.

Day 3 - *How* have you seen God answer your prayers this year? Pause and reflect on one "yes" you are living in now.

Day 4 - *When* do you feel joy? Pay extra attention to one happy little moment in your day.

Day 5 - *Where* can you see God's hand in your life? Consider one way He is taking care of you.

Day 6 - *Why* did Jesus come for us? Revisit His extraordinary love.

Day 7 - Give thanks for all of the above.

We can simply ponder these questions or pull out a pen to make it official. We don't have to feel guilty if thankfulness doesn't come easily. God knows we're human and He loves us that way. He's the Giver of all good things — including the grace we need on the days when our attitude tries to compete with our gratitude.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Maury