

# Grey Stone Gazette

Grey Stone Preschool and Kindergarten

Winter 2011

Dear Parents,

Excitement fills the air at Grey Stone School as we prepare for the Christmas Holidays, and what a special time it is! Our little elves are busy making gifts, baking goodies and working on surprises. Their handwork is a special treasure you will enjoy for years to come.



**Lunch Bunch Reminders:**  
Lunch Bunch is a fun time for your children to stay after school to enjoy lunch and play with their friends.

**Time: 12:00-12:50pm**

**Ages: 3,4,5 & 6 Cost: \$5.00/day**

**Days: Tuesday & Thursday**

**No Lunch Bunch**

**December 13 & 15, February 14**

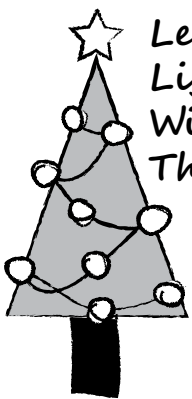
**\*\*Remember: We are Peanut Free\*\***

From our Grey Stone family to yours, we want to wish you a happy, safe and joyous Holiday Season filled with simple pleasures. Thank you for the many ways you support our teachers, our children and our families.

## Welcome Winter!

We are so thankful for the blessings of warm wishes, giving and kindness; faith, family and friends; love, laughter... and the special blessing of memories. We have many new ones...this, our first year at Grey Stone.

The Grey Stone Teachers



Let the magic of the Season  
Light up your Soul  
With all the hope and wonder  
The child within us knows.

- T.J. Mills

My day is complete  
XOXOXOXOXO  
I heard a child laugh

## Upcoming Events

- December 13** Parent Committee Meeting 9-10am
- December 15** Chick-fil-a Spirit Night 12-8pm
- December 15 & 16** The Christmas Story with Pastor Kevin
- December 15 & 16** Class Christmas Parties!!!
- December 19 - January 3** Christmas Holiday (Grey Stone School CLOSED)
- January 4** Back to School
- January 10** Parent Committee Meeting 7-8:15 pm
- January 16** Martin Luther King Holiday (Grey Stone School CLOSED)
- January 28** Grey Stone Preschool and Kindergarten Family Night Pizza / Potluck. 5-7pm (More info to come!)

## Bundle Up!! ...Sun's Out!

Please remember to dress your child warmly for our outside playground time. As long as the sun's out, we'll be going out! Please send mittens, a hat and a warm coat. **Remember to label each clothing article with your child's name. Thank you!**



## *Parents' Corner - News from the Parent Committee*

Huge thanks to everyone for a successful BBQ Fundraiser! We made \$975! We couldn't have done it without all those parents who helped set up for the event and who created plates for everyone. Thank you to those volunteers and to all of you who sold and ordered plates. It was a great event! A very special thank you to Chuck McLean and Tim Marbrey for all their hard work in cooking our delicious meal!

Please join us on December 15th for Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A on Hillsborough Road. From 12pm - 8pm, Chick-fil-A will take a portion of what you spend and give it back to our school. All you have to do is bring the coupon with you when you order your meal (coupons will be sent home in your child's tote bag and at the front desk). From 5pm - 8pm, we'll have the Spinning Wheel for \$.50 a spin. Every spin wins a prize! We hope you can join us!

### **What is the Parent Committee?**

The Parent Committee is a group of parents that supports the Grey Stone Preschool and Kindergarten. It's main goals and purposes are:

- to promote family involvement
- to share knowledge about what is going on at the school and help create the vision for the school
- to raise funds for the school
- to support teachers
- to enhance community life of the school

### **What does the Parent Committee do?**

We hold Parent Committee meetings every month to discuss and create upcoming events at the school. We alternate the times of our meetings each month. One month we'll meet during the school day and the next month we'll meet in the evening. All Grey Stone Preschool and Kindergarten families and children are welcome to attend these meetings. Our role is still evolving and we'd love your help and participation!

### **How can you get involved?**

There are many ways you can get involved in the Parent Committee. Here are some ways and always look for other ways you can help and support our school throughout the year in the Gazette, in classroom sign-up sheets, and in flyers in your child's tote bag.

- Attend monthly meetings.
- Sign up to be a classroom parent.
- Volunteer to serve at our events.
- Collect Box Tops and Labels for Education. Deposit them in the container at the Welcome Desk. Every label or box top helps us earn money for our school.
- Link your grocery store cards (Harris Teeter, Kroger, or Food Lion) to our school. A portion of what you spend is sent back to our school.

### **Important Upcoming Dates**

**Tuesday, December 13th, 9am - 10am**

Parent Committee Meeting

**Thursday, December 15th, 12pm - 8pm**

Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A on Hillsborough Road!  
Come and enjoy lunch and/or dinner while also earning money for our school!

**Tuesday, January 10th, 7pm - 8:15 pm**

Parent Committee Meeting

## **Our Grey Stone Parent Committee Rocks!**

Our Parent Committee raised \$2,500.00 at our August Cookout and almost \$1,000.00 at the BBQ fundraiser! A family of angels added another generous donation to the Cookout money, and now we have enough to buy the laminator we needed! Thank you all for helping to "build" our sweet little school. We have been truly blessed by the generosity of our Grey Stone families, and still you keep taking care of us! Now that some of our needs are filled, hopefully some of our future fundraisers will be used to start a scholarship fund, and we can extend the generosity to some of our families who need assistance

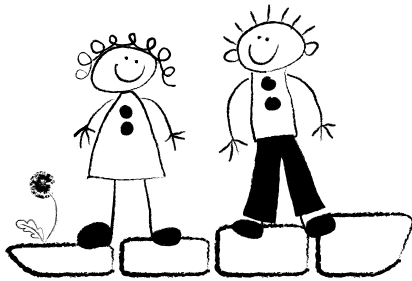
## **Wish Tree Update**

Our cup runneth over with all the wishes that have come true for us this fall. We have received televisions, DVD players, brooms and mops, toys and books, squirrel-proof bird feeders, empty toilet paper rolls (Yes! We need those, too!) and gift cards to our favorite places. The branches are a little lighter and our rooms are so much fuller. Thank you!

## **School Pictures!**

Thank you for your support with our fall fundraiser with John Elkins Photography. We raised over \$300.00! This money will be used to help cover the cost of new educational materials in our classrooms, as we continue to grow.

## *Kindergarten Connection*



### *"Kindergarten, Here We Come!"*

Our Open House was very well attended. The "Turkey" Art Gallery was very popular, as it displayed an array of different developmental stages in children's art forms - from 2 years old to 6 years. Developmental stages of 4, 5 and 6 year olds were discussed, as well as milestones to look for to determine Kindergarten and First Grade readiness. In addition, Mrs. Reh produced a DVD which highlighted the top 10 signs of a good Kindergarten. Parents of alumni were able to share their experiences and answer questions from a parent's perspective. If you were unable to attend, a copy of the DVD is available to borrow from the office, as well as an informational packet. We look forward to a Kindergarten class full of shining faces in the 2012 - 2013 school year!

## **Parent Conferences**

**If you would like a conference with your child's teachers in mid to late January, please contact them to set up a time. It is nice to "check in" and see just how far your child has come in such a short time... and to discuss his or her best placement for next year.**

## **Kindermusik Korner**

### **Sing, Play and Learn with Kindermusik:**

Join us for an energetic, eight-week session of ABC Music & Me with Kindermusik Educator Barbra Laird. Classes include instrument exploration, singing, movement, literacy development, pretend play and more! Every four-weeks children receive a CD, instrument and activity booklet, so you can extend the play and learning at home.

Our first four-weeks, we'll put a new spin on trains, buses, planes and cars with "On the Go." The next four weeks our curriculum will be, "Around the Farm." We'll play games, sing and pretend to be all types of animals on the farm. It will be a magical time!

### **2 - 4 years: ABC Laugh & Learn**

11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Mondays, 8 weeks with a caregiver -- \$10 per class plus home materials

### **3 ½ - 6 years: ABC Music & Me!**

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Mondays, 8 weeks -- \$12 per class/lunch bunch plus home materials (Class without caregiver, includes a lunch bunch story time and the music class)

Classes begin Monday, February 6. For complete class descriptions and online registration visit, [www.sweetsongs.net](http://www.sweetsongs.net) or email [info@sweetsongs.net](mailto:info@sweetsongs.net).

# Classroom Scoop

## Kindergarten

*Mrs. Reh, Mrs. Venable and Mrs. Gilbert*

The kindergarten class has been at work and play, fast and furiously this fall! The kindergarteners learned about and compared the lifestyles of the Plains Indians and the Northeast Woodland Indians. Students also designed their own shields and clay medallions. Of course, the highlight of our Native American study was our class celebration of Thanksgiving!

We were also busy with our studies of penguins and polar bears. We learned where they live, how they stay warm, and what they like to eat. We learned to identify many of the 17 different kinds of penguins and made a graph of our favorite ones!

In January, we will start the new year with our weather unit. Students will track the weather and give a weather report daily. We will do several science experiments and we will even make it rain in our classroom! Our favorite weatherman, Bill Reh (aka Mrs. Reh's husband), will pay a visit and teach us more about the weather and what it is like to be a meteorologist. After our weather unit, we will have our study of the US Postal System. We will set up a post office in our room and go on a field trip to the post office. Other units in winter include learning about bears and nutrition, including the famous kindergarten breakfast prepared by the students! Never a dull moment in kindergarten!



## Junior Kindergarten

*Mrs. Aitken and Mrs. Amshay*

"It's a holly, jolly" Christmas in the JrK. Class. We are busy with Christmas crafts (coming soon – a paint stirrer magically turned into a snowman); baking "our own special" goodies; gifts and shh... surprises; Christmas songs; and celebrating Jesus' birth. Also, a mystery guest will make a visit in December and it's not Santa! SO... don't miss a single day of "the best time of the year"!

January begins with New Year's Resolutions and a short study on Eskimos. We will even try to build an igloo! THEN, "let the good times roll"... we begin our letter study.

Our first letter of the week is "M" – mittens, muffins, money, magic, mystery box. We'll look forward to an English tea party, dancing, hand hide 'n seek, healthy habits, Valentine's, patriotism, pizza and Fancy Nancy letter words as we continue our letter study. We will also learn sign language for each letter and we will learn to finger spell our name. Show 'n Tell for the new year must start with the Letter of the Week. Boys and girls, rest your fingers over the holiday – they will be getting a "workout" with lots of cutting and writing in the new year.

Have a Merry Christmas, and we look forward to happy, healthy and "snap, crackle, pop" good times in 2012!



## Pre-Kindergarten

*Mrs. Ingold and Mrs. Goss*

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!" with Santa's Workshop in full swing. Our little elves are busy making surprises, singing Christmas songs, and learning about "Christmas Traditions Around the World." "Elfie," our little classroom elf, reports back to Santa each day! We are trying to be good "for goodness sakes!" Later, we will gather with Pastor Kevin to hear the story of the Nativity and sing some of our special Christmas songs.

In January, we will start our letters of the week with many fun and exciting activities. "W" is our first letter, so we will be learning about wishes, winter, weather, Snowman Soup, and animals in winter. We will do so much writing and making letter books! Later we will explore the letters M, B, and P. We will have Mystery bags, "Backwards Day," a Teddy Bear Picnic, an awesome Pajama Party, and we will see just what "Apron Annie" has in her pockets each week!

In February, we will be making and mailing valentines, so be on the lookout for a special delivery! We will also be working on letters, H, L, V, C, and T. We will be learning about healthy habits, dental health, community helpers, and transportation. The children will have fun dressing up as "What they want to be when they grow up!" Bring on the props!! We will have lots of fun with "Ned's Head," "Hat Day," and Show and Tell our Treasures. "L" is for "lots of love," writing our last names and all the letters of the alphabet... and so much more! 'Tis the season to be jolly!" So... Enjoy every warm minute and have a merry little Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

## Three Year Olds

*Mrs. Stathelson and Mrs. Danes*

The classroom is covered in so much glitter that it looks like Jack Frost has come to visit our room! Our "little elves" are busy, busy making Christmas surprises and we are all full excitement. Can you believe it's almost Christmas!?! Well, almost. . . We'll be eagerly counting down the days of Advent, while learning new songs, decking the halls and using all five senses to take in the wonders of the holidays. We'll be learning about sharing, caring and giving while celebrating a very important birthday. We just love to do the "Reindeer Pokey" and play "Santa Says. . ." We'll find out just "Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar." And we will try our best to be "good for goodness sake!"

We will welcome Winter in January by taking care of our feathered friends, building a snowman and sweeping out all the bad spirits of the old year to prepare for our "Teddy Bear Picnic and Chinese New Year Parade." We'll help those poor "Three Little Kittens" find their mittens before their little paws get too cold, and remind Goldie Locks that it's not nice to explore a house without permission. In February our hearts are full of love and our Post Office full of valentines! We'll be drawing, cutting, gluing, painting, patterning and the glitter will fall like snowflakes. Later we will take an imaginary trip to the Circus and get our motors running with "Things That Go."

Our hands will get stronger every day with our handwriting activities, while we continue to count and rhyme and explore the world of opposites. And just wait until they teach you how to do the "Counting Macarena", "A Tooty Ta" and the "Chicken Dance!" We just make ourselves giggle! May your stars shine brightly in the New Year.



## Two Year Olds

*Mrs. Danes and Mrs. Stathelson*

We'll count down to Christmas with Snowbear by making decorating ornaments, singing special songs, baking, and celebrating with friends. Little Lamb and Donkey will show us that gentle Baby Jesus welcomes everyone.

January brings a cloud of energetic but small snowflakes. Where will they land? How deep will the snow be? Up to your ankle? Up to your knee? Later in the month we'll hibernate with the bears and groundhogs and search for food with the winter birds.

Build! Build! Build! In February we'll discover new

tools and new ways to build. How high can you build? Oh no! A catastrophe! The dragon destroyed our castle. Never fear. We can rebuild. Was that a dragon or a dinosaur? Watch out when the dinosaurs come to play. They're fun, but they're always hungry.



## Toddlers

*Mrs. Paxton, Mrs. McLean and Mrs. Whittaker*

Our toddler class keeps growing and growing, which is good because we'll need lots of helping hands to help get everything ready in time for Christmas! Bring on the paint, glue, and glitter! It might get a little messy, but it's worth it to share our holiday cheer. We don't want to spoil any Christmas surprises, but I know you all are going to be so impressed with what these little hands can create! Save some room on your tree for a few special ornaments!

Once we get back to school in January, Christmas may be over but winter will still be here! Hopefully we'll have a Snowy Day to play in, but if we don't we might just have to make some snow of our own! And if there's snow, we'll just have to make some cute snowmen and read Snow Party to go with it. We're going to need something to keep all these little hands warm! Maybe some colorful mittens will do the trick...

February will be the time for us to show some love to our friends, classmates and families, though that shouldn't be too hard for this class! We'll talk about sharing and being kind to our friends, and then make a special snack to share with all our friends. And don't be surprised to find a special valentine with your name on it peeking out of a tote bag one day! After that, we're going to keep singing and dancing our way into springtime!

Mrs. Whittaker's Thursday class are busy elves in December. We are making presents and learning Christmas songs about Jesus. Merry, merry Christmas! When we return from our long winter's break, we will look at winter and cold weather activities. The two's will create some snowflakes and conduct ice experiments. We will bring our favorite stuffed friend to school when we talk about hibernation. February will be about Valentine's Day and the love we show for our families. The month wouldn't be complete without heart art projects and people puppets. Since we will be so busy we won't have to worry about being cold. Happy winter season!

# Notes from the Office

## 2112 - 2013 Registration Updates "Sign those children up!"

When we return in January, we will begin registering for the 2012 - 2013 school year which begins in September. Once registration is open, a non-refundable registration and supply fee of \$125.00 is due for returning students and siblings by Friday, February 3rd. Please come by the front desk to get applications for siblings, if you have not done so. You can also download these forms at [www.greystone.org](http://www.greystone.org) or call (919) 286-2281 ext.238 If you have family or friends that are interested in our school, please have them contact us!

## Admittance Cut Off Date

**August 31st is the birthday cut off date for student enrollment.**

Example: If your child will be 3 years old on or before August 31st, 2012, he or she will be in the 3 year old class. If he/she turns 3 after August 31st, 2012, he/she will be placed in the 2 year old class.

## The Blessing of Giving - Thank you!

Our "Terrific Tubs" have been a success! Grey Stone School filled both tubs with wonderful books for Durham Social Services. Our families filled almost 50 boxes for Operation Christmas Child that will be sent to Mongolia. Our tubs were overflowing with canned goods for the Grey Stone Food Pantry, and our children got to visit it and see all their good work at Thanksgiving. Thank you for supporting all the programs of Kids Helping Kids.

### Upcoming Terrific Tubs:

#### December and January - "Warm Winter Wishes"

Please help us fill our tubs with gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, socks and "gently used" coats for the Durham Rescue Mission and Salvation Army

#### February - "Candy for Kids"

We will be filling our tubs with any bags of individually wrapped hard candies and used video games for Grey Stone's Missionary Outreach Trip to Ethiopia in March (More info to come!)  
Please keep your Box Tops and Campbell Soup labels coming to school. Also, don't forget to register your grocery cards. Every little thing you do helps us so much!



find us on facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/greystoneschool/>

We are so thankful for friends like you!

## Requests from our teachers...

Please send in a new set of extra clothes for your child. The days are colder, so they may need long sleeves and long pants for the winter. We will send the summer wardrobe home once we have the new set. Please place items in a zip-loc bag, labeled with your child's name.

**Classroom arrival time is between 8:55 and 9:00am.** We do not open our classroom doors and indoor playground prior to 8:55. Our teachers depend on this time to prepare for the day.

*Thank you so much!*

## Safety in the Hallway

Please be careful with little ones at the front door.

Our front doors are easy to open by little ones, but are also very heavy and could easily squish little fingers. Please remind your child that opening doors is for grown-ups and holding hands is for parking lots.

**It's a "school rule"!**

## Our Garden is Planted!

We hope a little "Mousekin" finds a warm home for winter.

## IT'S ALMOST TAX TIME!

Some childcare expenses are tax deductible.

Our Federal Tax ID:

56-2050919

## Severe Weather Closings

Tune in to WTVD, WRAL and NBC17 for all severe weather announcements and school closings.

Look for **Grey Stone 1/2 Day School** or **Grey Stone Preschool and Kindergarten**

**Please continue to let us know of any changes in regular or emergency contact information - (street address, phone number, e-mail address) Thanks!**