

December 2008 Monthly Update

*Mr. Willowby's Christmas tree
Came by special delivery.
Full and fresh and glistening green—
The biggest tree he had ever seen...
Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree by Robert Barry*

Dear Parents,

I am sure many of you have started preparing for Christmas by purchasing a Christmas tree like Mr. Willowby. Other families start the holiday season by gathering around a family advent wreath, baking cookies, or decorating gingerbread houses. Whatever your family Christmas traditions are I hope they serve to turn your hearts and minds to the coming of Christ, as a babe and as the Savior of all created.

A few reminders for the month of December.

Monday, December 8, 2008 You are invited to the 2008-2009 Deerstream Junior Division English students' presentations titled, *In the Character's Voice*. The presentations will be held in rooms 255 and 257 starting at 10:45. All are welcome!

Wednesday, December 10 is our last day of classes in 2008. We will see you on Monday, January 5, 2009! Have a wonderful Christmas break.

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 Café and Play and afternoon classes start. We still have spaces available if you are interested in the afternoon sessions.

Snack Changes: For more years than I can remember Deerstream children have brought a snack to share with their classmates. As we have grown the snack "system", i.e. telephone and email reminders, covering snacks when folks are absent or have forgotten, food allergies, gathering the water bottles for recycling, etc. has become very cumbersome. Therefore, we are going to make significant changes starting on Monday, January 5, 2009 hoping that these changes will be an improvement. Please carefully read the information below:

- Each student will bring their own small nutritious snack and water only. If you send a reusable water bottle please put their name on it.
- Unfortunately there will be no sharing or trading. When Deerstream first opened it's doors children brought their own snack and trading and sharing was a problem and led to hurt feelings.
- If young elementary age children (5,6,7s) forget their snack we will provide Saltine crackers. Other children will have to wait for lunch.
- If children bring items such as, candy, sweets, soft drinks, etc. they will be asked to eat them in their car on the way home.

- All classes will have a NO PEANUTS policy. We have a few children with peanut allergies and so it is easier to have no peanuts in any Deerstream class. Those food items that have been processed in plants where nut products are processed are fine.

VERY IMPORTANT: Recently a Deerstream teacher's purse was stolen out of her car during Deerstream hours. Regrettably the thief broke her rear window and took the purse. Please do not leave any valuables in your car even if just for a brief moment while you, "run inside."

I hope you enjoy this holiday season and take time to reflect on the historical event of Christ's birth.

Merry Christmas!
Amy Chauncey
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