

January 2009 Monthly Update

O Father, light up the small duties of this day. Help us to believe that glory may dwell in the commonest task. Amen.
The YMCA Student Prayerbook, 1953

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe 2009 is here and we will start planning for the next school year in Financial and Educational Committee meetings, by updating the admissions process and meeting with interested families. These are uncertain economic times and we are unsure how this will affect our families and the organization. We will continue to do. "...the small duties of this day" with the Deerstream mission in mind:

The mission of Deerstream Learning Center is twofold: To provide a classroom experience for homeschoolers, taught in a Christian environment by qualified faculty and to offer parents support and encouragement for their own teaching.

We have often received excellent suggestions from our families that have helped us clarify how to support and encourage our families. Some parental suggestions that have expanded our organization are: adding Monday classes for the upper elementary ages, expanding the dress code, and offering a la carte classes at the junior division level. As you consider your future educational decisions please let us know if you have suggestions that the administration and/or Board of Trustees should consider. I am hopeful that 2009 will be a year of learning and growing for all of us. May we bring glory to God as we work and He blesses the work of our hands.

Monday, January 5, 2009 Monday classes resume. Please remember the snack changes listed below!! A backpack might make it easier for your children to keep up with their snacks and other things that need to go home.

Monday, January 5 Our monthly informal picnic will be on the playground from 12:15-1:15. Call a friend, pack a lunch and enjoy a little time with other Deerstream families.

Wednesday, January 7 Wednesday classes resume, **no afternoon sessions.**

Wednesday, January 14 Café and Play and afternoon classes resume. We have space available if you or your friends are interested. Email me at deerstream@gmail.com.

Monday, January 19 Martin Luther King Day, NO CLASS.

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. (From the December Monthly Update)

Blessings to you and your family.

Sincerely,
Amy Chauncey
Deerstream@gmail.com