

There is a saying that "the best gifts come in small packages." We in preschool have certainly enjoyed all the small gifts that have walked through our door this year.

Our year has been a fantastic mix of fun and learning. October was a time of learning about food. It is not only a need; it can be a delicious gift of enjoyment. But where does it come from? Answers such as "the store," "the kitchen," or "my mom" were some of the answers. So, we spent time talking about a farm and the foods that can be grown there. Then we learned that

those foods were then brought to the grocery store so that we could buy them. We learned about foods that were healthy and foods we liked or didn't like.

The students had lots of fun playing at the class grocery store center. Students were observed making decisions on what they would and would not buy. One of our students took what she bought over to the housekeeping center and started putting her groceries away in the refrigerator and cabinets. It was obvious that at home she is included in their grocery shopping trips. Hopefully, the lessons and grocery store center will have planted the seeds for growing a solid foundation for a life of healthy eating.

In December, we have enjoyed working in the Bakery Shop center. Yes, we enjoy the gifts of cookies, cupcakes, and cakes; but these are treats that should be saved for special times and not eaten often. The students practiced the work that goes into creating the desserts. It was fun to watch the students mixing, cooking, decorating, and then sharing what they made. Several students were just having fun playing with the tools that are found in the kitchen. We enjoyed lots of laughs when we found out how much noise could be made when pots and pans are hit together!

Along with all of this, we continue to enjoy the gift of reading. Each center included reading material. The grocery store had flyers, and the bakery shop had magazines filled with pictures and recipes of many Christmas desserts. Teachers spent time going through these items with the students as they played in these centers.

Classroom books are all around the classroom. Teachers read to the students often. We are thrilled when a student accepts a book that is offered to them, and they begin reading it or they pick a book on their own to read.

This holiday season we consider it a gift to be able to work with our students. We all agree, "the best gifts come in small packages."

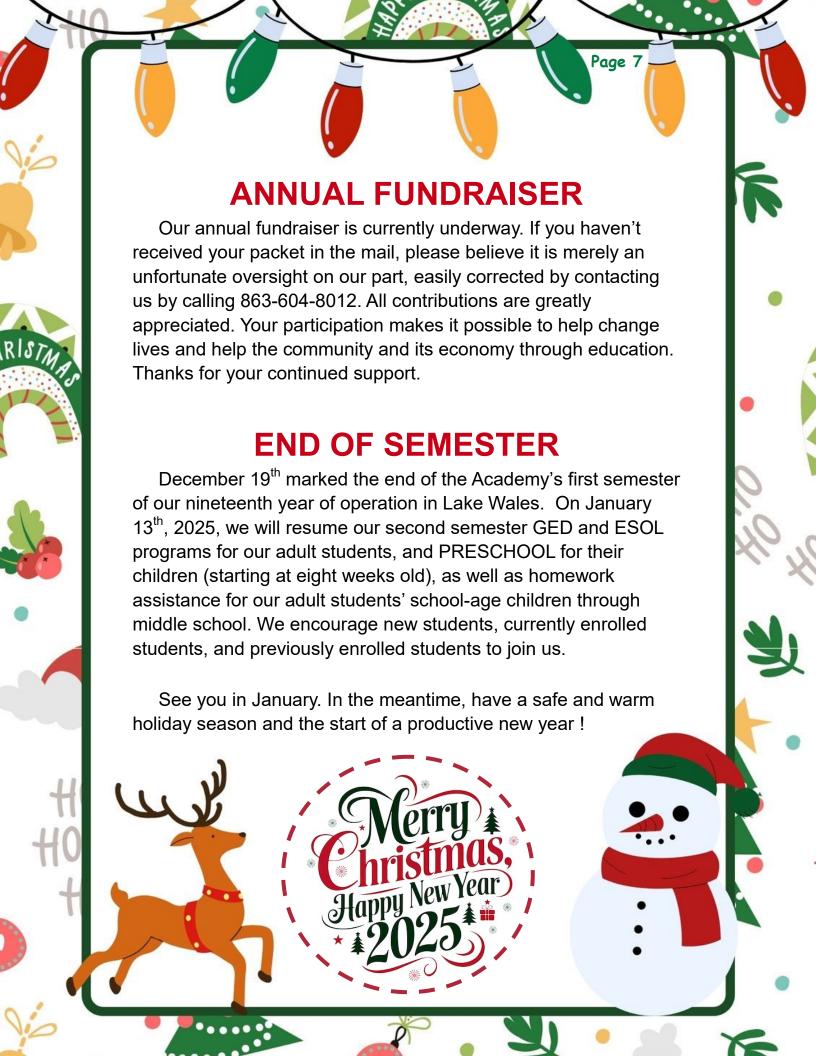
This article was provided by the lead teacher in our preschool, the very creative Robin Jolley.











Dr. Rodolfich continues to provide his community insights in the form of newsletters, which we are pleased to pass on to you. Please take notice of the following:

Newsletter

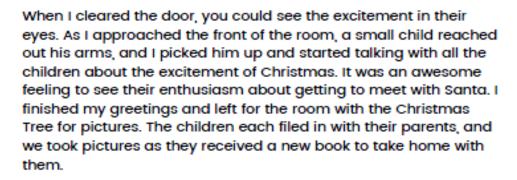
### READ20 20 Minutes = 1.4% of your day



### Family Literacy Academy Christmas Party

A few weeks ago Gail Crum and Dem Cowles called me about playing Santa Claus for their Christmas event at the Mary Campbell Resource Center in Lake Wales. I was a little apprehensive because children are very perceptive, and it would take a great deal of convincing for them to accept me as Santa Claus. They then made me an offer I could not refuse. They said we would be giving away books while I took pictures with the children. I accepted and recruited my two youngest children to be my elves.

We arrived at the Center fully dressed and were sent to a waiting room for the grand entrance. My children immediately immersed themselves with the resources in the classroom where we were waiting. There were so many fun activities for the children attending the event. They did arts and crafts, had a story read to them, and they were served cookies and milk. It was a wonderfully planned event with such great fun for our children. When all the festivities were nearing their conclusion, I was summoned with my elves to the gathering with the children.



There is something magical about the Christmas season. The celebration of the birth of Christ and all the merriment that follows. There are many gifts that children can receive during the Christmas season, but one book stands above the rest. Use this time to celebrate, give gifts, eat well, and share the story of Christ and the promise of salvation that follows. It is a wonderful time to introduce the stories of the Holy Bible--Merry Christmas!





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