

## Woodbrook Early Education

### A ministry of Woodbrook Baptist Church

2025!! So hard to believe! I saw something the other day where a mom was holding up an ornament that said 1980 and she was like, I can't believe it has held up so well for 25 years and her husband responds with- um, that was 45 years ago! I often feel that way about many of my childhood things! December flew by as it always seems to. I enjoyed watching the children sing (or stand) in the Christmas program. It is always one of the best days of the year at WEE. I love that so many family members were able to join us. It shows us how big and loving our WEE family truly is!

As we head into 2025, many people will talk about resolutions or things they would like to do differently in the new year. Resolutions for children is a hard idea. Every day to them is a day to try something new. However, a new year is often what we adults think we need to try something new. Here are some ideas to try as a family:

- "Get Unplugged"- Set aside time each day that there are no electronics for children AND parents. If this is difficult for your family, start small- 30 minutes/day. Spend that time playing a game or taking a walk but really use it to focus on your family! As tempting as it might be, this means not even glancing at your watch (if you receive messages there) or checking any notifications you might get during that time.

"Eat a rainbow"- We often say we are going to eat healthier in the new year. Instead of that generic idea, focus on eating healthy foods in each color of the rainbow. This helps insure we are getting the wide variety of vitamins and minerals our bodies need to be their healthiest. This rainbow does not include foods that are artificially colored so sadly, Skittles are not the rainbow we are looking for. Have your child help plan the meals and pack their lunches. They are more likely to eat what they can participate in doing.

"Act of kindness"- Practice doing nice things for your family members for no recognition at all. This could be as simple as writing a note for your child's lunch box or your spouse just to remind them you love them. Encourage your children to do the same for their siblings. You can broaden this idea into paying for the person's coffee behind you in the drive through. Do these things were your children can see you do them. It models the kindness we want them to share in the world.



**WOODBROOK**  
EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

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“Work as a team”- It’s important your children learn that they are part of a community and that the work load is shared. The way to do this at a young age is to help them learn responsibility for their belongings and their home. Many think that toddlers and preschoolers are too young for chores but actually it is the most important time to start. You can do a reward chart if you would like for chores but ultimately, you want it to become so natural that it is just part of being in the family. We all help each other so we can better enjoy our relaxation time. I can say I’m not perfect with this myself but one of our family goals for example is having our children work up to doing their own laundry. The goal was by 5th grade and each of my children met that goal. I haven’t washed, dried or folded a piece of my children’s laundry since they entered 5th grade. Trust me, it’s worth all of the extra effort it takes when they are younger! In this newsletter, there are a list of age appropriate chores for you to start getting ideas.

You shouldn’t focus on trying to start too many new things at once. Decide as a family what you want to try and go for it! There will be days that you fail or it seems like too much. Don’t get frustrated and give up. You are in a marathon not a sprint when it comes to parenting. You might need to take a pause or break and try again the next day! Most importantly, enjoy each day with your child as much as you can. Before you know it, you are applying to colleges. (yikes!)

I wish you all the best as we move into 2025!

Love, Ms. Angela





## Inclement Weather Closings & Delays

As we move into December the possibility for more winter weather begins to increase. The WEE Center uses Baltimore County Schools as a **guideline** for closings and early dismissals due to snow or inclement weather.

Closings, delayed openings and early dismissals are aired on local radio and TV stations.

If Baltimore County announces a delayed opening of one (1) hour, WEE will open at 9:00AM. There will be NO Before Care on these days.

If Baltimore County announces that they will close schools early, there will be no After Care.

If Baltimore County announces that there is no after school or evening activities, it will be at the WEE Center's discretion if there is no After Care.

If Baltimore County announces that schools are closed, WE WILL ASSESS THE WEATHER AT 7:00AM TO MAKE A DECISION IF WE WILL CLOSE OR OPEN LATE. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE DO NOT TAKE THIS DECISION LIGHTLY AND WANT TO BE SURE EVERYONE (STAFF AND FAMILIES) CAN TRAVEL TO SCHOOL SAFELY FROM THE MANY DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE COUNTY.



## Red Room

How is it even 2025! The saying “the days are long, but the years fly” is all too true! Your children continue to bless us in ALL the ways and we are so thankful for you, the parents, and of course, the children! Thank you ALL for helping to make our Thankful Lunch and Christmas party such a success!

We jumped directly into preparing for Christmas, the birth of Jesus and all the beauty and miracle that it is! The children have been working hard on all the gifts for their families, as well as working hard on their songs for the Christmas program! In December, as well as looking at Christmas traditions we also continued working on our math and language skills. We enjoyed having so many families join us for the Christmas program and party afterwards. Thank you ALL for coming and donating items to help make our party a success! We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In January we will be exploring various winter topics, and the first week back we talked about how we celebrate the new year. The next topic we will be covering is Winter Weather and Winter Animals. We will round out the month with opposites and will continue learning our colors, numbers, and shape recognition. In addition, we will work on expanding our vocabulary and becoming more sociable (increased cooperative play). Math and science skills will be on the table as well.

We tend to see more cooperative play after the return from Christmas Holiday. The Red Room teachers are looking forward to watching your children grow and mature in the second half of the year! The children are excited to be back and to play with their friends-and the red Room teachers are so excited to see their smiling faces again!

Happy belated December Birthday to Olive on 12/12 and Ms. Michelle V. on 12/18 and Happy January Birthday to Ms. Michelle K. on 1/3, Owen on 1/4, Charlotte on 1/19, and Olivia K. on 1/30!

Love, Ms., Karen, Ms. Sharon, Ms. Michelle and Ms. Aleia



# YELLOW Room

Welcome back! We hope you had a happy and relaxing holiday break! December was filled with lots of holiday fun! We all enjoyed hearing the story of Jesus' Birth, decorating our room and making special presents for you.

In January we will be talking about the season of Winter. We will be making snowmen, snowflakes, snow globes, etc. We will also be learning about Artic animals and how they stay warm in the winter. We will end the month talking about Asian New Year as we make a dragon and dance. We will continue learning our letters, numbers, patterns, and working on our scissor skills and more throughout the month.

The Yellow room teachers are looking forward to a fantastic second half of the school year and we want to all our families wish a happy, healthy, and blessed 2025!

Happy January Birthday to Leo on 1/20!

Love, Ms. Bev, Ms. Jordan, Ms. Kristen, and Ms. Kate



# Blue Room



In December we had so much fun celebrating Holidays Around the World and learning why we celebrate Christmas. We were so happy that so many family members could join us for our Christmas program and party. Thank you so much for your generosity with your gifts to us as well as your contributions for our class party.

We will have such a wonderful January learning all about snow, ice, and winter animals. We are looking forward to all the fun we will be having in January.

Your children are working so well together. They have made so many great friendships. Some of the skills practiced every day are letter recognition and engaging together at circle time. We are working on rhyming, opposites, beginning to trace our names, and learning our last names.

Thank you for sharing your children with us.

Happy December Birthday to Maddox on 12/23 and  
Happy January Birthday to Kai on 1/26!

Love, Ms. Dominique, Ms. Becky, Ms. Angela,  
and Ms. Celina



# Green Room

Dear Families,

Christmas is such a special time with children! It was a pleasure to see the children's excitement each morning when they saw the new place where Frosty The Green Room Elf was hiding in December. Ms. Claire, our music teacher, said that the Green Room class did a terrific job with the Christmas songs at our Christmas Program! It was so rewarding seeing how well the children sang! The children's wonder and joy was so appreciated as they learned about the first Christmas when Baby Jesus was born. The children learned new vocabulary from this very special story: Nativity, Advent, and Savior. They also learned that God loves us so much that He sent His son to save the world!

Some of the Christmas activities we enjoyed were: making and decorating Christmas crafts and ornaments, wrapping presents, listening to stories about Santa Claus and reindeer, and enjoying the stories: "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" and "The Polar Express". We also enjoyed having Leo and Tommy's Mom come teach us about Hanukah and how to play the dreidel game!

## January News

During the month of January, the Green Room themes will be: polar/arctic animals, hibernation, migration and adaption, and the season of winter. We will also celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. and the important lessons he taught people.

We will work on the following skills. Writing the letters and knowing the sounds of: Aa, Xx, and Yy, matching upper and lower case letters, recognizing sight words, recognizing opposites, ABC patterns, which number is bigger, counting by five's, working with double digit numbers, and equal and non-equal sets. We will also work on retelling stories.

Did you know that in the Green Room we are getting ready for Kindergarten? During center time, the children work in small groups and rotate through three activities, similar to the Kindergarten structure. Each day the type of activities are: a math or pre-reading skill, a fine motor skill, and free play. Also at least once a week, the children will participate in a STEM activity and an Art activity.

**Happy December Birthday to Nicholas on 12/15 and Kitt on 12/20!**  
**Happy January Birthday to Ms. Dawn on 1/10 and Caroline on 1/24!**

Thank you for sending your children to WEE! Your children are blessings to us each day! We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

With God's Blessings,

Ms. Betsy, Ms. Carol, & Ms. Dawn



# Purple Room

Happy New Year Purple Room Families!

We hope that you had the most wonderful Christmas break. We are very much looking forward to the second half of the school year with your child and your family! In December, we worked on letters Nn, Zz, and Xx. We focused on the initial sounds, as well as tracing/writing them. We worked with opposites, as well as rhyming, including making word families. (\_at, bat, cat, sat...) Our pattern in December was ABB. We will continue recognizing our last names in print, as well as identifying the letters that make them. We practiced tracing and writing our first names quite a bit too (using a pincer grip, 1 upper case letter, the rest lower case, and line strokes starting at the top). During January, we will continue our current morning & snack/lunch prayers, and patriotic song. We will learn new ones of each in February.

During December, our themes were Advent, St. Nicholas Day, Hanukkah, and Christmas. We were fortunate enough to have Tommy and Leo's mom come in to share her experiences and knowledge of Hanukkah with the Purple and Green rooms. The dreidel game was a huge hit, and we continued playing it up until break (the kids had so much fun, but were also learning to follow game rules, take turns, good "sportsmanship", counting, and fine motor skills with the actual spinning.

In January, our focus will be on letters Aa, Yy, and Kk. We will match upper/lower-case letters and introduce listening for syllables in words and begin to clap them out. We will reinforce counting by 5's, and demonstrate using tally marks. We will concentrate on the ABC pattern around mid-January, and our number focus will be 11, 12, 13, and 14. Making comparisons of size/shape, as well as sequencing, are skills that will be practiced. We will create another class book, most likely about snowy days!

Our January themes will be winter, hibernation/migration, and arctic animals. Our sensory bin will also have a fun, winter theme! We will wear pajamas (yay) to celebrate the bears hibernating in our classroom, have fun building block igloos, pretend to ice fish (and maybe ice skate), as well as have indoor "snow"! We will talk about MLK, Jr. and peace. Our January door tags will be birthdays (month & date). Please reinforce this information at home. As always, thank you for sharing your children with us.

Happy December Birthday to Daichi on 12/10!

We wish each of you a very happy, healthy, and joyful New Year!

With Love and Gratitude,

Ms. Stacie & Mr. Nate



## **Art News from Ms. Carol**

We had so much fun in December with our holiday and winter themed projects. The Red Room learned about artist Charley Harper and made cardinal in the snow paintings using bubble wrap. All the classes studied Norman Rockwell's snowman painting and did snowmen themed projects. The Red Room made model magic snowmen, the Blue and Yellow Rooms did snowmen collages and the PreK classes made model magic snowmen snow globes. PreK will continue to do some winter themed projects in January when they make a watercolor painting of birch trees in the snow. The Blue and Yellow Rooms started January with a skyline collage that included fireworks created by stamping koosh balls. In the coming weeks they will be learning about the Northern Lights and using chalk pastels to recreate them. They will also be doing a Matisse inspired collage of hot chocolate. The Red Room will also be learning about collages and making their own Mondrian inspired collages. Throughout January all the children will be working on new skills such as masking, blending, and creating patterns.

Love, Ms. Carol

## **Music Notes from Ms. Claire**

The children had so much fun singing songs about Christmas. They were so excited to share the Christmas songs in with you at our annual Christmas program. Upon our return after the holidays, we have been learning some songs about Winter. The children enjoy using instruments and dancing scarves. It's great to see their enthusiasm and participation in movement. Happy New Year!

Love, Ms. Claire

## **Science Findings from Ms. Dawn**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you for all of your kindness at Christmas! We have been having such a joyful time in Science! In December we talked about electricity and we made Christmas lights shine bright! It was so exciting!! In January we will begin to learn about simple machines: levers, pendulums, screwdrivers, can openers and more! We will talk about what energy is needed to make it work. I am excited for an energetic month! We will also talking about melting, freezing, and how snowflakes are made now that we have had our first snow!

Love, Ms. Dawn

# BOX TOPS

Please continue to check your receipts for Box Tops. You can download the Box Tops app on your Smart Phone and choose Woodbrook Early Education Center as the school. This is an easy way to help raise money for the WEE Center.



Do you need labels?

Try Mabel's Labels!

In your web browser type in [www.campaigns.mabelslabels.com](http://www.campaigns.mabelslabels.com) and click on the box on the right hand side that says "support a fundraiser."

Find Woodbrook Early Education Center and enjoy shopping!



## Dates to Remember

Week of January 6th

2025/2026 Registration

Monday, January 20th

WEE Closed-Martin Luther King  
Birthday

Thursday, March 13th

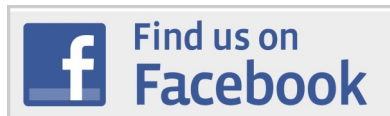
WEE Closed for Professional  
Development Day

Monday, April 14th-  
Monday, April 21st

Spring Break

**WOODBROOK EARLY EDUCATION CENTER**

**25 STEVENSON LANE**



The Woodbrook Early Education Center  
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