

Hi!

Its only 2/3 through January so I thought now was a good time to write the January newsletter.

Where did January go anyway?!

This is a long one- so hold on!

First of all I want to say THANK YOU for the amazing Christmas gifts and all the time and love you put into the cards. Gifts are lovely, but some of those cards brought me to tears and the love I felt filled my cup and will continue as I go back and read them years down the road and remember how special these kids and their families were to me. I did get to go on a Target shopping spree though and I got all the things I wouldn't otherwise get so thank you for everything!

For the remainder of the year we will be learning about bugs, bees, butterflies, worms and all creatures that Mrs Shay loves. This science will carry us through the rest of the year as we now have a gardening spot in the grassy area by the parking lot that will need tended to each day. We will be out there every day if the weather permits. We will watch in awe as our seeds sprout and turn into yummy food or pretty flowers. And we will search for bugs and pollinators and watch them as they work. I have raised all 3 of my boys in my backyard and I believe that time together was and still is incredibly special and memorable. I think there is more to learn in the dirt than inside any 4 walls.

If any of you would like to donate some packets of seeds of petunias, dianthus, asters and marigolds or any type of bulbs- we will find a spot for them all. We can also use spinach, kale, lettuce, beets, radish and carrots. I have some at home for us to start, but would be very grateful to have extra. We could also use some good quality seed starting soil and smaller plastic spray bottles (the garden has a drip system, but spray bottles will be a great outdoor fine motor skill to "water" with). If you want to bring in a sunhat that can stay here it would be a good routine to get into as we start spending more time outside. Please label the hat as we will just keep them in a basket instead of their cubbies.

We will learn about how God tells us to do things and how we listen and obey Him and also about the patience in waiting for God to allow things to happen (like planting a seed and being patient while it grows us a fruit). Now that we have formed friendships and the kids are beginning to show signs of parallel play we will talk about how God put kindness in our hearts so we can love and take care of each other and show each other kindness. We teachers point out when the kids do kind things and remind them how happy that makes God to see us using our kindness to help our friends. When we see something that isn't kind, we will gently remind them about how God wants us to treat each other and that kindness makes our friends happy.

Since we had very fewer days in January for snacks, I have enough to cover the next 2 weeks of snack. I stocked our freezer with frozen vegetables and am just getting fresh fruit at the beginning of the weeks. So plan to send more snack money starting in February.

Our Rodeo Days will be this Wed-Fri Jan 25, 26, and 27 so have your cowboy/girl boots and hats ready! It is simply a fun day of milking wooden cows, having a picnic downstairs with hotdogs and beans and fun Rodeo activities in the gym. If you have an extra hour or two and can stay to help with activities that day- we would love you to help! You can sign up with this link.

[RODEO SIGN UP LINK](#)

Another request is for more homemade play-doh! You all have seen how much we use it! It is an incredible fine-motor tool- maybe even the best, so we don't plan to stop any time soon. We decided it best to throw it all out before our break as it was thoroughly used and enjoyed. We are using an off-brand right now that is just that :) It won't last long! We will happily take new batches of Play-doh as you are able to make them. (Now that I know how cheaply it is made I can never purchase it again!)

During our staff meetings we talked about how little participation we have had in our LIFT classes. I will just say that I highly encourage you all to find time to attend one or multiple of these- especially since it is many of your first years here at Busy Bee. Jack Lipski does many of them and he has decades of knowledge and scientific research into what he brings to these LIFT classes. Dads, I encourage you to come as well! There is no investment in your lives and families like learning how to do and be better parents and partners *together*. The next LIFT is THIS Wednesday from 12-1:30. It is called Choosing Joy. I will be staying until 1:30 that day so that your kiddos can stay with me and we will eat lunch together (we usually ask for you to bring a lunch for them, but we will make sandwiches together and have a lunch making party, and after lunch we will do a craft and run around in the gym. Free! Sign up [CHOOSING JOY SIGN UP LINK!](#)

Lastly, is conferences. Since life is hectic with kids and multiple kids, I am hoping to just have one child stay after school for the next 20ish days. Each conference will be 20 minutes long so I think it will be easy to just plan to stay for 20 minutes during pick up so we can have a quick chat about how wonderful and amazing your kiddo is and I can answer any questions or concerns you have. I will have a sign up near the sign-in sheet.

Thank you all for everything. You all are incredible and are doing a beautiful job of raising the most precious little people.

My son Cameron will be having his spinal fusion on March 20th. We are planning to go to Mexico on March 7th-12th for a last hurrah before the reality of it sets in. I will likely not be at school for a few weeks after his surgery, but we will cross that road when we get there. Mrs Trish and Miss Sarah are already ready to jump in where needed so just

know the kids will have familiar faces still coming in each day that I am gone. Might even have them do another "nature walk" over to my house so they can come have snack with me and play with my chickens. Thank you for your love and prayers while we navigate this scary journey. Thankfully this time around I have God and I now see that all those years of worry, anxiety and fear could have been so much easier to manage had I known and had a relationship with my Father in Heaven <3

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand."

Philippians 4:6-7

I have talked to a couple parents and grandparents that wanted the link to a couple things, so I will post them here. The first being the ear oil I used on my son who had early signs of an ear infection. This stuff I will never not have on hand ever again- it kept us from an ER visit at 8:30 pm last month. There are many scientific articles about it as well if you're interested reading about it. The second link is for name labels that are amazing. I know it's hard to remember to label everything, but it is so so helpful to have names on stuff throughout school. These labels stay on through dishwashers and washing machines and they are very affordable for how many you get. There is an option for 136 labels for \$25! You will use them for the next 10 years minimum so you cannot beat that! :)

[EAR OIL LINK](#)

[NAME LABELS LINK](#)

Love love love you all!

Mrs. Shay

Mrs. Trish

Ms. Sarah

Ms. Bri