



January 2009

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to all of you! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas with your family. It's great to be back together and see the friendships renewed.

Exciting news is the birth of our new grandson, Thomas Merrill! Tommy was born on December 20 and weighed 8 pounds 8 ounces. Our son Brad and his wife Carrie are the proud new parents. What joy a new baby adds to a family!

Thank you for participating in the hat & mitten drive and our ongoing partnership with Calvary Kidstuff. Our C.S.O. projects continue to serve the needs of others which become important life lessons for our young students!

Our theme for the month is **Amazing Animals and Their Homes**. This is a favorite theme for many of the children. If you are looking for a warm, fun activity to do with your children, you may wish to take a trip to the library and discover fun and factual books about animals and their shelters.

This month our virtue is **Patience**. We all have different God given gifts and talents which makes a family interesting! Patience is an important reminder as we work and play together. Please share about this important virtue with your child at home.

Kyle McDonald, Calvary Huckleberry teacher, will be our artist in residence. Kyle has a Masters degree in Art Education and will share her expertise with the children through a theme based project on the 14th & 15th. An interesting fact about Kyle is that she was in the second class of the Berry Patch 24 years ago!

A brief reminder that these winter months bring many colds, flu bugs, etc. Please keep your child home when he/she is sick to avoid spreading germs. Please make sure your child's outerwear (jackets, snow pants, boots, hats and mittens) is marked with his/her name.

Afternoon Academy and PM Playmates will begin on January 21. Details will follow.

Blessings to you and your family in the new year.

Love,

Important Dates

January 5	Berry Patch resumes following Christmas
January 7 & 8	Spanish Class - Colonial
January 12	Staff Meeting - school ends at noon
January 14 & 15	Artist in Residence - Kyle McDonald
January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - no school
January 20 & 26	Spanish Class - Calvary
February 9	Staff Meeting - school ends at noon
February 11	Valentine's Day Party - Parkshore
February 12	Valentine's Day Party - Friendship Village
February 13	District In-Service - no school
February 16	President's Day - no school
February 18 & 19	Spanish Class - Colonial
February 23 & 24	Spanish Class - Calvary