

VOLUME 16  
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# Claver's Chronicle

St. Peter Claver  
PRESCHOOL &  
KINDERGARTEN

## November News

First and foremost, thank you to all the parents who helped make our Halloween carnival such a huge success. The children had a great time and we loved seeing their smiling faces as they went from booth to booth. We are so blessed to have such dedicated parents like you!

This is the time of year when everyone reflects on what blessings they have in their life and how thankful they are to have them. That is what makes Thanksgiving a favorite holiday. It is not about the food, or the decorations, or the music, or the presents. It is simply about reminding those around us how thankful we are to have them in our lives.

We want to take this opportunity to say that SPC school is so blessed to have you all in our family. We thank God for you and your children! Thank you for choosing us to educate and love your little blessings!

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for the week of November 13-17. Communication is vital so please make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher. For our preschoolers, the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP), as well as the results of your child's Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) will be discussed. TK families will be discussing the ASQ as well as a TK report card. Kindergarten parents will be discussing their child's progress toward the standards as set



Halloween Carnival.

forth by the State of California and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Your child's teacher will be sending information regarding sign ups through Sign Up Genius.

We look forward to meeting with you soon and sharing in your child's amazing accomplishments!

Other events this month include our restaurant fundraiser at Tico's Tacos, our onsite "Dump Truck" field trip with RQJ Transport Ink, and Grandparents' Day.

We want to take this opportunity to wish you a blessed Thanksgiving. We thank God for you and your children!

## Grandparents' Day!

It has been a tradition here at St. Peter Claver Preschool & Kindergarten to take the two days before our Thanksgiving break to celebrate those wonderful people in our lives who always give

unconditional love—our grandparents!

Please join us for Grandparents' Day on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> for MWF children and Tuesday November 21<sup>st</sup> for the whole school. Students may invite Grandma, Grandpa or a special friend to come to school for this fun day.

No grandparents? Grandparents living too far away? No problem! Our students will share the grandparents who do come, or you may choose to send in a neighbor or other relative who is special to your child.

Teachers will plan special activities and maybe some treats! Please watch for more information from your teacher regarding which day your child's class will celebrate and how to prepare.



# Parent Teacher Conference

## Desired Results Developmental Profile DRDP

Meeting a child's individual needs requires a partnership between the program and family. It also requires that teaching staff acquire specific knowledge of each child in their care. Ongoing communication between families and the teachers is crucial. Formal assessments are conducted twice a year. At St. Peter Claver Preschool and Kindergarten, we use a formal assessment called Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP). The results will be shared with preschool families during our parent-teacher conferences scheduled for the week of November 13<sup>th</sup>.

The results of informal assessments will also be shared including anecdotal notes, artwork, writing samples and pictures.

The DRDP is divided into age ranges and focuses on seven developmental domains:

1. Self and Social Development
2. Language and Literacy Development
3. English Language Development
4. Cognitive Development
5. Mathematical Development
6. Physical Development
7. Health.

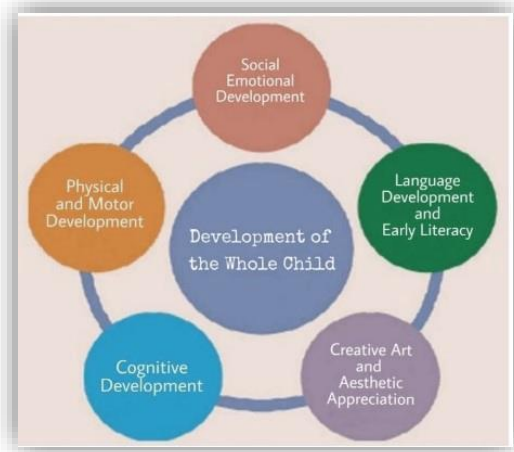
We hope that you will join your child's teacher at parent-teacher conferences to review your child's progress in the aforementioned areas.

## Ages and Stages Questionnaire ASQ

Early and accurate identification of young children who have developmental delays or disorders is key to the timely delivery of early intervention services. Establishing a comprehensive, first-level screening program is the first step in obtaining needed services for children and their families. The ASQ meets the criteria for a first-level comprehensive screening and monitoring program.

At parent teacher conferences, teachers will share with families the results of the scored ASQ. The information gathered through this instrument, as well as the DRDP, will enable teachers to work in concert with families to design appropriate learning activities for each child in our program. By collaboratively setting developmental goals, parents and teachers will be "on the same page" and help all children reach their fullest potential!

Should, at any time, you have concerns about your child's progress or be in need of community services, please do not hesitate to let us know. We strive to help our students and families locate and receive the services they may need. We are happy to help in any way we can!



# Parent Seminar

## A Discussion on Child Developmental

Thank you to everyone who joined us last month for our speaker Dr. Shiro Perera Torquato regarding basic Child Development. The presentation was very informative and I know the parents in attendance learned so much (and earned a service hour!)

Some of the issues discussed included:

- TK and KG expectations in that age.
- Parents should trust their instincts

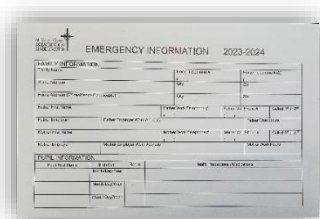
and not to wait, because it is very important to identify developmental problems early, because early intervention leads to better outcome.

- She emphasized as well on the importance of trusting and listening to the teachers. They want the best interest of your child. They have been certified and have enough experience and knowledge to review the development and progress of your

child. This experience was so positive that we are considering having Dr. Torquato return again to do an encore presentation. Please let us know if that is something in which you may be interested!



## Contact Information



It's that time of year again! Time to do a quarterly check and verify all contact and emergency information we have on file for you and your child. Beginning this week, please come to the office to check your information and take a moment to ensure its accuracy and make adjustments as necessary.

The accuracy of the information we have on file is crucial so that we may be able to locate you or a relative should an emergency occur. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

## Holiday Boutique



It's that time of the year again for our fabulous St. Peter Claver Holiday Boutique! Get started on your holiday shopping and don't miss out on all the delicious treats they have to offer! Come to the Parish Hall on Saturday, November 4th from 9am-5pm and Sunday November 5th from 9am-3pm to shop and eat!

If you are still interested in earning service hours, please call the parish office at 805-526 6499.

## Thanksgiving Recess

Thanksgiving is on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Remember that there is **No School** starting on Wednesday November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Friday November 24<sup>th</sup>. Classes will resume on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>



## Restaurant Fundraiser

This month's Restaurant Fundraiser will be at Tico's Tacos on Tuesday, November 14th, all day at 1675 E. Los Angeles Ave.

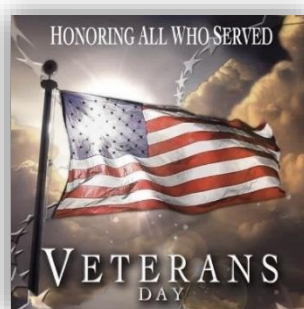


Tico's Tacos has always been very generous to our school! No flier will be necessary but please mention our school when you order. Treat yourself to a night of no cooking, no dishes, no clean up!! It's a win - win!!

## No School, Veteran's Day

To our men and women in uniform, past, present, and future, God bless you and thank you for your service.

Just a quick reminder that there is **No School** on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> in honor for Veterans' Day.



## Big Fundraiser Meeting

Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm, there will be a meeting for our big Fundraiser in the Spring. The meeting will be in person, as well as on Zoom. We will need a lot of help for this fun event. The Zoom information will be published the day before.



## Happy Birthday!!

Ms. Jordyn - November 15



## Secret Santa Letters

It has been our Christmas tradition to offer personalized letters from Santa to our families who wish to participate.

Participating children will receive a letter via USPS in their mailbox at home prior to Christmas day.

It is very important that we keep this information a secret from our little ones and siblings who can read. We don't want to ruin the surprise.

Please keep an eye on your email we will be sending the details there.



## Christmas Craft Night



Join us for a wonderful craft night. We will be making the craft shown. On Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Youth Center.

Last day to sign up through Cheddar Up is November 6th!

# Dates to Remember:

11/1	All Saints Day- Prayer Service 9:00 am
11/2	Big Fundraiser meeting 7:00 pm
11/3	12:30 pm KG dismissal, 1:00 pm Staff Meeting
11/3	KG Field Trip to landfill at 10:30 am
11/4 & 5	Holiday Boutique
11/7 & 8	Ask Ms. Rawd 8:10-8:40 am
11/7 & 8	Coffee with the Principal 10:15-11:00 am
11/9	Dump Truck, 9:00 am at the school
11/9	Christmas Craft night 7:00 pm-Youth Center

11/10	Veteran’s Day. No school
11/13 - 17	Parent-Teacher Conference, 12:30 pm KG Dismissal
11/14	Ticos Tacos Fundraiser
11/15	Happy Birthday! Ms. Jordyn
11/20	Grandparents Day MWF
11/21	Grandparents Day All school
11/22 - 24	Thanksgiving Break- No school
11/27	School Resumes

## KG Field Trip to Landfill

Kindergarten class will be taking their third field trip to landfill on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 am, where they will learn about trash collection, recycling, composting and more, and how to work with machineries and learn about community workers.



## Dump Truck Coming to Our School

On Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am RQJ Transport Ink. will send a dump truck and Bobcat to our parking lot in front of the school. All students are invited to attend. For those students who do not normally attend school on Thursdays, we ask that their parent or guardian remain with them throughout the event.



## Questions

Do you have questions about our school? Curriculum? Office procedures? Making payments and navigating Smart Care? Upcoming events? How you can volunteer?

There are two opportunities to get your questions answered on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>:

You can “Ask Ms. Rawd.” From 8:10 to 8:40 am you can come to the office.

And you will be able to have “Coffee with the Principal” in our staff room from 10:15 to 11:00am. We encourage all of you to come and chat with our principal Mrs. Meyer.



## Volunteer Hours

Remember! Everyone is obligated to do 20 Service Hours. At this point you should have completed 4 hours.

## Fingerprinting

There will be an upcoming opportunity on November 30<sup>th</sup>, in the youth center all day. Please, call Kyle in the Faith Formation: 805-526 0680.



# How Holiday Traditions Like Elf on the Shelf Fuel Child Development - by Alyssa Sybertz

From [verywellfamily.com](https://www.verywellfamily.com)

This article was medically reviewed by Laura Anderson Kirby, PhD.

The holiday season is a joyful and exciting time for parents and children, especially little ones. And while every family celebrates in a uniquely special way, building traditions beginning when your children are small can be incredibly beneficial to their mental and emotional growth and development.

Take the Elf on the Shelf, for example. A staple in the homes of many families who celebrate Christmas, this little red-suited elf moves around the house during the holiday season and provides kids with tangible connection to the mythical story of Santa Clause and his elves.

Traditions like this one that use elements of fun and surprise can help teach children valuable skills, plus tie them to the holiday and the special time of the year. Here's how to create rituals and traditions that will be best for your children developmentally and the ways these rituals will help them grow and develop into caring, creative, and intelligent adults.

(Psychologist and children's author Laura Anderson Kirby, PhD advises against using Elf on the Shelf as a discipline tool. "I recommend using Elf on the Shelf purely as a fun activity with your children, as opposed to using it as a tool to control behavior," Kirby says. "When we tell children that they will lose presents if the elf sees them behaving poorly, this only increases anxiety and does not lead to long-term behavioral change.")

## How To Build Lasting Traditions

Traditions help children process and understand the holidays and their importance. "Rituals should be supportive and very joyful and help kids anticipate transitions," explains Claire Lerner, MSW, a child development and parenting specialist and founder of Lerner Child Development. "These can help them prepare emotionally and feel connected to the people they are going to see in advance."

Indeed, one of the biggest benefits of creating traditions, especially from when your kids are young, is that they foster an emotional connection between the child, the family, and the holiday. When kids feel this connection, they will be able to relax and enjoy the holiday festivities that much more.

"Traditions are important to maintain, and pass on because they represent foundations of cultures, validate important beliefs and affirm our grounding as human beings," adds Mayra Mendez, PhD, LMFT, a licensed psychotherapist and program coordinator for intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health services at Providence St. John's Child and Family Development Center in Santa Monica, CA.

One key in establishing traditions and being sensitive to how your kids are feeling about them is to have a conversation around them. "Talk to them about the tradition so you can help them make sense of it—ask them what they think about it," suggests Lerner.

"Purely from a child development perspective, what we know is kids need you to be their most trusted resource of understanding the world. The more kids can express their thoughts and feelings, the better."

To that end, holiday rituals should reinforce the message of the holiday, whether that's togetherness, family, love, community or something else. "It's about finding ways to take a step back and say "What are the important messages this holiday sends and what are the things we can do leading up to it that help our kids feel connected to it?" says Lerner.

## Why You Should Create Traditions

When created mindfully, traditions can go far toward helping kids connect to their families and develop their minds. One of the biggest reasons: They create lasting memories that are built upon year after year.

"Memorializing experiences of a child's life within the context of family living is an important aspect of bonding, connecting and reinforcing secure attachment and unique meaning in a child's life," explains Dr. Mendez.

Here are some of the other developmental benefits of creating holiday traditions.

## Strengthen Family Ties

Traditions help tie kids to other members of their family's past. "Rituals are personally meaningful to a family, something they've handed down for generations," says Lerner. "While it helps the child prepare for enjoying and looking forward to the holiday, it also binds them to your family history. So, in that way, they can be very powerfully positive."

This connection to family helps them build valuable skills and qualities. "The practice of handing down traditions provides grounding for a child and supports the building of trust, family values, and identity and opens the door of opportunity for understanding the past, making sense of the present, and building on the future," says Dr. Mendez.

For young children, it can be difficult to fully grasp the size of their family, especially if some of their relatives only turn up around the holidays. Having traditions in place can help reinforce these bonds.

## Prevent Overwhelm

The holiday season may be considered the most wonderful time of the year, but it can also be overstimulation for children who aren't used to lights, noise, and company. "Especially for younger kids and kids who are temperamentally more sensitive, the holidays can be amazing and full of joy but they can also be overwhelming," says Lerner. "Establishing rituals can help these kids manage during these times."

It's no secret that parents have a lot on their plates during the holidays, so having these touchstones to help prevent overwhelm in the kids can provide peace of mind. "Big group events, seeing family they haven't seen in a long time, sometimes kids' reactions are perplexing to parents," Lerner says. "Rituals can be really helpful especially for those kids because it helps them anticipate the event."

### **Build Imagination**

Many of the traditional holiday rituals, such as the Elf on the Shelf and Santa Claus story require kids to suspend disbelief and embrace the fantastic - and doing so can be a boon for their mental development. "Exposure to fantastical elements such as in stories commonly told during the holiday season supports the development of flexible thinking in young children," Dr. Mendez explains.

And the benefits don't stop there. Fantasy helps to promote children's development of symbolism, analogical reasoning, and differentiation between real and imaginary concepts," Dr. Mendez adds. "Foundational to development is for children to learn how to build on information, generalize and transfer acquired knowledge to everyday situations."

While stories and traditions that involve fantastical elements can help children build their imagination, it's also important to establish a line between the stories you share and real life, says Lerner. "For very young children who have a rudimentary understanding of the difference between fantasy and reality it can be very confusing," she explains. "They don't have perspective, so it can cause more stress because they don't quite understand what's happening."

For this reason, Lerner suggests sharing stories, acknowledging that they are stories, and then encouraging children to share their thoughts and feelings.

### **Promote Critical Thinking**

One of the most important skills that children start to develop when they're young that helps them understand the world is the ability to think critically, or analyze an issue or situation and then make a decision about it. While this is certainly a skill that's nurtured in the classroom, holiday traditions can support its development as well.

"Critical thinking is reinforced when the developing mind takes to account both elements of fantasy and reality and makes sense of the information in a way that is socially acceptable within the familiar context of the child's world experience," says Dr. Mendez. As long as it's done in an environment in which parents are present to help children work through the information and stories presented to them, the holidays provide a joy-filled backdrop on which to develop these skills.

And critical thinking is not the only educational skills kids can develop during the holiday season, add Dr. Mendez. "The holiday traditions can promote necessary skills such as language development, cooperative interactions and appreciation for cultural practices."

### **Ideas for Holiday Traditions**

Many families have traditions and rituals that have been passed down of that they enjoyed as kids. But if you want to start your own, there are plenty to choose from! Here are some ideas for kid-friendly activities and traditions that will help your children grow:

- Having an Advent calendar.
- Shopping for a Christmas tree.
- Putting up decorations
- Cooking or baking together
- Writing and sending holiday cards
- Giving back (volunteering, donating food or clothes, etc.)

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St. Peter Claver Preschool and Kindergarten provides a developmentally appropriate curriculum centered in faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church. We endeavor to deepen a child's awareness and love of God and nurture their natural love of learning.

We, the members of St. Peter Claver Catholic community, acknowledge and respect the uniqueness of each child. In partnership with parents, we provide developmentally appropriate Catholic instruction in an environment which supports each child's sense of self and nurtures a love of learning. Our curriculum incorporates a variety of learning activities designed to enhance a child's love of God, and promotes problem solving, creativity, self-expression, and social skills. We seek to stimulate children's learning in all developmental areas, while at the same time, allow for individual differences in learning styles. St. Peter Claver Preschool and Kindergarten affirms the worth and dignity of each child and fosters an understanding and sensitivity to all people by encouraging reverence and respect for each person.

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