

What's  
happening in  
our school!

# Mountain Lakes Country Day School

DECEMBER 2015

## BIRTHDAYS:

### Toddler One:

Dec 14- Rocco

### Toddler Two:

Dec 4- Graham

Dec 23- Audrey

Dec 26- Shay

### Preschool:

Dec- 14- Ellie

### Pre-K:

Dec 27- Audrey

Dec 31- Harrison

### Kindergarten:

Dec 17- Harper

Dec 27- Lani



## Holiday Fun in our Area

With the holidays right around the corner, now is a great time of year to check out some of the amazing holiday-themed events in our area! Bundle up the kids, hop in the car, and head out to one of these local spots soon!

### Holiday Light Spectacular at Turtle Back Zoo

(West Orange)

Stroll through the zoo after dark to see the animals under incredible light displays. Animal and holiday-themed figures will illuminate the zoo and delight little ones. Donations of canned goods, unwrapped toys, and winter coats are appreciated. FREE

### Santa Train Ride (Whippany; Wayne)

This is a Santa Train Ride that offers kids and their parents a chance to meet Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, the elves, and more. Enjoy the holiday themed ride through the central & northern NJ countryside.

### "The Gingerbread Wonderland" at Frelinghuysen Arboretum

(Morris Township)

Come to a world made of gingerbread, candy canes, gumdrops, and chocolate all on display at the annual "Gingerbread Wonderland." Fri-Sun from 10am-4:30 pm. Fridays from 10am-7:30 pm. Admission is \$2- children under 2 are free of charge.

### Skylands Stadium Christmas Light Show

(Augusta)

This 1 mile long drive-through show features breathtaking displays set to joyful holiday music. There will be over 1 million lights on display! Visitors are invited to stop by the Christmas Village afterward to enjoy holiday snacks, fun activities, and photos with Santa.

### Christmas Festival on the Green

(Morristown)

The Green is transformed into a winter wonderland- every weekend right in the center of town! Kids can enjoy miniature train rides, crafts, visit with Anna and Elsa, meet Santa Claus, or watch an ice sculpture demonstration!



Gobble! Gobble!  
from Toddler 1!

# Kindergarten



The Kindergarteners started the month of November learning about nutrition. They went “food shopping” for healthy foods and learned all about the 5 food groups. They also had a theme about bears this month. They made a really cool bear cave! The class learned that bears are not true hibernators (they do torpor). They can wake and be disturbed during winter. They also went on a “bear hunt” and learned some interesting bear facts.

Miss Marylynn is proud that her class has learned to add and take away. :)

In December Kindergarten will learn about Gingerbread, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, and Winter.

The Kindergarten class celebrated Thanksgiving this month with lots of fun activities. They did a hopping corn science experiment, made butter, played pilgrim children games, and made coffee filter turkeys!



bread, Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. They will also be starting their sight words! :)



Pre-K makes corn muffins!

# Pre-K

In November the Pre-K class focused on Family & Thanksgiving. They brainstormed lists about families and illustrated their favorite family activity. They also worked on a Thanksgiving graph and created Mayflowers.

The class celebrated Thanksgiving by making 2 Thanksgiving recipes— one of which was corn muffins!

Yum! They also created a “Thankful Tree.” Every child wrote on a leaf what they are thankful for.

Miss Jen is proud that her class has covered 10 letters with their CEW program! :)

In December the Pre-K class will be focusing on: Ginger-



with cheerios, tape letters with paint on top, finding/ recognizing letters in buckets of cheerios to match, tracing and cutting out of letters, and letter BINGO!

In December the Preschool class looks forward to learning about Hanukkah, Christmas, and lots of singing practice! :)

# Preschool



Music with Miss Paula!

This month the Preschool class had fun celebrating Thanksgiving by having a feast and a pajama day! They class also did a fun activity

where template turkeys were sent home and each child

“disguised” their turkey in a creative way with their family. They came out great! :) In addition, the Preschoolers did turkey feather patterns and created their family pictures.

Miss Nancy is proud of her class who have come up with different ways to create letters – they have used letter mats

## Toddler One

Toddler 1 started November learning about the 5 senses! They finger-painted on bubble-wrap for a great touch/sound experience, had a class taste test, made cherry-scented play-doh, explored sensory gloves, and much more! The toddlers spent the rest of the month learning all about Thanksgiving! The class made a giant turkey together with “feathers” that each child decorated at home with their family. The class also had fun dressing as Indians and Pilgrims at their feast at school and making handprint placemats to take home and use on Thanksgiving Day. They also had a lot of fun doing Thanksgiving water play complete with Mayflowers & Plymouth rocks. :) In December Toddler 1 will be busy making presents for their parents and practicing for our sing-a-long!



Thanksgiving Water Play!

## Toddler Two

In November Toddler 2 learned about their 5 senses, Thanksgiving, and Home & Family. While learning about the 5 senses they listened to and repeated the sounds of different instruments, had an apple taste test with and without cinnamon, and took pictures of some of the things they see. For Thanksgiving, they made hand and footprint turkeys and also painted with “turkey feathers.” They also had a Thanksgiving feast at lunch time! During their Home & Family theme the children brought in family photos and made special collages with them. Next month the class will learn about Hanukkah & Christmas and make a special project for their families!

## Upcoming Events:

- 12/18– Holiday Sing-a-long Parties
- 12/24– School Closed– Christmas Eve
- 12/25– School Closed– Christmas Day
- 12/31– School closing at 3:00 pm– New Year’s Eve
- 1/1/16– School Closed– New Year’s Day

## Infants

During the month of November the Infants worked on their turkey feathers for Thanksgiving. They also made corn pictures using different art brushes. The Infant room is proud of Lucia who took her first steps! :) In the month of December there will be lots of fun holiday projects to work on!

### Upcoming Learning

#### Themes:

- Family Celebrations/  
Traditions/Holidays/Cultures
- Gingerbread
- Winter