

# Emmanuel's Pre-School News

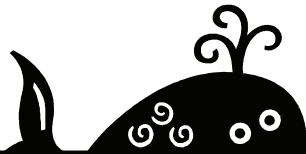
January 2009

## Note From the Director

Dear Preschool Families,

December was such a busy and magical month. Our children enjoyed Breakfast with Santa, a Christmas Puppet Show and "Real" Snow. With all the busyness and excitement of the Holidays I hope everyone also had time to relax and spend quality time with their families over our Christmas break. We are happy to be back at school and ready to begin another fun and exciting month.

*Miss June*



## Field Trip To The Waikiki Aquarium

Emmanuel's Pre-School will be taking a bus field trip to the Waikiki Aquarium on Wednesday, January 7th. Please bring your child to school in his or her red t-shirt and closed-toe

Have you signed up for escrip yet? It's easy and our school earns money for every dollar you spend! Visit [escrip.com](http://escrip.com) for more information.

**No School January 12th & 19th**

**January Theme: Ocean**

### Dates to Remember:

- 1/7 — Field Trip to the Waikiki Aquarium
- 1/12 — No School / Teacher In-Service Day
- 1/17 — Recycling Fundraiser Day 8:00am -1:00pm
- 1/19 — No School Martin Luther King Day Holiday
- 1/26 — Hawaii Fi-Do Therapy Dog Visits

### Looking Ahead:

- 2/12 — Animals A-Z Zoo Visit
- 2/24 — Field Trip to the Honolulu Zoo

## The Gift of Affection

Tomorrow, January 6<sup>th</sup> marks the day of Epiphany. The day we commemorate the coming of the wise men bearing gifts for the Christ child. By doing so, the baby Jesus was revealed to the world as Lord and King. Just as God had given his most precious gift, his only begotten son, the wise men brought what were the most precious gifts of their day. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Most importantly, the wise men offered the greatest of all gifts, the gift of themselves. As we enter the season of Epiphany, pack up the tree, decorations and lights for next year, and put away the presents, let us remember that the most precious gift that we can offer to God and to each other is the gift of ourselves. We want our children to understand that they are indeed precious in God's eyes, help them to discover those special gifts within themselves, and teach by example how to offer those gifts back to God.

A recent article by Susan Alexander Yates, in "Today's Christian Woman", lists nine gifts that every child deserves. **The Gift of Affection, The Gift of Family Traditions, The Gift of Discipline, The Gift of Laughter, The Gift of Involvement, The Gift of Hospitality, The Gift of Hope, The Gift of Adult Friends, and The Gift of Forgiveness.** Rather than see Epiphany as the end of the gift giving season, let us commit ourselves to a year of offering ourselves. Begin with the gift of **Affection**. Even if you didn't grow up in an outwardly affectionate home, hug your children often and tell them regularly that you love them. In doing so you will ensure that they will come to see themselves as loved and be able to spread that love to others.

Wish you all blessings and peace in the New Year.

*Deacon Pat*



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## Give-a-Goat II

Give a goat?? Yes. This is an advanced warning that our February theme will include a twist! Animals are the theme for the month of February. As a part of the program this year, we will again be augmenting our regular program with written and visual educational material from Heifer International. (Each teacher will use as much of the program as is appropriate for the age group of the class) If you are not aware of this international, non-sectarian program, Heifer International is a program which provides an appropriate animal to families in poverty stricken areas of the world. They have had tremendous success so far. That is due to the fact that each family is taught proper care of the animal it receives and agrees to 'pass on the gift' by providing the first off-spring of their animal to another family. I want us to carry that multiplying premise to a new level.

In the spirit of sharing resources with those less fortunate, each child will be given a small Ark as a savings vehicle. (Some churches, such as Emmanuel, use a 'Mite Box' for special giving.) The members of Emmanuel's congregation will try to match each penny in those Arks. Any parent who wishes to join this crusade will be welcomed. (each giver will, of course, set their own limits on the amount given.) This is not a contest. No records are kept by person or class. Last year each group gave over \$300.

Giving a goat is a modest goal. Just a penny a day from each student, would, over a three-week period, provide the funds for a generous gift. I believe this is a modest proposal. All funds will go directly to Heifer. We started a tradition. If this plan works as it should, there will be an opportunity to shoot higher for next year. The need is there. Will you be? If you have questions please call me at 262-4791.

Robert Merriam  
Project Coordinator

## Therapy Dog Visits on January 26th



Monday Jan 26th at 9:00 Judy Suan from Hawaii Fi-Do Service dogs will visit. She will bring her Therapy dogs and discuss with the children how dogs use their senses, how to approach a dog they do not know, and what to do if a loose dog runs towards you. The children will also have time to pet the dogs.

## Recycling Fundraiser Day

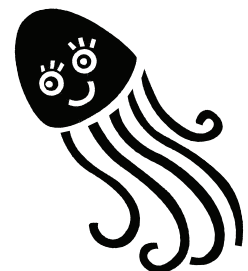
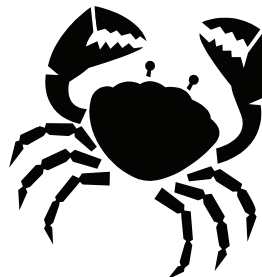
Saturday, January 17th 8:00am—1:00pm.

Please save your recyclable bottles and cans for our fundraiser recycling day! Emmanuel's Pre-School will use all money collected to revitalize our playground. You may bring the cans and bottles on the day of the event or to school the week before. Volunteers are welcome for collecting and sorting! There is a sign up sheet in the big room.



## Emmanuel's Pre-School Application & Registration

Application and Registration forms for the 2009 Summer and 2009-2010 school year will be available to current students later this month. Application and registration forms will be available to the general public after February 1st. Openings are filled on a first come first served basis.



## Reminder from Teachers

If you pack something in your child's lunch which requires a fork or spoon, please be sure to include one with the lunch. Thank you!