

BELMONT WEEKDAY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

BELMONT WEEKDAY SCHOOL



WELCOME BACK!

We hope you enjoyed the break with your loved ones. We are excited to begin 2019 at the Weekday School.

With cold and flu season upon us in full force, the Tennessee Health Department published this picture as a reminder to stay home if you are sick. Parents, please be heroes and help us by keeping your sick (or possibly sick) child(ren) home.

Summer & Fall 2019 ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

As we return to school in January, after the Winter Break, we are beginning the process of enrollment for the 2019 summer and fall sessions. You will be able to choose which days of the week you would like for your child(ren) to attend. We wanted to make you aware of this added January expense so you can budget accordingly.

Please note that forms will be sent home by January 9th and Registration fees will be due to the office no later than January 16th, 2019.

Fees are as follows:

Summer:

Registration Fee: \$110

Fall:

Registration Fee: \$250



Please complete and promptly return your forms with the applicable fees. Placement for the next school session is on a first-come, first-serve basis, so be on the lookout for the forms and respond quickly.

If your child has a younger sibling you would like to enroll, you will need to contact the office with this information. We have a waiting list for all classes and you will need to be placed on it. Please do not "assume" you are on the waiting list. If you haven't spoken directly to someone in the office, then your child has not been put on the list. While siblings do get priority on the waiting list, placement and choice of day is prioritized based on the date your child was placed on the waiting list. We have had to waitlist siblings of current families in previous years due to a surge in sibling registration.

BWDS COLD WEATHER POLICY

Cold weather is here! Please do not forget to dress your child in cold weather attire when necessary. Also, it is time to change out the extra clothes in your child's cubby so they are seasonally appropriate. We will continue to go outside, so please bring a coat, hat, and gloves (labeled). We want to make sure your child is clothed appropriately to go outside and enjoy the fresh air. This is a great way to reduce germs in the school.

Please remember: **If your child is well enough to be at school, he/she is well enough to play outside.**

Snow could be in the forecast with the winter weather. To find out if the WDS is open or closed during snow days, please watch Channel 2 (WKRN), Channel 4 (WSMV), or Channel 5 (WTVF) as early as 6:30am as well as, 5:00pm, 6:00pm, and 10:00pm. We will also send out email notifications through our WDS list serve - please make sure that we have an updated and correct email address. In addition to emails, we post our closings or delays on Facebook and Twitter.



PLEASE NOTE

We do not follow Metro's School System, so please watch Channels 2, 4, or 5, and check your email for the most up-to-date information.



ONE CALL NOW

Belmont Weekday School incorporates *One Call Now*, an automated parent notification service, into our system of communication. It allows us to contact our parents and staff emergency contacts within minutes.

We will be testing this system soon. We will give you advanced notice so you know it is not an actual emergency, but just a test.

As part of our emergency alert system, we have added the text alert option. In the event there is a school emergency, we will notify all families using *One Call Now*, which includes phone calls and text messages.

HOWEVER, in order to receive the text message, you must indicate your willingness to receive text messages on your phone. The process is simple and only takes a few seconds to complete.

PROCESS: Simply text the word

ALERT to the number 22300.

You'll know you were successful if you receive the following reply message:

Thanks. Alerts will be sent from One Call Now when available. Message frequency varies. STOP to end, HELP for info. Message and Data rates may apply.

Please note, although the Weekday School does not charge you for this service, it does not pay for text message charges that may be incurred by you for sending or receiving text messages. Check with your wireless carrier for possible charges.

Emergency notification – these are calls made only during critical incidents in which a child's or staff member's safety is in immediate jeopardy. These calls may include, but are not limited to, lockdowns, evacuations, and relocations.

Security - Only authorized personnel within the WDS may activate the system. *One Call Now* keeps all of its clients' information confidential and secure. Furthermore, all data is password protected on secure servers accessible only by WDS administration.

Importance of Accurate Contact Information – Every parent's cell phone number on file has been entered into our One Call roster. If you choose to have a phone number other than your cell number added to the call list, please make sure that the office has this information. For this system to work effectively and efficiently, it is important that we have updated phone numbers. The *One Call Now* system can call the home, cell, or any phone number to which you need a message sent.

2018-2019 Calendar of Events

JANUARY

1/7: WDS Classes Resume

1/21: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

WDS CLOSED

FEBRUARY

2/14: Valentine's Parties - individual classrooms

MARCH

TBD: Parent's Night Out Fundraiser

3/11-3/15: Spring Break **WDS CLOSED**

3/29: Spring Luncheon
- Community Center

APRIL

4/18: Parent Teacher Conferences
WDS CLOSED

4/19: Good Friday **WDS CLOSED**

MAY

5/9 & 5/10: Mother's Day Coffee & Treats - WDS Hallways

5/17: Pre-K 4's & Pre-K 5's Graduation - Sanctuary

5/20: End of the Year Celebration Picnic
Last Day of Spring Session 2019

5/21 - 5/24: Teacher In-Service
WDS CLOSED

5/27: Memorial Day **WDS CLOSED**

5/28: First Day of Summer Session 2019

JUNE

6/13 & 6/14: Father's Day Coffee & Donuts - WDS Hallways

JULY

7/4: Independence Day Holiday
WDS CLOSED

7/29: Last Day of Summer Session 2019

7/30-8/2: Teacher In-Service
WDS CLOSED

AUGUST

8/5: WDS Classes Resume

*'Tis the season to be aware
of the tiny Magic everywhere.*



CLASSROOM NEWS

INFANTS



HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME BACK!

December in the Infants class was filled with laughter, music, and holiday cheer. We showed our creativity while making our Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas free art, as well as our gift candles. Paint brush marker pens were a big hit and have become a favorite art medium. We also had great success learning to properly use forks and napkins. During January, we will be focusing on using our hands properly with our classmates, not pushing or shoving, and instead offering gentle touches. Also, we will spend the entire month learning about different aspects of winter, including appropriate winter clothing (coats, mittens, hats, and scarves), winter/Arctic animals, and winter weather (snow, snowflakes, and ice). Please remember to bring coats, mittens, and hats each day, as we will be going outside if the real feel is above 32° F. We are looking forward to a fabulous second half of the year!

Ms. Amy Kathryn and Ms. Tahnee

TODDLERS

December in the toddler room was so exciting! We made ornaments for our families, as well as gingerbread houses. We enjoyed creating bird feeders during sensory play and watching the animals eat off of it after we placed it outside. We still love our Play-Doh, and we made "Christmas cookies" with it using cookie cutters. We were so grateful to be part of the Christmas program this year and dress as angels! During December, we also did more cooking. We made sugar cookies, and even got to paint them with frosting! They were delicious! We loved having Ms. Sheila sing for us. We also loved our Polar Express day, when we wore our favorite jammies and had a feast with all of our friends. In January, we will play with snowballs and do the snowball dance. We will also decorate snowmen and participate in snow sensory play. The entire class will be 2 years old by the end of January and we cannot wait!

Ms. Hannah, Ms. Jennifer, and Ms. Rachel



TWOS



We had a wonderful December in the Twos class! We learned all about holidays celebrated in December, including Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas. We also enjoyed reading lots of different versions of "The Gingerbread Man." We even made a gingerbread house and our own gingerbread cookies. We closed out the month of December with pajama parties and the Christmas program. Our little ones did such a great job singing and ringing their jingle bells!

January is going to be an exciting time for our class. We will be focusing on fun winter themes such as snow/snowmen, polar bears, penguins, and hibernation. We can't wait to explore this winter wonderland with our friends.

Thank you for all you do!

Ms. Brittany, Ms. Megan, and Ms. Shelby

Happy New Year! December was packed full of fun and learning (and a state assessment). We began the month learning about hibernation. Ms. Maria made an amazing cave for us to play in and help us learn where animals hibernate. Since many animals hibernate in the woods, we made our own Christmas trees out of extra Christmas tree trimmings. We also sorted colored bears into the correct color caves. In keeping with the hibernation theme, we learned about Jan Brett, a truly wonderful children's author who writes about animals in the winter. Her book, *The Mitten*, is about a boy who wanted snow white mittens. His grandma makes him a pair even though she

is worried he will lose them in the snow. He does indeed lose a mitten, and a group of animals, from a small hedgehog to a great big bear, climb into the mitten to keep warm. We decorated mittens as we would want them to look if we had a pair made for us. We also discussed our favorite animals, favorite snow activities, and proper clothes to wear during winter. Finally, we learned about Christmas celebrations from around the world. In the Netherlands, Sinterklaas leaves treats in the children's shoes. Australia has their Christmas in the summer, so Santa comes on a surf board. We also learned that the Christmas tree tradition came from Germany. We had our

own Christmas party with pizza and pajamas. Then we enjoyed putting on a program for all of our family and friends. In January, we will be learning about winter, snow and ice, and the Arctic.

Ms. Amanda and Ms. Maria



THREES—ROOM 114



Happy New Year! We are so happy to be back at school! December was a wonderful time of the year, filled with love and joy. We celebrated the holidays by learning about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas, having pajama parties, and participating in our annual Christmas program. Our children did a wonderful job singing on the big

stage. We are so proud of them and we know you are too. Now that it is January, it's time to settle back into our class routine. This month's units will include: "Ringing in the New Year," MLK Day, hibernation, and winter. Our letters of the month will be J, K, L, and M. Now that we are starting the second half of the school year, we will be

focusing more on self help skills, making mats, putting on our coats, etc. Please help your child by allowing them to do some of these things independently at home. Remember, practice makes perfect! We will still assist them as needed, but the more they can do on their own, the better.

If the temperature (real feel) is 32° F or above, we will be outside. Please dress your child in a heavy coat, hat, and gloves. January birthdays include: Jude on the 5th, Graham on the 9th, and Paisley on the 14th. They are all turning 4. We would like to thank you all for the love shown to us, and for everything you do. **Happy 2019!**

Ms. Diane and Ms. Susan



THREES—ROOM 116



In December, our lesson plans included "The Gingerbread Man," Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, and World Celebrations. The children loved the many different versions of "The Gingerbread Man," but their favorite was definitely "The Gingerbread Baby" by Jan Brett. We were also lucky enough to taste gingerbread cookies and eat gingerbread for snack. At snack we asked, "What part of the gingerbread man are you going to eat first?" The most common answer was "his head!"

In January, our lesson plans include polar animals, Martin Luther King, Jr., and hibernating animals. We always look forward to sensory play in winter, during which we play with polar animals in icy water and, if we are lucky, real snow. If no real snow is available, we will make some!

We have three birthdays in January: Trip on the 9th, Georgia on the 19th, and Levi on the 21st.

Ms. Liz and Ms. Melissa

PRE-K FOURS



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

December was filled with Christmas cheer! We compared and contrasted Christmas in Tennessee with Christmas in Hawaii, learned a hula dance, and sang *Mele Kalikimaka* until our mouths hurt.

We are excited to kick off the new year by re-adjusting to our day-to-day classroom routines, and hearing about everyone's Christmas breaks. We are excited to see what amazing things 2019 has in store for us!

Best,

Ms. Ann Walker
and Ms. Karina



PRE-K FIVES

With only three weeks to fit in all of the academic fun before Christmas break, December was certainly a busy one! We spent week one discussing winter holidays such as Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. We learned to play the Dreidel game, created a class Kwanzaa mural, and made a collaborative handprint Christmas tree with jeweled ornaments to decorate our hallway. We also conducted a wonderful science experiment with candy canes, by observing whether or not they dissolved in jars of water, oil, and vinegar, respectively. We sorted and counted snowflakes in math, made holiday cards for friends and family, and learned to write various holiday greetings.

Our second week of December was a celebration of Christmas around the world. We studied the customs of various countries such as Mexico, England, Russia, and Germany. We held a parade to mimic the Posada in Mexico, left boots out for St. Nicholas in honor of the German tradition, and made Christmas crackers filled with jokes and sweets, per the English custom. We also baked and decorated our very own gingerbread men, then enjoyed making them disappear during snack time! It was a delicious, treat-filled week, indeed.

The final pre-Christmas break week concentrated on Christmas here in America, as we made presents and cards for parents, wrote letters to Santa, discussed family traditions, and had a pajama and movie day to get us in the spirit. We ended the week with a musical bang, by enjoying our fantastic Christmas concert in the sanctuary with our fellow Belmont Weekday School classes. We were thrilled to shake our maracas and perform our festive rendition of *Feliz Navidad!* It was great to have an opportunity to cele-

brate the season by sharing songs and cookies with our students and their families.

We hope you all enjoyed a merry Christmas and happy New Year, and we look forward to spending 2019 with you!

Ms. Elizabeth and Ms. Jenna





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Belmont Weekday School serves children ages nine months to five years. The WDS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, handicap or disability, sex, or age in its employment policies or in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and other school-administered programs.

Follow us on:



SPRING FUNDRAISER and SILENT AUCTION

Get Ready! The Weekday School's Spring Fundraiser and Silent Auction will be scheduled for a date at the beginning of March. Tickets are \$25.00 per person (in advance), or \$30.00 at the door. They may be purchased from EnaShea, or in the WDS hallways at drop off and pick up, beginning February 1st. Even if you don't buy anything at the auction, just purchasing tickets helps our school. Your ticket price will include admission, heavy appetizers, beer, and wine. Credit cards, cash, and checks will be accepted for ticket sales, both at school and at the auction. This is an event for adults only, so let those sitters know you will need them! Feel free to invite friends or other family members as well.

Look for more information soon!

KROGER REWARDS PROGRAM

BWDS families (27 households) who shopped at **Kroger** between **8-29-18** and **11-27-2018** have earned a total of **\$116.84** for our school, simply by linking their Kroger Plus card to the school.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

If you have not linked your Kroger Plus Card, please use the instructions below from your computer or smart phone to do so.

How to Link Your Card: (takes about 5 minutes)

Go to www.kroger.com/communityrewards

Create an account by entering the following:

Email

Password

Zip Code

Find location of store you use most.

Add Kroger Plus Card 12-digit number or the phone number linked to you Kroger Plus account

Click on Community Rewards: First name

Last name

Address

Find your organization :

Type in our NDO number: **SH746** & hit search

Select Belmont Weekday School

Click Enroll



Please forward this information to any relatives or friends who would also like to support WDS. This program allows WDS to earn money on groceries, gift cards, and prescriptions. Unfortunately, fuel is no longer included.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOU MUST RELINK YOUR CARD AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR.