



OP TIMES

The Onionpatch
Academy

January 2012
Volume 1, Issue 6

59 Court Street
Hamilton HM 12
Phone: 296 6466
Fax: 236 5912

Email: info@opacademy.bm
Web: www.opacademy.bm

Winter Wonders

January is here and with this new month and new year comes the wonders God has given us that make it a thrilling time of year! In some places snow, ice, and frosty weather are all around. Here in Bermuda, a bit more rain and temperatures as low as 40 degrees are common. Nevertheless, the children will be learning about all the wonders of winter.

Week 1 – the children will explore snow, snowflakes and ice.

Week 2 – focuses on winter outerwear such as mitten, hats, scarves and coats.

Week 3 /4 – the children will explore winter animals such as polar bears, penguins and seals.

Week 5 – children will learn about the lives of Eskimos and how they live in very cold climates.

The children will be reminded to keep the warmth and joy of Christ in their hearts as they move into this brand new month and season which can sometimes bring winter blahs.

The scriptures will move the children from the baby Jesus to His ministry and His first words of teaching to us. Their minds will be filled with the ways of God and guide them in how to demonstrate His peace, love, and joy.

This month the scriptures will look at the Beatitudes in Matthew 5.

New Students

We welcome to the Onionpatch Family:

Baby Onions – Cameron Camara and Jada Welch

Little Onions/Shallots – Marcus Allers and Jayanna Walrond

Green Onions –Gwyneth McHugh and Ajhi Brangman

Upcoming Birthdays

Sajea West – 27 January, 2012

Brianna Gordon – 1 February 2012

Chayce Minors Butterfield – 28 February 2012

Staff News

Due to our increasing numbers and to better utilize the incredible skills and experience of our staff, we have made some minor staff changes.

Baby Onions Teachers – Nakia Furbert and Lyndell Davis

Little Onions Teacher – Wanay Bartley

Shallots Teacher – Kim Simmons

Green Onions Teachers – Patrice Wilson and Seika Pierre

Pearl and Bermuda Onions Teacher – Mekesha Mahmed Bay



Time for Bed – Let's Read

Reading to infants and toddlers is important to literacy development. You can begin reading to your infant as soon as you begin talking to him or her. Reading aloud will help your child develop the language and listening skills necessary to begin a lifelong love of language and the printed word.

At 3 or 4 months, hold your infant and read books with rhythmic language and brightly colored, simple pictures.

- In a few months, add books that have pictures your infant will recognize.
- Read from cloth and board books that your infant can hold and touch.
- Be dramatic. Use different voices; make faces; and feel free to wiggle, bounce, and sing to engage your infant.

From the age of 2 to 5, children can turn the pages in a book and follow the pictures, repeat the words they have heard you read, follow the story, and "read" on their own.

- Be dramatic and read often, varying the length to accommodate your child's interest.
- Involve your child by talking about the book while reading.
- Sound out some words and play with sounds.
- Have conversations about the book that you read last or will read tomorrow.

Five- and six-year-olds can begin the ritual with books they can read or almost read. Extend the bedtime hour as children get older so that they believe the reading period is an extra gift of time.



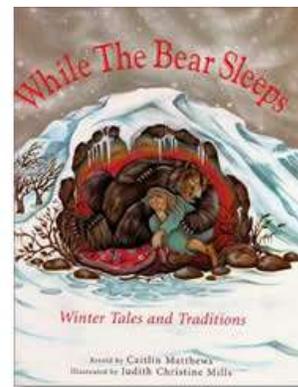
Here are some book suggestions:



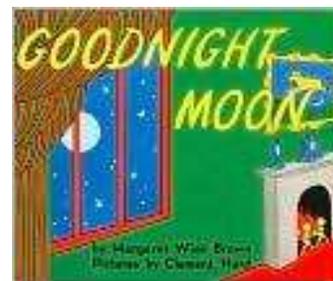
Prayers with Bears Board Books: The Beatitudes by Alan and Linda Parry



Hello Snow by Hope Vestergaard, Nadine Bernard Westcott (Illustrator)



While the Bear Sleeps by Caitlin Matthews, Judith Christine Mills (Illustrator)



Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown