



Tis' the Season!

Dear Moms,

While the frantic pace of the Christmas season surrounds our days, there is also a peace that seems to surround our hearts. There is a feeling that comes from the extra effort we place on our relationships as we celebrate the birth of Christ with those closest to us (spouses, children, family, and friends). While some of the hoopla may be commercial, it all serves as a symbol and a reminder that our relationship with Christ should be the center of our lives.

As you celebrate these days leading up to Christmas, we encourage you to look at things a little differently. When you see Christmas lights adorning rooftops, think of the light of Jesus' love that shines in and through us. When Santa delivers gifts Christmas morning, let it be a reminder of the gift that we are all given in the birth of Jesus Christ. Most importantly, when you reflect on the holiday season, let it be a reminder that "God does not want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible." (2 Timothy 1:7)

We wish each of you a blessed and very MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Paige & Kristin

As a reminder, on November 11th our speaker, Leslie Hanscom, recommended the following books as we focus on the true meaning of the holiday season in establishing traditions and memories for our families:

- Advent Conspiracy by Rick McKinley, Greg Holder, Chris Seay
- Unplug the Christmas Machine by Jo Robinson, Jean C. Staeheli
- For Everything a Season by Philip Gulley

New MOPPETS!

Kenlee Rae born to Lisa & Jared Stark on November 12. This is their first baby!

Grace Ann born to Leah & Craig Johanson on November 13.

Elle Susan born to Hillary & Jared Koning on November 18.

Baby Bumpo currently has a 100% accuracy rate with both Hillary and Lisa predicted to have girls!

Beaverton MOPS December 2011



MOPPETS Corner

Date: December 9, 2011

Topic: Christmas Celebration

Description: Preschool children will relate their own experiences with babies to the baby Jesus of long ago. (Make a Christmas gift to give to children in need).

Scheduled in MOPPETS: Carolyn Downey, Stephanie Nix, Betsy Laun, Melica Ellerbrook

Date: January 13, 2012

Topic: Being Kind/Using Manners

Description: Preschool children will understand the importance of kindness and manners.

Scheduled in MOPPETS: Alicia Sparks, Tina Sturmer, Robin Blair, Shelly Morris

Date: January 27, 2012

Topics: Loving Your Neighbor

Description: Preschool children will learn how to be a good neighbor and treat each other with manners.

Scheduled in MOPPETS: Melinda Ott, Karen Eggert, Julie Worley, Kaelyn Townsend



Don't forget to stop by and visit our Espresso Bar where \$1 per cup directly benefits MOPS! Enjoy one of our featured monthly drinks:
December: Peppermint Mocha
January: Snowflake Mocha

Featured Recipe

Chocolate Toffee Bars

Eileen Atienza

- 1.5 Cups Semi Sweet Chocolate Chips
 - 3/4 Cup Flaked Coconut
 - 3/4 Cup Skor Toffee Bits
 - 1/2 Cup Slivered Almonds
 - 1.5 Cups Flour
 - 1/3 Cup Sugar
 - 3/4 Cup Butter
 - 1 Can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 1) Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 13x9" glass pan with cooking spray.
 - 2) Combine chocolate chips, coconut, Skor bits, and almonds. Set aside.
 - 3) Combine flour and sugar. Cut in butter until mixture is crumbly. Press firmly into pan. Bake for 12 minutes.
 - 4) Let crust cool 5 min., then pour condensed milk over crust evenly. Sprinkle with chocolate chip mixture. Press down firmly.
 - 5) Bake for 25-30 minutes. Cool and cut into bars.

Coming Up Next...

Great Expectations

The day after Thanksgiving, I was admittedly excited to kick -off the Christmas season. This is, after all, my favorite time of the year. I think I felt a particular sense of urgency given we'll be traveling most of the month of December.

I had visions of working together as a family to decorate the house, how special this holiday would be for my five-year-old as he's starting to remember traditions year-to-year, and including my two-year-old twins in the Christmas festivities.

Things, obviously, never go as planned. In years past, decorating the tree has been an event. I've proudly pulled down the box of our family Christmas ornaments and handed them out as I tell the

history of each one. That worked when I had only one child interested in decorating the tree. This year, WWF took place front-and-center around the box of ornaments with screaming, hitting, even biting happening as the boys fought over who would hang the next ornament on the tree. I was frustrated and rushed to get through the box. A night which had been so anticipated in the past had become another chaotic event I was eager to check off the list.

And the tree wasn't decorated for long. Ornaments are now strung throughout the living room. The Hallmark Keepsake ornament, "Santa's Sweet Ride" is now the focal point of our nativity scene, with Baby Jesus, the camel,

Happy New Year!

We pray that the year ahead is healthy and prosperous for you and your family. As we move into 2012, we will continue to provide programming aimed at better equipping us as women and mothers. We look forward to seeing you after the holidays!

Balancing Act

Linda Sandberg will be here on **January 13th** to discuss the importance of establishing balance in our priorities and carrying those out in our day-to-day lives.



and sheep nowhere to be found.

Just as I was beginning to wonder why I had bothered spending so much energy decorating a house we aren't going to be in on Christmas Day, I found my two-year-old son, Ben, standing in the dark, admiring the luminous tree. He was naming the ornaments one-by-one, "Big Bird. Eep [sheep]. Man [Santa Claus]."

I was reminded in that very moment that things don't have to go perfectly—or even smoothly—to create lasting memories for my children. I think of the beautiful Christmas story and how imperfect conditions had to be that very night so long ago when Mary and Joseph traveled through Bethlehem—fearful and alone—to give birth to a King!

And I am constantly comforted in the fact that I don't have to be perfect to receive God's grace and love. We are accepted just the way we are. Crumbled gingerbread houses, unwrapped gifts, Santa in the manger, and all!

May you experience that love as you maneuver through the holiday season and may you have the ability to let go of things that simply aren't important to focus on tidings of comfort and joy!

Merry Christmas and a *Peaceful* Holiday Season to you and yours!

By Leigh Havelick

Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

MOPS in the Community

Operation Christmas Child: This year, MOPS of Beaverton collected 42 shoeboxes in support of Operation Christmas Child. OCC is a service of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief and evangelism organization. The shoeboxes will be distributed worldwide to help impoverished children around the globe. www.samaritanspurse.org/occ/

SCAT Wrap: At our last MOPS meeting, we wrapped more than 250 presents that will be distributed to local families in need this Christmas. SCAT (Special Church/Community Action Team), a service of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, is the longest running emergency food organization in Washington County. SCAT is operated on a volunteer basis and has served more than 25,000 families throughout its 37 year history.

We'd like to thank the following participants in our Holiday Bazaar. Please feel free to contact them in the future to support their businesses!

- Molly Carlson, Stella & Dot Stylist-
molly.e.carlson@gmail.com
(503) 804-4260, stelladot.com/mollycarlson
- Cyndi Clere, Home-Made Jam-
cclere@frontier.com
- Cheri Dyk, Snugz Baby Shoes
snugzshoes@gmail.com
(971) 219-3682, etsy.com/shop/snugzshoes
- Julie Firth, Knitted Apparel
(971) 832-8165
juliefirth@yahoo.com
- Jenine Greenley, Handmade Accessories & Baby Gear
jenine1212@yahoo.com
- Alison Gunn, dolcezzali's handmade cards
dolcezzali@yahoo.com
- Mindy Haroon, Usborne Books
mh4books@gmail.com
(503) 330-4559, ubah.com/b3932
- Jennifer Hildreth, Custom Jewelry & Accessories
jenn@designedbyjenn.com
facebook.com/dbjenn
- Adeana Johnsen, Silpada
adeanajoh@frontier.com
(503) 840-7759
mysilpada.com/adeana.johnsen
- Jackie Purcell, Shaklee Nutrition
(503) 679-2104
mjpurcell0024@comcast.net
- Jessica Sharer, Birch Wood Art Panels
sharerj@me.com

Strider Bike Fundraiser

The drawing for the Strider Bike will be held today, December 9th. If you did not win the bike but wish to order one, please contact Mara Adams at (503) 641-8454 or mara.adams@me.com. She will be placing an order on Monday, December 12th. The bikes will be here by Christmas. Remember, \$15 of every bike sold goes directly to MOPS. The



bikes are \$99 each and the shipping is free. Available in six colors.



January Birthdays

Shawna Davis: Jan. 7
 Leigh Havelick: Jan. 9
 Alison Gunn: Jan. 11
 Betsy Laun: Jan. 11
 Mara Adams: Jan. 18
 Mary Pat Bland: Jan. 20
 Molly Carlson: Jan. 24



Outside Activities

Join us for a ladies' night out on Monday, **January 23rd at 6:30**. We'll take a **Glass Fusion Class** by Kristi Bigio in her home studio while we enjoy snacks, desserts, drinks, and fellowship. Space is limited; please sign up at the resource table today.

Mark your calendars for **MOPS & POPS Bunco** night, scheduled for **Saturday, March 10th**. The event is not only fun, but it's the biggest fundraiser of the year! The theme this year is **Mardi Gras**, so gather your beads and boas and plan to attend this festive celebration. For your convenience, childcare will be provided. More information to follow.



To stay updated on the latest MOPS news, "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BeavertonMOPS.

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2	3	4 Steering Meeting 6:15 p.m.	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 MOPS Meeting 9:00-11:30 a.m.	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Day	17	18 Steering Meeting 6:15 p.m.	19	20	21
22	23 Glass Fusion Class 6:30 p.m.	24	25	26	27 MOPS Meeting 9:00-11:30 a.m.	28
29	30	31				