



# HOPE Happenings

## December 2023 / January 2024



Dear HOPE families,

It's a beautiful time of year as we approach Christmas and a new year. For our little HOPE friends, Christmas may be all about Santa and gifts, and there are also fun surprises to come from your child's class.

However, Christmas is also a wonderful time to focus on less tangible gifts. Our wish for you and your family is that you have some time during all the busy activities to share the gifts of time and attention with your children. If you do celebrate Christmas as the birth of Jesus, sharing your beliefs and the wonder of the Biblical Christmas story can make the holiday magical.

We are so looking forward to our Christmas Program this year! It is a beloved tradition here, and it is always heartwarming and so sweet to see our little ones singing for their families.

As we anticipate the beginning of 2024, here are some things to keep in mind. School starts at 9:00 a.m., and that first 15-20 minutes is valuable classroom time. What may look like "just" playing is actually an important chance for your child to practice independent decision-making (who to play with, what to play with and how to play together in a positive way); time management (spending a little time with each toy or manipulative); and following directions (a teacher may assist them in directing their energy or have them take turns with a popular toy or manipulative).

### General Information

Phone: 703-729-4673 - Please call to report absences.

Website: [www.hopepreschool.org](http://www.hopepreschool.org)

Refer tuition inquiries to [jeckl@hopepreschool.org](mailto:jeckl@hopepreschool.org)

Preschool Hours: Morning 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.  
Extended Day 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Teachers gain valuable insights from this time as well, as they observe the choices your child makes and the activities they favor. This time might also be used for one-on-one tasks with the teacher, and as we move into the spring, skill assessments. Even being the last one to arrive may upset a child or make them feel like they have missed out (which they have).

As you all know, the weather in January can be unpredictable, and I'm already hearing rumors that we are "due" for some big snow this year! Some of us love snow days, and some of us don't. Either way, please check your email and pay attention to social media and news. If Loudoun County Public Schools close for inclement weather, HOPE will too. Our website will be updated as needed and you will receive an email if school closes or is delayed. Loudoun County has an alert system as well, which you can find via [loudoun.gov/alert](http://loudoun.gov/alert). With all these options of notification, there should not be a surprise closure.

Also in January, once we have returned from Winter Break, the registration and enrollment information on our website will be updated to begin registration for fall of 2024. As currently enrolled families, you will receive direct information about the process of registration.

**We wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas, and a beautiful new year!**

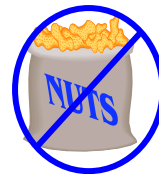
**From everyone at  
HOPE Preschool**



### December Highlights

Nov. 27	HOPE for the Homeless Drive begins
4	Science Explorers
19 & 20	Christmas Shows
21- Jan. 1	HOPE is CLOSED
<b>January Highlights</b>	
2	Classes resume
15	MLK, Jr. Day HOPE is CLOSED
22	HOPE open/LCPS closed
30 & 31	Praise & Celebration

HOPE is



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## Praise & Celebration

Thank you to all the families who donated canned fruits, vegetables and diapers at our November Praise & Celebration. We collected **180** items (205 lbs.).

January Praise & Celebration dates are: January 30th & 31st.

**January's collection will be Pasta, Canned Soup, & Diapers**

### Praise & Celebration Schedule

Tuesday AM - January 30th

**9:15-9:30** Dolphin, Owl, Turtle, Giraffe, Blue Butterfly

Wednesday AM - January 31st

**9:15-9:30** Brown Bear, Cardinal, Green Frog, Lucky Duck, Red Ladybug, Purple Penguin, Busy Bee



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## HOPE for the Homeless - Loudoun Mobile Hope

Over 2,100 precariously housed children and young adults reside in Loudoun County. HOPE Preschool will have its annual collection, to benefit Loudoun Mobile Hope, Nov. 27th —Dec. 8th. Please check the list on page 5 for current needs and consider making a donation. Thanks in advance for making a positive difference in the lives of these children.



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## Christmas Show Schedule

The following is the schedule for our Christmas Shows, which will be held on December 19th & 20th. **Please refer to your child's class calendar and newsletter for information pertaining to your classroom celebration time.**

### Christmas Program Schedule

#### Tuesday, December 19th

9:15 a.m.

Brown Bears, Busy Bees, Owls

10:45 a.m.

Turtles, Lucky Ducks, Blue Butterflies

#### Wednesday, December 20th

9:15 a.m.

Penguins, Dolphins, Giraffes

10:45 a.m.

Cardinals, Ladybugs, Green Frogs



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## December and January Bible Verses

God is good.  
Treat others the way you would have them treat you.  
We saw His star and have come to worship Him.  
Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Don't worry about anything.  
Be kind to one another.  
Give thanks to God with instruments.  
God spreads snow like a blanket.



## Christmas Eve Worship Services at Crossroads Sunday, December 24th at 3,5,7 & 9 p.m.



Join Crossroads in person or online on our website (<https://www.crossroadsnova.org/>) or our Facebook page. All services will experience an inspiring message from Pastor Tim, favorite classic Christmas Carols, Communion, and "Silent Night" sung with candlelight. Nursery care will be offered at 3, 5, & 7 p.m. services.

## Breakfast with Santa—December 3rd

Join Santa for breakfast on Sunday, December 3rd. We will have two sittings, one at 9 a.m. and one at 11 a.m. and a chance to take pictures with Santa at both session. At 10 a.m., join us for a family focused worship service where will feature the movie Elf and learn what biblical lessons can be learned from this family favorite. Sign up here: <https://www.crossroadsnova.org/breakfast-with-santa/>

## Inclement Weather Policy

If Loudoun County Schools are delayed 1 or 2 hours HOPE Preschool opens at 10:00 a.m.  
(Dismissal time remains the same.)

If Loudoun County Public Schools are CLOSED HOPE Preschool is CLOSED.



Please refer to our website or your local news for delay and closing information.

\*Please dress appropriately for the changing weather.

\*Please adjust car seat straps to accommodate bulky coats and jackets.

## Absentee Policy

THANK YOU to those parents who have kept their child home when they weren't feeling well. Your assistance goes a long way toward keeping HOPE a healthy place for children.

All families should notify the HOPE office of ALL student absences by calling 703-729-4673.

If a child has been diagnosed by a physician with a contagious illness, we will send a confidential email to all affected families.

Keep your child home with the following symptoms:

- Fever in the past 24 hours
- Vomit in the past 24 hours
- Diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- Positive Covid, Flu, Strep, or RSV
- Excessive coughing or sneezing
- Crusty nose or mucus
- Pink eye/oozing eye
- Unusual spots or rash on skin
- Head Lice



## 2024-25 Registration is right around the corner!

Attention **currently enrolled families & siblings** of currently enrolled students: If you are planning to enroll a child for the 2024-2025 school year, here's how registration will take place:

During the first week of January 2024, the HOPE Preschool office will email the application for the 2024- 2025 school year to all of our currently enrolled families. Families then print this application and fill it out. Please complete a separate form for each child you are registering. The completed applications, along with the \$150 non-refundable application fee per child and copy of their birth certificate (for a sibling), must be returned to the preschool office by Monday, February 5, 2024. Applications will be processed in the order they are received so please return the application and payment in a timely manner for the best chance to secure your child's placement for the next school year. Returning families will receive an email with their child's class placement by Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

Alumni families should contact the preschool office (703-729-4673) to receive the appropriate application, or access the application on our website ([www.hopepreschool.org](http://www.hopepreschool.org).)

People who have had no prior affiliation with the preschool (public) should access our web site ([hopepreschool.org](http://hopepreschool.org)) to fill out an online application beginning the first week in January 2024. There is no fee to do this. Once our currently enrolled students, the siblings of our currently enrolled students and alumni students are registered, we will begin to register the public students. Public families will be notified by phone with class offers. If the offer is accepted, families will need to provide a copy of the child's birth certificate as well as the \$150 non-refundable registration fee. Once those items are received, the child is fully registered for the 2024-2025 school year. Please contact the preschool office with any questions.

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## Lunch Bunch - Weekly Monday-Thursday 11:45—1:30 p.m.

The kids love meeting new friends and eating lunch at school. Lunch bunch registration is done each month by submitting forms and payment to the preschool office.

\*Please remember that no foods containing nuts, tree nuts or nut products can be served. This also includes food that is processed on equipment where nuts have been processed.

\*Please label any food that could be questionable to avoid a call from staff. (example: sunflower butter)

\*\*Your child's tuition account must be paid up to date in order to participate.\*\*



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## Little Caesar's Fundraiser

During the month of December, HOPE Preschool is hosting a Little Caesar's Fundraiser. For every online pizza kit sold, HOPE will receive a portion of the sale which will in turn help us fund special programs like Fitwize for Kids for our preschoolers.



For more information or to purchase a pizza kit, please visit this link or use the QR code. <https://fundraising.littlecaesars.com/products?support=5762098b-2c62-4bfd-ac0a-8403b40f8da0>





# HOPE for the Homeless

Each year at the holidays, HOPE Preschool conducts a donation drive to benefit Mobile Hope Loudoun.

Mobile Hope (<https://mobile-hope.org/>) provides support and emergency shelter to youth up to age 24 who are at-risk, precariously housed or homeless and empowers them to become self-sufficient. These children attend every school across Loudoun County. Most of our elementary schools serve young children who have no stable bed to call their own. Beginning 11 years ago, Mobile Hope became the first emergency relief center in Loudoun County where children and young adults can get help, no questions asked. Since March 2020, Mobile Hope has served over 245,000 people.

Our donation drive will begin on **November 27th** and continue through **December 8th, 2023**. On the morning of **December 8th**, the Mobile Hope van will visit HOPE Preschool to collect our donations. If possible, we plan to have some of our students greet the van, see the items being loaded, and have a group photo taken with the van!

If you would like to help with this cause, please place any of the following items on the collection table in HOPE Preschool's lobby:

- **GIFT CARDS:** Uber and grocery store
- **Hygiene Items:** Diapers, Chapstick, Shampoo (traditional & dry), Conditioner, Deodorant, Shaving Cream, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Feminine Products, Brushes, Combs, Tissues, Hand Warmers
- **INDIVIDUAL Food Servings:** Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Proteins of all kinds, Granola Bars, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Cereal, Macaroni, Hearty Soups, Snacks, Peanut Butter Crackers, Saltines, Ramen Noodles, Oatmeal, Mini Cereals, Shelf-stable Milk.

Unfortunately, we CANNOT accept the following items:

- Any food item containing tree nuts
- Stuffed animals
- Used clothing

An Amazon Wish List is also available at the following link:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/WES6IOO0VMYI?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/WES6IOO0VMYI?ref=wl_share)



**THANK YOU** for joining the HOPE Preschool family in bringing HOPE to the homeless and precariously housed children of Loudoun County!!

