

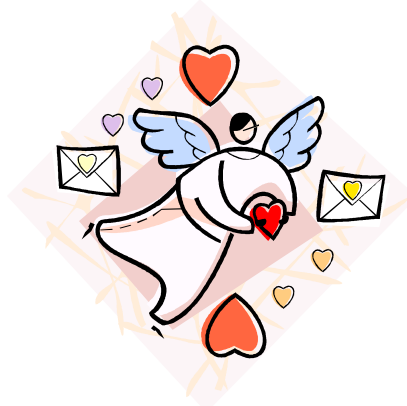
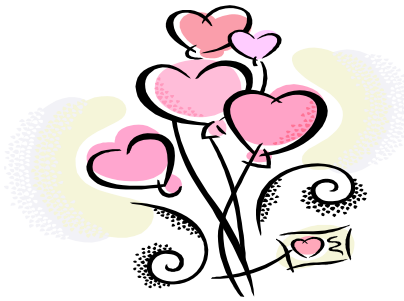
# NEWSLETTER

13611 Laurel-Bowie Road  
Laurel, Maryland 20708  
240-568-9352  
open arms@oslclaurel.org



## Safety First!

When picking up children, please do not let them run in the hallway or out of the doors. They should not exit unless accompanied by parents or an adult. Your child's safety is important to us. Please help us to keep them safe. Thanks



January/February  
2010

Our Bible Stories these months are:

The Wisemen find Jesus:  
Matthew 2

Jesus is Baptized: Matt 3:13-17

Jesus blesses the children:  
Mark 10:13 – 16

Jesus chooses 12 Disciples:  
Matt 4:18-22

A forgiving father: Luke  
15:11 – 24

10 men with leprosy: Luke 17:  
11 – 19

Jesus teaches about birds and  
flowers: Luke 12: 22 – 32

Jesus feeds 5000: John 6: 1 –  
14

Jesus stops a storm: Matt 8:  
23 – 27

Zacchaeus : Luke 19 : 1 – 10

*We will have Open House  
for our Pre-School on  
January 28<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am.  
Please invite your family  
and friends.*



A blessed New Year to all  
Open Arms Families and a  
huge thank you for your  
wonderful generosity with  
your gifts for the Giving Tree

at Christmas. 30 needy children were incredibly grateful for all that they received. January 6<sup>th</sup> began the Epiphany season or season of light where we remember that Christ is the Light of the World. January and February events at the church include Men's Winterhaven, which will be the week of 31 Jan-7Feb where approximately 25-30 men will be housed. These men generally use the back door by our kitchen to enter and leave our facilities. If anyone would like to volunteer to help during these weeks there is always plenty to do, from providing snacks and lunch items, transportation, laundry, supervising the early evening hours or spending the night. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer please let the front desk know and we will pass on the request to those in charge. Helping the homeless in the Laurel area is another way to serve those most in need. Don't forget Wednesday night dinners from 5:30-6:30.

### Ash Wednesday Information

Dear Parents: February 17<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of the season of Lent--the forty days before Easter. It is a tradition of the Lutheran Church to observe Ash Wednesday by placing ashes on the foreheads of those who desire them. This ancient act is a gesture of repentance and a powerful reminder of our

sin and lostness without Jesus. During chapel ( 4's and aftercare) on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be teaching the children about the meaning of the day and we will be imposing ashes on the children's foreheads. **If you DO NOT want your child to receive them** please sign the form provided by your child's teacher. **If you do not return the form your child(ren) will receive ashes.** If you have any questions about this practice please do not hesitate to talk to the Director, Miss Cynthia or me. I can be reached at 301-776-7670 during the day or email me: [tina@oslclaurel.org](mailto:tina@oslclaurel.org)

Our Ash Wednesday Worship Service begins at 7:00 pm.

**Tina McGuffey**

Director of Christian Outreach  
Tumble Bus All Star Kids



We are very pleased to have the Tumblebus as an extra curricular activity for our students. The children enjoy going to the tumblebus. Thanks for your support.



**Infant/Toddler Program**

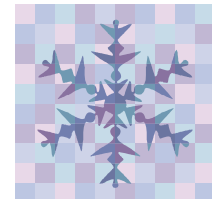
Dear Parents,

**Please remember to completely fill out the top portion of the daily report sheet, including pick up time. Sign in and out your child daily on the classroom attendance. Date and label all bottles and food daily. Please be on time to pick up your child and call if there are any emergencies. Please call by 10:00 to let us know if your child will be absent or late for the day. We have to plan our staffing according to the number of infants that we will have. When we are surprised with unexpected drop ins or delayed pick ups that affects our ratio. Thank you.**

### **“FUN-RAISING” Opportunities**

Please remember to purchase the Giant, Weis and Shoppers Gift Cards at the front desk. We have the different amount cards for sale and it helps the school when you purchase them from the center. Thank you again for your support.

### Winter Weather Policy



We will try to stay open at all times during wintry weather, however, if driving conditions are extremely dangerous or predicted to be icy we want all of our children and staff to be able to get home safely. Ms.

Cynthia and Ms. Stacey need to make the decision by **5:30 am** in order to call the radio station.

If we need to delay or close we will phone an announcement in to **WTOP** radio station (103.5 or 103.9 FM) If you hear Open Arms Laurel then the center will either be delayed or closed according to the announcement.

You may also go to their website [WTOP News.com](http://WTOP News.com). We are listed under "other".

***For your convenience this year the center will also be listed with the school closings on WJLA ABC 7/Newschannel 8.***

You may also go to our website there is a link on the page for school closings or delayed openings.

### **Half Day Preschoolers**

Please take note that our weather closing policy for the half day program has changed from recently stated in the parent handbook. The half day program will now be operating under the same closing policy as the rest of the school rather than following the PG Co. School System policy.

## Illness Policy

Please refer to our parent handbook pg. 11 for complete details about our illness policy. We need to remind our parents that children may not attend the center if they have a fever over 100 degrees without the use of Tylenol. If you give your child Tylenol, Motrin, etc. in the morning for fever, the fever will return by noon and then all the children in the classroom have been infected. Children that are ill must be picked up promptly. Please no more one hour to two hour delays in pick up. The sick child is miserable and needs to be home in bed.

Children sent home with fever, diarrhea, and vomiting, green mucus from the nose, severe cough may not return until at least 24 hours of being symptom free. Again, without the use of medicine.

Only the administrative staff (Ms. Cynthia or Ms. Stacey) are allowed to dispense medication to children during the day provided a parent has filled out a medication request form and the medication is in the original prescription bottle. We are allowed to give over the counter medication **once** during an illness. Please follow these guidelines in order to help keep our center healthy.

### ***Staffing Changes:***

We have moved some of our staff to other rooms, all teachers should be listed on the board for each room.

We have had a couple of changes in duties for the staff. Ms. Natalie is now driving the bus for pickup of our after care students, while her students are

at naptime. She is still lead teacher in Room 6, Ms. Teqia will be her assistant.

We have added one more staff person to our aftercare program, Ms. Mia Bibbs, who also has several years of child care experience. She will be assisting Ms. Nancy.

Ms. Lakeisha will go on leave for a couple of months and Ms. Brittany will be lead teacher in Rm 11 and Ms. Mariam who is also senior staff will be working with her.

Please check at the front desk if you have any questions or concerns.

***Open Arms Staff would like to thank all of you for your acts of kindness shown over the Holiday Season. Your cards, gifts and words of kindness is truly appreciated.***

### **Kids Coupon Books!**

**We still have a few parents that have not paid for or returned their coupon book. Also if you did not receive your complete order, please see Ms. Cynthia. We are trying to close out this account.**

**We are in the process of updating our website, please visit us and tell us what you think.**

**[www.openarmslaurel.org](http://www.openarmslaurel.org)**

***We will have Open House for our Summer Program on February 25<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 pm.***