



## December 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Although 2024 is quickly ending, the month of December is filled with excitement and awe for your children. When we return from our Thanksgiving break, the children will be learning about Christmas and all that it entails, from the birth of Jesus to Santa Claus. The classrooms are being transformed to highlight the Christmas season. The children are learning holiday songs. To embrace Greek culture, we will have a Karavaki celebration, highlighted by a parent/child activity and the lighting of the "Stars Academy Boat." We have started to practice our songs in preparation for the Christmas Celebration. The Tiny Stars class is learning about lights. How appropriate is this when we use lights to decorate trees, houses and boats? Our Little Stars are continuing their in-depth study of clothing. The four-year-old class is building their Greek vocabulary to include clothing as well as activities from Ellinopoula.

To help with your planning, please be aware of these special dates for December:

- Dec. 4 - Picture Make-up Day
- Dec. 6 – St. Nicholas – Church attendance  
Karavaki Parent/Child Activities 11:00 am  
Karavaki lighting
- Dec. 11 - Candy Cane Day - STEM activities
- Dec. 12 - Community Christmas Tree Lighting; 4:30 PM  
Open House for 2025-2026 School Year; 7:00 PM
- Dec. 18 – Christmas Celebration; Church Hall; 11:00AM
- Dec. 20 – Last day of school in 2024  
Ugly Sweater Day
- Dec. 23 – Jan. 1 – Holiday recess; school closed
- Dec. 31 **Last day to get required flu vaccine for your child**
- Jan 2 – School reopens

To adhere to Department of Health Guidelines, your children will play outdoors most days. When it is colder than 42 degrees, raining, or snowing they will remain inside. Please remember to send them to school with hats and gloves as the weather gets cooler so they can enjoy the fresh air. If a child is not dressed appropriately, he/she will have to remain inside with one of the staff.

Another requirement by the Department of Health is that your child must have a **flu vaccine** by December 31, 2024. The school will need proof of the vaccine when they return to school on January 2, 2025.

On behalf of the Stars Academy Staff, we wish everyone a Joyous Christmas and a wonderful holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Cathy Helfrich