CHILDSTART INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

White Plains • Paseo

School Year 2012-2013

December - January

Happy Holidays!

Director's Note: READy, set, go!

Learning to read is one of the most important accomplishments of early childhood. Books are designed to help children become skilled readers who like to read. Beginning readers learn to read by remembering frequently used words such as "the", "is" and "like", etc; by using phonics skills to decode new words and by interpreting picture and text clues.

Books are ideal Christmas presents! They provide both the stories children enjoy and the structure they need to read fluently and independently.

Here are suggestions or helping your child before, during and after reading:

BEFORE

Look at the cover and pictures and have your child predict what the story is about.

Read the story to your child.

Encourage your child to chime in with familiar words and phrases.

Echo read with your child by reading a line first and having your child read it after you do.

DURING

Have your child think about a word he or she does not recognize right away.

Provide hints such as "Let's see if we know the sounds" and "Have we read other words like this one?"

Encourage your child to use phonics skills — voice out the letter sounds of new words.

Provide the word for your child when more assistance is needed so that he/ she does not struggle and the experience of reading with you is a positive one.

Let your child have fun by reading with a lot of expression... like an actor!

AFTER

Have your child keep lists of interesting and favorite words.

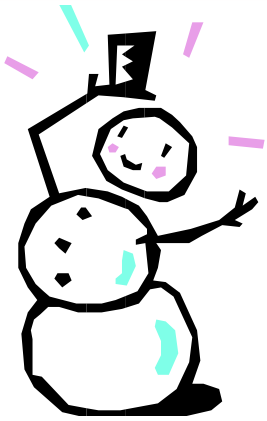
Let your child read the book over and over again. Have him read to siblings, grandparents and even teddy bears. Repeated readings develop confidence in young readers.

Talk about the stories. Ask and answer questions. Share ideas about the funniest and most interesting characters in the stories.

The holiday break is a perfect time to enrich reading. You can even try exchanging books read for toy credit. For instance if your child is able to finish 2 books with little help, they may be exchanged for a Barbie doll or toy truck. More difficult ones go out for more. Remember that for kids to love reading, a genuine interest in books must be developed! Happy Reading!

Reference:

Francie Alexander, Reading Specialist, Scholastic Learning Ventures



IMPORTANT DATES:

Technical Dress Rehearsal (RCBC)	Dec.15
Christmas Showcase (RCBC)	Dec.16
Kids' Christmas Party with Santa	Dec.17
Holiday Break	Dec.18 to Jan.4
Classes Resume	Jan.7
Swim Day (depending on weather)	Jan.10
Show and Tell: Pet Day	Jan. 25

RCBC SCHEDULES and REMINDERS

December 14 (Friday)

ALL participants must attend. The rehearsals are from 1:30–5:00pm There will be NO CLASSES for you in the MORNING. We will be leaving CSI White Plains at 11am and have lunch in the venue. You may also bring or fetch your child in RCBC Theater. But, please consider that you may not be allowed to watch yet. Kindly contact your child's teacher for arrangements.

December 15 (Saturday)

Please bring your child to RCBC Theater by 8am. Parents are welcome to watch Technical-Dress Rehearsals (Open House) from 1:30-4:00pm. Please bring your tickets. This is also a good time to take as much photos and videos you could since this will not be allowed during show day. Sketches / directions to the venue are available upon request.

SHOW DAY

December 16 (Sunday)

The call time is 8am. Please be there ahead of time. Children must come wearing the beach costume under their tarsier costume. Let them wear crocs or easy to remove shoes with no socks. Please bring ANY food to share, good for 20 people.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

HO! HO! HO! Santa Claus will be joining the children during the Christmas Party on December 17 (Monday). Since it is right after the showcase, it will just be a simple celebration among classmates and friends. The itinerary will be as follows:

9:00-9:15 Arrivals
9:15-9:30 Circle Time Christmas
9:30-10:00 Games
10:00-10:45 Arts and Crafts
10:45-11:30 Snacks and gift giving

The school will be providing food for the kids. Of course, you may still bring some snacks that may be shared if you like.

Art works and homework* will be sent home on this day.

*We're not the Grinch! The homework will be optional. You may let your child do it in case he/ she experiences some down time during the long holiday break.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December 9 - Mea Santiago
January 22 - Alexa Valmeo
January 23 - Teacher Carol

UPCOMING LEARNING THEMES

January and February will focus on environmental awareness and conservation. The children will be learning about Animals and Plants.

UPDATES: GYM, MUSIC and MOVEMENT CORNER

During our Dalcroze Music Class, the children harnessed their musical talent through playing the maracas, tambourine, drums. They learned to play the rhythm of chants like "Mang Kiko" and "Engine Number Nine". Most of the kids, however, are yet to distinguish rhythm and beat. The kids were also introduced to observing sudden changes in the tone as in songs like "POP! Goes the Weasel".

Mang Ki, Mang Ki, Mang Ki-ko
Pu-pun-ta, pu-pun-ta sa Quia-po
Bi-bi-li, bi-bi-li ng pa-ko
Ga-ga-wa, ga-ga-wa ng bang-ko

We continued to work on flexibility and some yoga poses during Gym Class. The kids also enjoyed learning to control their movements better by rolling like a log. Those who were brave enough were taught to do a tumbling. Such activity was done with safety equipment and proper adult supervision, of course.

PET DAY

We will be having a Show and Tell of Pets on January 25, Friday. Bringing of actual pets is encouraged. However, for those that do not have one, photos or drawings of your child's dream pet may be brought. To ensure safety, please bring animals that are well socialized with children and other pets. A handler may also come with your child. Further notice will be sent, together with guide questions for your child.

What is Christmas?

"The meaning of Christmas to me is the love of family and Presents!" Rafael Ver, 5 yo

"Christmas is about gifts, food and a lot of family time-"Andrei , 5

"Christmas is toy mater" -Jose, 4

"Christmas is about Santa's gifts that he shares to all the children." Paulina, 5

"Christmas means being nice all year so Santa Claus will get my letter in the terrace and give me the toy I asked for... nawala ng yung letter ko." Alexa, 4

"Christmas is cars 2 and iron man.. im iron man" Markus, 4

"Christmas is decorations.. tree.. toy gifts..mommy at saka si daddy." - Roj, 4