

# PARENT CONNECTION

December 2017



Kids "R" Kids of West Houston  
"The First Step to Higher Education"  
Home of Oscar, our Ocelot

Teaching Your Child about Giving this Holiday Season, Operation-Give Love on Christmas Day

Featured Family, STEM Spotlight, December Birthday Celebrators

Special Events, Programs for Preschool Families, STEM

December Calendar of Activities

## Teaching Your Child about Giving this Holiday Season

As parents, it's natural for us to want to give our children the things we didn't have. And in today's world, it's often easy to confuse the wants of our children with their actual needs. Often we respond to every "I want" because we can and it makes us feel good, not necessarily because we should. Especially during the holidays, many of us tend to give generously to our children even those of us who typically practice moderation.

There are an infinite numbers of toys, games, and treats in today's world. And no matter how much our children have, they will always want more, and there will always be a friend who has more. How can we change this mindset and raise caring and giving children that know the importance of giving rather than getting? How do we avoid over spoiling our kids during the holidays? Here are some tips on how we can teach our children to moderate their wants, be thankful for what they have, and give to others.

### Teach what it means to share

One way you can help your children understand what it means to give is to teach them the importance of sharing. Often, when you think of the word "sharing," you picture dividing tangible things like splitting a piece of cake with someone or letting friends play with toys.

Even these small examples of sharing can help your children understand, in simple and concrete terms, what it means to be generous.

### Model generosity

- Think about your attitudes toward charity and what messages you send to your children:

- Do they reflect the same kindness and sensitivity to others that you would like your children to exhibit?
- Do your children see you helping neighbors, giving to charity, or donating items to needy people?

Often your children are unaware when you write checks for charity or they do not see you when you run an errand for an infirm neighbor or cook a double batch of dinner for a struggling family. Let them know when you perform acts of kindness.

### Talk about your feelings when you give

Tell your children how you feel when you make charitable contributions or buy things for those in need.

- Do you feel proud, helpful, kind, or generous?
- Does it make you feel good that you can make a difference in other people's lives?
- Take time at dinner or even while driving in the car to discuss what you do to help others and how it makes you feel.



Learning to be givers shapes children's values and provides opportunities to develop kindness.

### Do it together

Ask your children to help you when you pack up donations of clothes or household items or when you help a friend. Spend an afternoon at a food bank or at a community clean-up project.

Let them experience first-hand what it feels like to give their time to a cause. Often these activities become the highlight of your family's time together. Get input from your children and include them in decisions about how your family is going to give to others or be charitable.

### Praise the giving impulse

When you see your children being generous, point it out and praise them. Help them put into words the positive feelings they may have as they help others.

If, for example, your son helps his sister find something she lost, tell him that was a kind thing to do and that he can feel proud for taking the time to help her.

## Operation Give Love on Christmas

Our school's Parent Advisory Board has chosen a very special charity to work with this Christmas season. We are encouraging each family to shop for a new toy with their child to bring in for our Toys for Tots collection.

This will be a meaningful experience for our children to learn about giving and helping someone else.

Please make this charity event be a part of your Christmas season this year with your child, to show them that Christmas is for others, not just for ourselves.

To participate, please bring in an unwrapped new toy by Monday, December 11th.

Let's all help spread love and the joy of this Holiday Season!

## Meet our Featured Family, the Hanifs

We are delighted to have the Hanif family as a part of our Kids R Kids West Houston family!

Rumaysa, the Hanif's daughter, began with us in the fall of last year and is flourishing in our Preschool program. She enjoys the learning environment in classroom 400 and she is getting ready for her approaching transition to Pre-Kindergarten. Her parents are very supportive of her learning with us and enjoy being involved with Rumaysa's classroom activities. Rumaysa is receiving the benefits of this partnership as she is mastering her learning goals in preparation for Pre-K.



Here is what Rumaysa's family has to say about their preschool experience with us in their own words: "After Rumaysa started Kids R Kids she started to learn new words and develop her vocabulary straight away. She even started singing in Spanish! We love how she has developed her skills through sensory exploration and her imagination through simple make-believe play.

We enjoy reading with Rumaysa and love how she now understands book concepts and the sequence of a story. She loves natural exploration and really enjoys outdoor adventures. One of our special memories was when Rumaysa received a certificate for becoming toilet trained. We thought this would be a challenging time as a family but Ms Deysy made this so easy! She devised a plan for Rumaysa and gave us wonderful advice (including phrases we still use until this day) which had Rumaysa toilet trained in no time! We were completely amazed and grateful for all of the teacher's help!"

Thank you to Mr. Hanif and Mrs. Hussain for sharing their daughter with us!

You can read more about this special family in our lobby.

## Special Events in December

### Family Home Project

Due Monday, December 4

Make an ornament with your family to hang on our Christmas tree in the lobby. You can use any household items or any materials that inspire your family.

### Fall Progress Reports

Friday, December 1

Fall Progress Reports will be sent home on Friday, December 1, for classrooms 300 through 600. Please review the information and set up a conference if you would like to find out more about your child's education with us.

Dance Recital, Saturday, December 2

### Schoolwide Book Exchange

Friday, December 15

Bring a new, wrapped book for your child to exchange with a friend in class.

### Special Christmas Program

Friday, December 15, 7p.m.

Classrooms 500, 550, 600, & AP will perform for their families. Please join us for this special night!

### Christmas Caroling Field Trip

for School Age Friday, Dec 22.

### School Closing Schedule

December 25, Christmas Day  
December 29, Staff Development Day  
January 1, 2018, New Year's Day

Happy Birthday!

Date	Names	Classroom
12/02	Laura G.	400
12/03	Johnny K.	250A
12/06	Corynne C.	Gym
12/09	Karina L.	550
12/09	Asher S.	250B
12/10	Bennett N.	500
12/12	Gabriel C.	Gym
12/15	Ava B.	300
12/15	George S.	350
12/15	Gabriel B.	400
12/15	Noah T.	250B
12/16	Zachary A.	Gym
12/19	Charles H.	500
12/19	Emmanuel M.	Gym
12/20	Kian K.	500
12/20	Meira H.	150
12/23	Tara O.	400
12/23	Tia A.	500
12/27	Ms. Valerie	Mgmt.
12/27	Ms. Yeni P.	100
12/28	Mustafa H.	AP
12/28	Zoey B.	Gym
12/28	Jacob V.	550
12/29	Lucas C.	300
12/31	Jaxson C.	500
12/31	Carter N.	400

## S.T.E.M. Spotlight

*Tornado in a Jar*, December 4-8

*Magic Balloons*, December 11-15

*Rainbow in a Jar*, December 18-22

*Cloud in a Jar*, December 26-28



Soccer Shots will start its new season starting January 10, 2017. To register your child, please use the link in your Friday school news email or the direct website at [www.soccershots.org/houston](http://www.soccershots.org/houston).

# December 2017 Calendar of Activities



"EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE" KIDS R KIDS WEST HOUSTON "THE FIRST STEP TO HIGHER EDUCATION"

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>4</b> Technology: 150, 250A, & 450 HATCH: 550 Spanish: 200 & 250A <i>Soccer Shots Day and Ceremony for Families</i>	<b>5</b> Technology: 250B, 300, 200 Spanish : 350 HATCH Tech: 600, AP S.T.E.M Time: 450, 550, 600 <i>Dance Adventures Day</i>	<b>6</b> Technology: 350, 500, 600 Spanish: 300, 450 & 600 HATCH Tech: 450 <i>Soccer Shots Day and Ceremony for Families</i>	<b>7</b> S.T.E.M Time: 400, 500, AP Spanish: 500 & 550 Technology: 550 & 400 HATCH: 500	<b>8</b> Spanish: 250B, 400 & AP Show & Tell: 400-600 HATCH Tech: 350 & 400 Technology: 400, 550
<p><i>Classroom Themes: All Wrapped Up (100-250); Pretty Packages (300-350); Family Traditions (400-450); Celebrate Books (500-600); Tea with the Queen (AP)</i>  <i>Literary Features: Merry Christmas Big Hungry Bear by Don &amp; Audrey Wood, Max's Christmas by Rosemary Wells, Lola at the Library with Ann McQuinn, &amp; Tea with the Queen with Chrissi Hart</i></p>				
<b>11</b> Technology: 150, 250A, & 450 HATCH: 550 Spanish: 200 & 250A <i>Bring your wrapped book this week for exchange on Friday, Dec. 15.</i>	<b>12</b> Technology: 250B, 300, 200 Spanish : : 350 HATCH Tech: 600, AP S.T.E.M Time: 450, 550, 600 <i>Dance Adventures Day</i>	<b>13</b> Technology: 350, 500, 600 Spanish: 300, 450 & 600 HATCH Tech: 450	<b>14</b> S.T.E.M Time: 400, 500, AP Spanish: 500 & 550 Technology: 550 & 400 HATCH: 500	<b>15</b> Spanish: 250B, 400 & AP Show & Tell: 400-600 HATCH Tech: 350 & 400 Technology: 400, 550 Schoolwide Book Exchange <i>Special Christmas Program 500, 550, 600, &amp; AP</i>
<p><i>Classroom Themes: Deck the Halls (100-250); Sensory Celebration (300-350); Many Celebrations (400-450); Jazz Baby (500-600); We're Having a Party (AP)</i>  <i>Literary Features: Max's Christmas by Rosemary Wells, Llama Llama Jingle Bells by Anna Dewdney, One Winter's Day by M. Christina Butler, Jazz Baby by Lisa Wheeler, &amp; P. Bear's New Year's Party by Paul Owen Lewis</i></p>				
<b>18</b> Technology: 150, 250A, & 450 HATCH: 550 Spanish: 200 & 250A	<b>19</b> Technology: 250B, 300, 200 Spanish : : 350 HATCH Tech: 600, AP S.T.E.M Time: 450, 550, 600 <i>Dance Adventures Day</i>	<b>20</b> Technology: 350, 500, 600 Spanish: 300, 450 & 600 HATCH Tech: 450,	<b>21</b> S.T.E.M Time: 400, 500, AP Spanish: 500 & 550 Technology: 550 & 400 HATCH: 500	<b>22</b> Show & Tell: 400-600 Special Snack: 500, 550, & 600 School Age Field Trip to Christmas Carol 9:30 am
<p><i>Classroom Themes: Sweet Treats (100-250); Making Music (300-350); Celebrate People (400-450); When Winter Comes(500-600); Rabbit's Pajama Party (AP)</i>  <i>Literary Features: Llama, Llama, Yum, Yum by Ana Dewdney ; I Love Music by Marion Billet; The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats; Rabbit's Pajama Party by Frank Remkiewicz</i></p>				
<b>25</b> <i>School Closed for Christmas Day</i>	<b>26</b> Technology: 250B, 300, 200 Spanish : : 350 HATCH Tech: 600, AP S.T.E.M Time: 450, 550, 600	<b>27</b> Technology: 350, 500, 600 Spanish: 300, 450 & 600 HATCH Tech: 450,	<b>28</b> S.T.E.M Time: 400, 500, AP Spanish: 500 & 550 Technology: 550 & 400 HATCH: 500	<b>29</b> <i>School Closed for Staff Professional Development Day</i>
<p><i>Classroom Themes: Winter Wonderland (100-250); Snowflakes (300-350); Winter Wonderland (400-450); Snow Friends (500-600)</i>  <i>Literary Features: The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats; Snow Friends by Christina Butler; Ten Shiny Snowflakes by Rusell Julian</i></p>				

