



# DEER CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

9201 W Columbine Dr, Littleton, CO 80128

Phone 303-982-3820 | Fax 303-982-3821 | Attendance: 303-982-3809

# the mountaineer

## Helpful Links

[Deer Creek Website](#)

[Jeffco Public Schools](#)



[Deer Creek PTO](#)



[Deer Creek Facebook](#)

*Advertising in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the school or district.*

## A Word From the Principal

### Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year

It's hard to believe that we're already talking about the next school year! **All K -12 families will use EnrollJeffco, beginning Tuesday December 2, to indicate where their students will be attending school for the next school year.** You will use EnrollJeffco whether your student is re-enrolling at the same school, changing schools, or just starting in Jeffco.

**The K-12 enrollment window for Round One is open December 2 - January 9 for the 2026-27 school year.** It does not matter when you submit your application during the Round One enrollment window. All applications submitted during the window are treated the same. There is no priority given for applications submitted earlier in the window rather than later. This flexibility allows families to take their time in researching and choosing the school that best fits their student's needs.

**For current 6th and 7th graders,** you will be directed to either confirm your ongoing enrollment at Deer Creek or submit an application to enroll at a different school.

**For current 8th graders,** you will either confirm you will be attending your neighborhood high school or submit an application to enroll at a different high school.

You can visit the [EnrollJeffco website](#) for more information.

### Spread the word!

Deer Creek offers more elective options for students than any other neighborhood middle school in Jeffco. Many of our elective options are award winning and recognized for their excellence. I know that many families choose Deer Creek specifically because of the great electives we offer, so we would greatly appreciate it if you could spread the word.

continued...

**CLICK IT**  
Click on the  
Ads in this  
Newsletter  
...to learn more about  
these great companies!

## A Word From the Principal, continued...

Our **Information Night Open House Showcase** is coming up on **Thursday December 11th from 6:00 - 7:30 pm**. We would love to see as many prospective families that night as possible, so anything you can do to share our school with others - social media posts, share our flier, or talk to friends and neighbors - will help us continue to offer great choices for our students.

[Deer Creek Middle School Information Night Flyer](#)

### POP Fundraiser Update: Thank You for Being Awesome!

Our community's support continues to be nothing short of *amazing*, and we want to extend a massive **THANK YOU** for your incredible participation in our **POP Fundraiser!** These hard-earned dollars are already being put to work to elevate the student experience across our campus.

Last year, these vital funds allowed us to achieve a major goal: completely **transforming our school library**. We updated bookshelves, added new tables and comfortable seating, and infused the space with warm, welcoming decor, all while expanding our already robust book collection. It is now a favorite retreat for our readers!

This year, the bulk of the funds raised are going **directly towards our students' learning in their classrooms!** Thanks to the generosity of our community, the PTO has allocated funds that will go directly to our dedicated staff for instructional and classroom needs. These funds will allow teachers to supplement essential classroom technology, secure enriching instructional resources, and provide unique student enrichment opportunities throughout the school year. In a time of budget uncertainty, our goal is clear: to strategically support the staff who directly impact students, thereby deepening the instructional and cultural environment for every student.

Best wishes for a wonderful December,

Brandon Hall - Principal



**ENROLL JEFFCO**

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**2026-27 School Year Enrollment**  
*Opens Tuesday, December 2!*

**Thanksgiving Break Special**  
November 24, 25, 26

Bring the kids to lunch during Thanksgiving break! Kids 10 & under eat free (with purchase of a regular priced 4-course meal. One kiddo per adult). \$25 savings!




RESERVATIONS  
(303)794-5666

Melting Pot  
Littleton



**Black Friday Deal**

This holiday, spread some cheer and give the gift of fondue. For every \$150 in gift cards purchased, you'll receive a certificate for a "3-Course Lunch for Two" (\$60 value).

## Mountaineers of the Month - November 2025

Each of these students has demonstrated PEAK (Prepared, Engaged, Accountable, and Kind and Respectful) behavior and in doing so, is being recognized as our top Mountaineers for November

### 6th Grade

#### Maisy Crawford

Maisy is always engaged in class activities. She routinely answers questions and is polite and respectful to her teachers and peers.

### Maddie Finger

Maddy displayed PEAK expectations consistently throughout the trimester. She also put her best efforts into each assignment and took time to make things better if they weren't up to her standard. Finally, she contributed to an inclusive environment when working in groups and never left anyone out.

### 7th Grade

#### Sallie Castillo

Sallie is amazing! She is hard working, dedicated, reliable and kind. She is always willing to lend a helping hand and you can depend on her to get things done. She has truly grown as a leader in FCCLA and is a great role model for her peers.

### Hannah Ryan

Hannah has done such a great job of exemplifying what it means to be a mountaineer in her short time with us. She is always on top of her work, on task, and engaged. She is kind and respectful to her peers, and is willing to work with everyone around her. She aims to improve herself everyday, and it shows in her work and her efforts.

### 8th Grade

#### Kayden Runyan

Kayden is curious, kind, and an advocate for herself and others. She is always willing to lend a hand to other students and to share her knowledge with the class. She is always prepared and takes on opportunities to extend her learning whenever they are presented. She is a stand out student and person.

### Grayson Weinstein

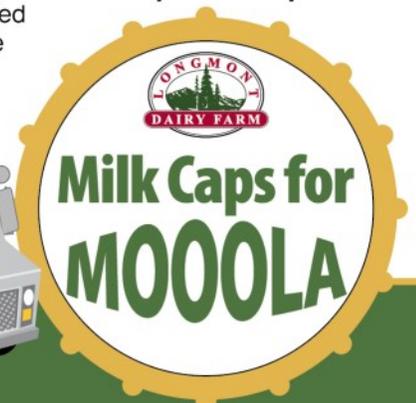
Grayson is an incredibly kind student, and a truly deserving recipient of the Student of the Month award. His positive attitude is infectious, brightening the classroom with his warm disposition and genuine enthusiasm. He is always willing to help others.



L-R Molly Law, Assistant Principal, Grayson Weinstein, Hannah Ryan, Sallie Castillo, Maddie Finger, Kayden Runyan, Maisy Crawford, Brandon Hall, Principal

### Earn cash for your school! Save Longmont Dairy Milk Caps.

Longmont Dairy Farm will donate 5¢ per LDF produced product bottle cap. Schools are free to spend these funds as they wish to benefit students.



To sign up, use this QR code or go to [LongmontDairy.com/mooola.html](http://LongmontDairy.com/mooola.html)

## 8th Grade Families - Future Charger Day

On the morning of **January 14th**, all eighth graders will travel to Chatfield Senior High School to go on a tour of the building and attend an assembly highlighting student classes, clubs, teams, and activities.

Chatfield teachers and staff are looking forward to connecting with future students during the enrollment window, and building excitement about Chatfield. We recommend this field trip for all 8th graders, even those who are planning on attending a different high school, as much of the information presented will be helpful for all future freshmen. If you are looking at other area High Schools, we recommend going to their websites to get information about opportunities such as shadow days and information nights.

Buses will transport students to and from Chatfield; students will return to DCMS in time for regularly scheduled lunch. **Permission slips were already completed and turned in with our October field trip to Warren Tech.**

## Mental Health Corner

Now that winter is finally here, we can look forward to winter break! While winter break offers a much-needed pause from the academic routine and is wonderful for recharging, it can also present some challenges. For many students, the sudden shift from a structured school day to a less structured environment can disrupt sleep schedules, eating habits, and social connections, sometimes leading to increased feelings of boredom, isolation, or anxiety. The academic "slide," where students lose some of the learning gains made before the break, is also a concern. Furthermore, for some students, the holidays can be a source of stress or heightened family conflict rather than just joy. Recognizing these potential effects is the first step in making the most of the time off.

To ensure students return in January feeling refreshed and ready to learn, try focusing on a few key areas:

- **Stay Active:** Physical activity is a powerful mood booster. Move your body daily, even for just 30 minutes! This could be playing in the snow, taking a walk with a family member, or finding a fun indoor workout video.
- **Practice Gratitude:** The holidays are a perfect time to reflect on the good things in your life. Try starting a gratitude journal or simply naming three things you're thankful for each day at dinner. Focusing on what you have, rather than what you don't, boosts overall happiness.
- **Demote Screen Time:** While devices are great for connecting, too much time online can interfere with sleep and face-to-face interactions. Set clear boundaries with your family—perhaps a "digital detox" hour each day, or charging all devices outside the bedroom. Encourage board games, reading, or creative projects instead.
- **Maintain Routine (Loosely):** While you don't need to wake up for homeroom, try to keep a consistent sleep schedule, waking up and going to bed within an hour of your school-day routine. This makes the return to school much easier.
- **Engage in Service:** Find a simple way to help someone else, like making cookies for a neighbor, helping with chores, or donating old toys. Doing something kind for others is a fantastic way to feel connected and purposeful.

Happy Winter!

Denise Bettcher - Social Worker



**CASTLEROCK**  
and Kids  
AUTOPLEX



Benefiting  
Children's Hospital Colorado

When you buy a vehicle from Castle Rock we make a donation to the Children's Fund, which helps the hospital address the greatest needs of patients and their families.

**3 Convenient Locations:**  
 Castle Rock Ford  
 Castle Rock Chevy Buick GMC  
 Castle Rock Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram










Learn more at [CastleRockAutoplex.com](http://CastleRockAutoplex.com) or call/text 720-538-9881

# Winter Clothing Drive

Deer Creek Student Council will be [hosting a clothing drive](#) from December 2nd – December 19th. We're partnering with Jeffco Action Center to provide warm winter clothing for their monthly Clothing Market, which offers free, new/gently used clothing for any community member once a month. Jeffco Action Center shared the items below are high need items this season.

Grade levels will be competing against each other to bring in the most items. Each grade level is assigned an article of winter clothing. Each item/pair is worth 1 point. Gently used coats are worth 10 points. The grade level with the most points on December 18th will win the opportunity to watch Elf in the library on December 19th. **Grade level articles should be new; Coats may be new or gently used.** The grade level articles of clothing are as follows:

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Socks
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade: Hats
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade: Gloves

So, bring in any donated items before December 19<sup>th</sup>. Students can drop off individual items/bags to the library or to their Base Camp.

*Santa at Pink Attic Eat*  
Sunday, December 7th | 14th | 21st  
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

*Cocoa with Mrs. Claus*  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 AND 14  
10:00 - 11:00 AM

- A DOG-FRIENDLY MARKET -  
**Howliday MARKET**  
20+ VENDORS

A TWO DAY EVENT!  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 • 5 PM - 8 PM  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 • 12 PM - 4 PM

*Santa Paws Photos*  
BOTH DAYS

Market in the Park-et presents...  
**SWEATER FEST**  
A Holiday Market & Party for Sweater-wearers  
featuring 40+ fine local businesses!  
Vintage • Records • Jewelry • Home Decor • Gifts • Drinks • Food • Ski • Poles

NEIGHBORHOOD  
PREMIUM TREES • EST. 2009 • FINEST GROWERY  
**CHRISTMAS TREE Company**  
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
12:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
SATURDAY - SUNDAY  
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM  
**BARBOX**  
WASPEN GROVE

**ASPEN GROVE**  
7301 S Santa Fe Drive  
Littleton, CO 80120  
AspenGroveCenter.com

## Deer Creek Middle School PTO News - December 25

The month of November included our 7th grade social and Freddy's spirit night, as well as an apple cider bar for our teachers and staff. Many thanks to all those who made donations, volunteered, or visited Freddy's!

Please email us at [deercreekpto1@gmail.com](mailto:deercreekpto1@gmail.com) anytime with questions or ideas – or visit us at our [website](#)



### Dates to Remember!

- December 11: DCMS Information Night (for prospective families)
- December 18: Holiday Luncheon & Gifts for Staff
- January 12: PTO Meeting
- January 21: Noodles & Company Spirit Night (4-8pm)

### Deer Creek Staff Holiday Giving

Every staff member at Deer Creek is integral to our students' success and enjoyment. Please join the PTO in treating each staff member to a holiday gift as a token of our appreciation! Every staff member will receive a goodie bag with gift cards and holiday candies on December 18th. Please consider signing up to donate \$15 gift cards or chocolates, or make a monetary donation that will be used to purchase gift cards.



*To donate gift cards or candies, please sign up [HERE](#).*

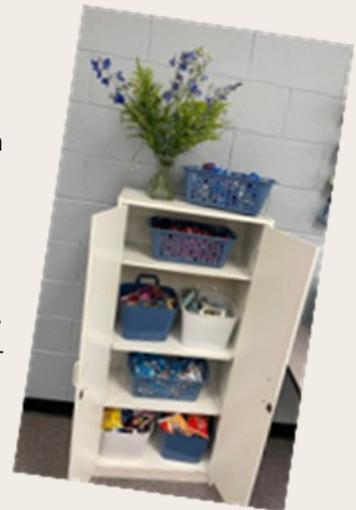
Please turn in all donations to the Main Office **by Friday, December 12th**, to ensure there is plenty of time to prepare the goodie bags. Thank you!

### Stock the Snack Shack!

7th grade families are supporting the Snack Shack for Trimester 2! Please consider making a donation here to help us fuel the wonderful DCMS staff: [7th Grade Snack Shack Signup](#)

### 7th Grade Social

The 7th grade social was SPOOKTACULAR! Thank you to everyone who donated snacks and drinks, assisted with set-up and clean-up, and helped chaperone the event. We couldn't have done it without you!



# Deer Creek Middle School PTO News, continued...

## Winter Spirit Nights!

Looking for an easy weeknight dinner solution? Stop by our participating partners during our scheduled spirit nights to grab a tasty meal while also supporting DCMS!! **Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter for promo codes and additional details.**

**Wednesday, January 21: 4-8pm**

**Noodles & Company**  
9956 Remington Place, Space A-5, Littleton 80128



## Milk Caps for Moola

Milk Caps for Moola is a program sponsored by Longmont Dairy that helps students earn money for their schools. Longmont Dairy milk caps are worth 5¢ each and are redeemable for cash!



### How does the program work?

1. Drink Longmont Dairy products
2. (Eligible cap products include: Milk, Chocolate Milk, Strawberry Milk, Half & Half, Whipping Cream, Orange Juice, Lemonade, Raspberry Lemonade, and Classic and Cinnamon Eggnog.)
3. Save the bottle caps. Save as many as you can—from your bottles, or collect them from your family and neighbors.
4. Bring your milk caps to school and put them into the collection box in the school office.

**100% DELICIOUS.**  
**25% BACK TO YOUR CAUSE.**

Enter coupon code **GIVING25** at checkout\*



**Giving back never tasted so good.**

Get in on the FUNdraising by ordering online or dining with us on the evening of your group's event.

- ★ Log in to your Noodles Rewards account. Not a member? Join Noodles Rewards today at [noodles.com/rewards](https://noodles.com/rewards).
- ★ Place your order and **enter coupon code Giving25 at checkout.\***
- ★ If ordering in-restaurant simply mention your organization when ordering.

**ENTER COUPON CODE: GIVING25**

\* In-restaurant or online ordering only through the Noodles Rewards app, or [noodles.com/Order](https://noodles.com/Order). Valid for pick up, delivery and in-restaurant. Not valid for walk-in orders. Please enter offer code at checkout online or mention the organization when ordering in-person. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts.

**C470 & Kipling**  
9956 Remington Pl Space A-5, Littleton, CO 80128

January 21, 2026  
4-8 pm

**25%**

of qualifying sales will directly benefit:

**Deer Creek Middle School PTO**

**noodles & COMPANY**

continued...

## Deer Creek Middle School PTO News, continued...

### American Furniture Warehouse

**American Furniture Warehouse**—up to 4% of your purchase anytime supports Der Creek Middle School. During check-out, mention our school or **ID: DCMS60**

## Middle School Athletics (through Foothills Parks and Recreation)

Winter/Spring 2026 (Registration begins: Dec. 4, 2024 at noon)

6th/7th Grade Girls Basketball	Grades 6,7	\$155	Jan 7-March 11	Mon/Wed	4:05-5:35 pm
8th Grade Girls Basketball	Grade 8	\$155	Jan 7-March 11	Mon/Wed	4:05-5:35 pm
6th/7th Grade Boys Basketball	Grades 6/7	\$155	Jan 8 - March 12	Tues/Thurs	4:05-5:35 pm
8th Grade Boys Basketball	Grade 8	\$155	Jan 8 - March 12	Tues/Thurs	4:05-5:35 pm
Coed Track & Field	Grades 6, 7 and 8	\$140	March 26-May 19	Tues/Thurs	4:05-5:35 pm
Coed Soccer	Grades 6,7 and 8	\$145	March 25-May 18	Mon/Wed	4:05-5:35 pm

[Click here to register for Winter/Spring Sports starting 12:00 pm December 4, 2025](#)

## Library/Technology Update

### Book Fair

Our online book fair is underway! Access to books at home makes a big difference for kids by improving reading skills, fostering a love of learning, and boosting confidence and overall well-being. By supporting our book fundraiser, you'll discover great books your kids will love **and** support our school at the same time!

How it works:

**Shop Online:** [Browse a wide selection of affordable titles](#), from new releases to popular fiction and nonfiction. Don't miss the Mega Sale section!

**Give Back:** For every dollar spent, our school gets 20% back in credits to purchase books and resources from Follett Titlewave® for our school and classroom libraries.

**Wish Lists:** Students can create personalized Wish Lists to share with family, friends, and everyone you know. They should check their Base Camp Google Classroom for directions! Books will arrive in time for the holidays. [Click here to see staff wish lists!](#)

**Free Shipping:** All orders ship to our school for free after the online book fair ends. We'll send them home with your child or you can pick them up at your convenience.

**To purchase books or see what titles are available**, visit [book-efairs.follettcontent.com](http://book-efairs.follettcontent.com) and enter our Book eFair Code: 7Y2LP.

All sales benefit our school, so please help us spread the word!

[Deer Creek Middle School.pdf](#)

## Yearbook

The deadline to reserve a yearbook for \$35 is **December 31**. Students who do not reserve a book by this date are not guaranteed one in May. Pay by cash, check, or credit card in the main office or go to <https://jeffcoconnect.jeffco.k12.co.us/> to pay online.

A waiting list for surplus books will be started after Spring Break and the price increases to \$45 cash.

**Share photos** that you have taken of school activities by uploading photos of your student to [Yearbookshare.com](http://Yearbookshare.com) and enter the school code **Deercreek**. We are always looking for students participating in music, sports, socials, and clubs.

**Buy a dedication ad for your 8th grader.** The FINAL deadline is **February 6**.

To access the DCMS ad templates, use the following access information:

Go to <https://www.yearbookordercenter.com>

Enter the School Code: **6131**

Choose: **Buy a Yearbook Ad**

You will pay for your ad with a **debit/credit card** on the website which will complete your order

Buy early for the best price: \$15 until December 31, \$20 January 1 - January 31, and \$25 February 1 - 6.

## Outdoor Lab Reminder

6th Grade Students at Deer Creek Middle School will attend Outdoor Lab at either Windy Peak or Mt. Blue Sky **April 7 - 10 2026**

There will be an evening parent information meeting in January after Winter Break. Watch for updates coming soon.

There is still a bit of time to sign up to fundraise for Outdoor Lab fee through the [Outdoor Lab Card Program](#) (both King Soopers and Safeway are options for this program)

## Deer Creek Musicians

**Congratulations** to our fantastic musicians who were accepted in the Jeffco Honor and Select Band/Orchestra this year. These students worked very hard on their audition material all on their own and earned a spot in these ensembles!

Kayden Runyan	Wyatt Schwentner
Sydney Knott	Caleb Swankowski
Lauren Hace	Hezekiah Brinck
Quinn Perkins	Dylan Gagnier
RJ Kerfoot	Adelyn Krimmer
Kallie Webb	Gracynn Teel
Sallie Castillo	Callen Zarn
D'aime Windwaai	Dalton Myers
Alex Heivilin	Allison Doan
David Dunn	Isaiah Brown
Cory Falk	Elizabeth Devin
Morgan Alesch	

Also a huge congrats to our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students on their nomination to the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Select Band and Orchestra!

Olivia Robbins	Owen Schwentner
Mackenzie	Zeke Scarola
Damstedt	Levi Beard
Henry Spiessbach	Ashlyn Morehouse
Ethan Winkler	Lucas Bergsma

Not that we're competitive....but we continued our streak of having more students selected than any other middle school. So proud of these kids!

Jim Sudano, Instrumental Music  
Deer Creek Middle School  
<http://www.deercreekmusic.com>

**Sponsorship space in this  
newsletter  
is extremely affordable!**

**Reach parents in your local community  
and a significant portion of your  
investment goes back to the school!  
Want to sponsor this school? Please  
contact Rob Mangelson at  
[Rob@tscacolorado.com](mailto:Rob@tscacolorado.com)  
or (720) 878-4107.**



***Sponsor This School!***

**YOUR NAME HERE**

Click **HERE**  
Contact Us  
Today!

**Rob Mangelson**  
**(720) 878-4107**  
**[Rob@tscacolorado.com](mailto:Rob@tscacolorado.com)**

**The School Communications Agency**  
*Supporting Schools & Local Businesses*

 The School  
Communications  
Agency

# Upcoming Events

## December

<b>1</b>	PTO Meeting 6:00 pm Library
<b>2</b>	Round 1 Enrollment Opens for 26-27 School Year
<b>3</b>	Math MAP Testing 8:50 - 10:45 am
<b>4</b>	Reading MAP Testing 8:50 - 10:45 am
<b>4</b>	Middle School Sports Winter/Spring Registration opens
<b>10</b>	SSN Adapted Sports Day - Volleyball
<b>11</b>	Information Night - Prospective Students/Families 6:00 - 7:30 pm
<b>15</b>	Peak Parties - During Base Camp
<b>18</b>	PTO Sponsored Holiday Lunch for Deer Creek Staff
<b>19</b>	Pickleball Tournament Finals - Assembly Schedule
<b>Dec 22– Jan 2</b>	<b>Winter Break - School Closed</b>

## December 2025

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## January

<b>5</b>	<b>No School for Students - Teacher Planning Days</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>No School for Students - Teacher Planning Days</b>
<b>7</b>	Classes resume
<b>9</b>	Round 1 Enrollment Closes
<b>12</b>	PTO Meeting 6:00 pm
<b>14</b>	Future Charger Day (8th Grade) at Chatfield 9:45 - 11:45 am
<b>15</b>	Round 2 Enrollment Opens
<b>19</b>	<b>MLK Day - School Closed</b>
<b>21</b>	PTO Spirit Night - Noodles (Ken Caryl) 4 - 8 pm
<b>28</b>	Winter Conference Sign Up Opens

## January 2026

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



# WINTER



# CLOTHING DRIVE



We are partnering with Jeffco Action Center to collect cold weather clothing. New and gently used items can be for men, women, or children. (We ask that socks be new).

Each grade level will bring in different items.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: NEW Socks

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Winter Hats

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Gloves & Mittens

Any Grade: Winter Coats

Each item brought in will be worth 1 point. Coats are worth 10 points. The winning grade level will earn a movie in the library on Dec. 19.

Items can be dropped off in Base Camp or the library.  
All donations due by 12/18



# Parent's Night Out

Hosted by Chatfield Cheer



Ages:  
Potty Trained  
to 12yrs

*Need a night for a dinner date,  
wrapping, or Holiday shopping?  
We can help!*

**Date: Thursday, 12/18/25**

**Time: 5:30pm-8:00pm**

**Location: Chatfield HS**

- \*\$35 per child pre-registration
- \*\$40 day of registration
- \*\$20 for each add'l sibling
- \*Registration & Payment due by 12/15/25
- \*Payments made thru Zelle, Check, or Cash (day of price applies)

- \* 2.5 hours of babysitting
- \* Dinner & Snack
- \* Craft
- \* Movie
- \* Games
- \*\*\* SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY SANTA!!!