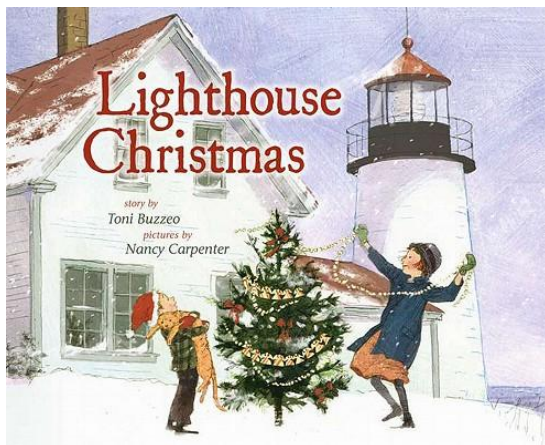
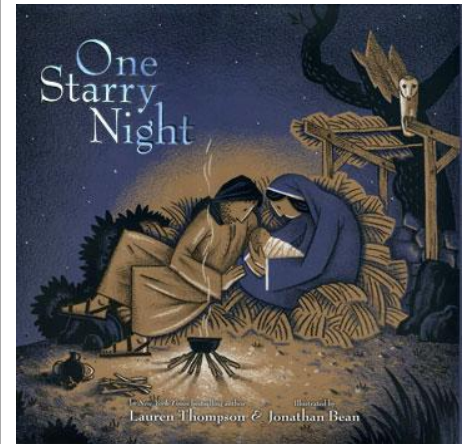


December 2011

Books of the Month

One Starry Night by Lauren Thompson – A lovely version of the Christmas Story from the point of view of the wild animals that live in the Holy Land. Animal families are shown and, at the end, there is a sweet picture of the Holy Family. Ages 2-6.

Lighthouse Christmas by Toni Buzzeo – Frances hopes to make Christmas festive and happy for her little brother – away from the isolated island that is now their home. However, in the end she learns that the most important thing about this holiday is being together with those you love. Ages 5-8.



Other Books About Families...

Ten Days and Nine Nights: An Adoption Story by Yumi Heo – Told from the point of view of a soon-to-be older sibling, this is a lovely story of a family adopting a baby from Korea. Ages 4-7.

Big Red Lollipop by Rukhsana Khan – Sometimes it's just no fun to be the big sister – especially when you have to take your little sister with you to a friend's birthday party! Ages 5-8.

I am Me by Karla Kuskin – After being told how much she resembles different members of her family, a little girl insists that she is just like herself and no one else. Ages 4-7.

Before You Came by Patricia MacLachlan & Emily MacLachlan Charest – Sweet story of new parenthood. Ages 3-5.

My dog is as Smelly as Dirty Socks and other funny family portraits by Hanokh Piven – A collection of fun family portraits drawn by a little girl with unique objects added to represent each family member's personality. Ages 6-9.

Peter Spier's Christmas! By Peter Spier – In this wordless book, three young children prepare for and celebrate Christmas with their family. Ages 3-9.

"More More More," Said the Baby by Vera B. Williams – Stories of love between parents and their little ones! Ages 2-4.

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen – A father and son go "owling" one night and discover a remarkable sight. Ages 4-7.

Song and Rhyme of the Month

Grandma's Glasses

Here are Grandma's glasses,
And here is Grandma's hat,
This is the way she folds her hands
And lays them in her lap.
Here are Grandpa's glasses,
And here is Grandpa's hat,
This is the way he folds his arms
JUST LIKE THAT!

Come A' Look A' See

*(tune: The Baby Record by Bob McGrath and Katharine Smithrim
OR create your own tune/chant!)*
Come a'look a'see,
Here's my mama.
Come a'look a'see,
Here's my papa.
Come a'look a'see,
My brother tall,
Sister, baby, (kiss)
I love them all!

Literacy Connections

Talking and Writing

Family Tree –

What do you love about your family?

Cut out an evergreen tree shape. At your circle time, ask each child what they love most about their family or what family means to them. Write down each of their answers and put them on the tree. You could write them directly on the tree or write them on colorful pieces of paper that you attach to the tree. Be sure to include each child's name or a picture of the child next to what they said. A nice surprise for parents when they pick up their children!

Playing and Talking

Snowflakes – a healthy alternative to cookies!

Recipe idea came from

Snackivities! by MaryAnn F. Kohl

1 tortilla per child

Grated mozzarella cheese

Fold the tortilla in half and in half again.

Let children cut out shapes and designs from the folded edges of the tortilla like you would paper when making a snowflake.

Open the tortilla and place it flat on a baking sheet. Sprinkle with cheese. Place the baking sheet under the broiler or in the toaster oven just until cheese begins to bubble. Enjoy!

Ask children about the shapes and designs they're making and let them talk about their snowflakes as they work on them – great for building language.

If you have questions about this newsletter or if you would like to register for STARS trainings, Call 253-548-3424 or email susana@piercecounyalibrary.org for details.

