

EVERETT WEATHER

Wet and windy
High 49, Low 41
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WEDNESDAY'S Herald

Preschoolers, 'Santa's helpers,' learn to give

Children at Sunnyside Preschool are learning compassion and empathy for others, along with the lesson that giving is very rewarding, said Cindy Petosa Brengman. The school's owner and director, Brengman has been educating 3- to 5-year-olds at the Lake Stevens preschool for more than 16 years.

In lieu of gifts for teachers and staff during the holidays, preschool students donate gifts to children in need through the Lake Stevens Family Support Center. Recently, more than 80 gifts were donated. Ed Williamson from the family center said the toys collected by the preschoolers will help many families.

Earlier this fall, more than 50 Sunnyside families participated in the school's annual celebration "Harvest From the Heart." The children sang and danced and more than 250 pounds of food were collected for the Lake Stevens Community Food Bank. In addition, nearly 100 new books were donated and given to Providence Children's Center to support literacy, and about eight 39-gallon bags full of new and used clothing were donated for the KidsDream Closet at Compass Health in Everett. At the end of each school year, in lieu of gifts for teachers, donations are accepted for the KidsDream "Stuff the Bus for Foster Kids."



Lauren Shultz, 3, places her gift into Santa's bag at Sunnyside Preschool's annual toy drive. Doug Morgan has volunteered as Santa at the preschool for nine years.