

MAY
2010

THE
NURTURING
CENTER
NEWS

Dear Parents,

What an amazing year we have had at the preschool. The children have grown in so many ways since September. Friendships have been formed, memories made and lessons learned. Learning is a journey we are on for our whole lives. It does not begin and end with a school year.

“Add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness” (2 Peter 1:5–6).

Growing in faith, virtue and knowledge are life long goals. It begins at home when a child is first born. You, as their parents are their first teachers. Then they come to preschool where we nurture the seeds you have planted. Sometimes what we learn today may not seem valuable until months or even years into the future. We not only learn but we ponder that knowledge so that in the right place, at the right time, we can put it to the best use. Here are some great quotes on learning to keep us all hungry on our journey of life.

**Learning is a treasure which follows its owner everywhere. - Chinese Proverb*

**Education is not preparation for life – it is life itself. –John Dewey*

**Seeing much, suffering much, and studying much, are the three pillars of learning. -Disraeli*

**If we succeed in acquiring the love of learning, the learning itself is sure to follow. - John Lubbock*

**Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young. - Henry Ford*

We celebrate the year that God has given us and the many big and little blessings that have come our way. We celebrate the gift of every child that comes to us and each family that we get to know. Whether you have been with us for a year or many years, we thank God.

I'm sure, as parents, you look back through your child's year or years here with warm feelings, a few laughs and maybe a bit of sadness as you say goodbye. As a staff, we do the same. I want to thank you for sharing your children with us. I pray that we have had a positive influence on them and that they will take with them many wonderful memories, friendships and the love of God.

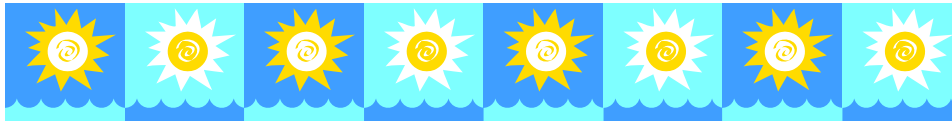
I hope you have a fun, safe and relaxing summer full of time with family and friends. Whether you are returning to us in the fall or you are going on to new beginnings, all of us at St. Mark's wish you God's love and blessings.





DATES TO REMEMBER

- MAY 3-7** Mother's Day Programs (class notes will be sent)
- MAY 11** Colonial Night 4:30-9 pm on the west side
- MAY 13** Market Day paper orders due 5/13
Internet orders due by 5/14
- May 18** MARKET DAY Pick Up 11-12:15



LAST DAYS OF PRESCHOOL



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| WED, MAY 26 | M/W 3'S am class |
| THURS, MAY 27 | T/TH 3'S am and T/W/TH 3's pm class |
| FRI, MAY 28 | T/TH/F 4'S am and pm and Pre K class |

PRESCHOOL LUNCHEON

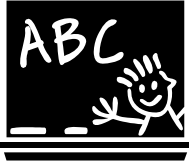
Every year, our wonderful preschool committee puts on a luncheon for the church and preschool staff in appreciation for all they do. In order to give our staff time to relax and enjoy this special occasion we are going to extend our lunchtime by 15 minutes. On **Tuesday, May 4th**, the T/TH am 3's and the Pre K class will dismiss at **11:15**. The 4's afternoon class will begin at **12:15**. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.



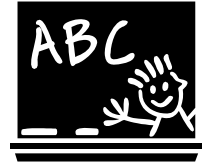
COLONIAL NIGHT

Our last Colonial Fundraiser night will be May 11 from 4:30-9 pm at the west side Colonial Restaurant. Please stop in for dinner or ice cream. With the busy schedules in May, it's a great reason not to cook! HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!





A PEEK IN YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM



M/W, T/TH and TWTH 3'S:

Thank you for the grand privilege of being a part of your child's preschool life. They have grown and matured in many ways.

This month we will make gifts to honor our parents on their special days. We have a special gift for the moms and a take home gift for dads. We will celebrate Noah and Bob Bear's birthday (they turn 3 years old!). We also have a play date for all three of the 3's classes on the same day. We will end the year on our final day with a short program and refreshments.

*Mother's Day Presentations:

MW am – Wed, 5/5 at 11 am

TTH am – Thurs, 5/6 at 11:15 am

TWTH pm – Thurs, 5/6 at 12:15

Other dates to mark on your calendar:

Tues, 5/18 – Trip to Wheeler Park. Meet at the park from 10:30 – 1:00. Bring a lunch.

Mon and Tues, 5/24 & 5/25 – Noah and Bob the Bear's birthday party. Please make a birthday card, draw Bob/Noah on the card and bring it to school.

Wed and Thurs 5/26 & 5/27 – Last day programs at the start of class and refreshments to follow (approximately 1 hour).

Ann Cannon, Patte Kingsley and Michelle Markovich

T/TH/F 4'S:

Our class has grown so much this year. Thank you for sharing your children with us. These last few weeks will be quite busy. We will have moms come Friday, 5/7 for our Mother's Day Presentation. Our Boat Trip will be on Thursday, 5/27 and the closing program will be on Friday, 5/28. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your help and support. I hope the memories your children have will remain with them forever! Have a wonderful and safe summer.

Sue Strub and Chris O'Reilly

PRE K:

Your children have grown so much this year and are really showing that they are ready for kindergarten!

We will be very busy during May – finishing up our Jolly Phonics program, celebrating Mothers, learning about artists and ourselves.

Here are some dates you will want to have on your calendars:

Friday May 7 – 11:10 Mother's Day Presentation

Program in the "green room"

Friday 5/21 – Field trip to Blackberry Farm – meet there at 9:20

Friday 5/28 – Closing program at 9 am in the "green room"

We have had an excellent and productive year with your children. Thank you for entrusting them to us.

Linda Cudworth and Lori Paeth



NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to the St Gean family on the birth of Joel Daniel, who was born on April 10. He weighs 7 lbs 5 oz and measures 20 inches long. Big sister Abigail in the MW am 3's class is very proud to share this news with us.

MANY THANKS

As our year draws to a close, we have many people to thank. Thanks to James Golnick for being our all around handy man and Jan Ryan, our school custodian for keeping our school clean all through the year. Thank you to Jim Neidlinger for maintaining and updating our information on the web.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents here at St. Mark's. You are simply wonderful! We truly feel blessed by your support of our program. Thank you for all you do. We could not have done it without you.



RETURNING IN THE FALL?

You will receive information in mid-August concerning the beginning of the next school year. The week of August 30 you will be scheduled for a short classroom visit and a chance to meet the teachers. First days of school and Orientation for the parents will be Wed., Sept. 8 and Thurs., Sept. 9. As a reminder, if this will be your child's second year at St. Marks, they do not need another physical. If this is your child's third year, they will need a new physical. If possible, please turn in your registration packets before the end of the school year.



MAY TUITION



Just a reminder about the last tuition payment for May – **Please pay the amount that is written in red at the bottom of your tuition envelope.** In May, you only pay half a month's tuition because of the partial payment that was included with your registration fees.

PARENT SURVEY

Parent surveys have been distributed. We appreciate your comments and suggestions and we do listen to what you have to say. We are always looking for ways to improve our program. Please return them by 5/14.

In addition, there is a website titled, www.greatschools.net. You may go on there and write a parent review of our preschool. Not only is this a great way to get the word out about our school, but helpful for prospective parents that are looking for a quality program.



FUN IN THE KITCHEN

Do you have a play kitchen set in pretty good condition that you are thinking of giving away? Please consider the preschool. We are looking to replace the set in our 4 year old classroom that has been loved a little too much. We will be happy to provide you with a tax donation letter.





Thank you so much to everyone who supported our April sale. We were able to raise \$130.00, which brings our total so far to almost \$1,326.00. That is terrific!! Many, many, many thanks to the patient volunteers (the Market Day truck was late) who came that morning to help: Jennifer Swenson, Beth Treichler, Joy Wilbur and Lisa Blethroade for her moral support. The winner of the Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough was the Laraia Family.

There are only 2 more Market Day pick ups left – so now is a great time to start thinking about stocking up. There are some great values for the grill and a page full of new items introduced this year. Pick out some delicious and quick meals to get you out of the kitchen fast this summer, like #7175-Orange Chicken with Vegetable Fried Rice or #7135-Cheese Lasagna Rollups or choose from MD's many savory soups that cook up in minutes.

Paper orders will be due by Friday, May 14th at 2:30 p.m. and internet orders entered at www.marketday.com will be due by Friday, May 14th at 11:00 pm. Our next pick up is Tuesday, May 18th, 2010. St. Mark's final Market Day for this school year will be Tuesday, June 15th.

Thank you so much for your support.
Lisa Ruud – 630-377-1219
Market Day - chairperson

MARKET DAY

I would like to thank Lisa Ruud for serving as our Market Day coordinator this year. She has done an outstanding job.

I would also like to introduce our 3 new coordinators for next year. Erin Piscitelli, Beth Treichler and Nancy Garrison have agreed to our 3 chairs for next year. We thank them very much for volunteering.

SUMMER SCHOOL 2010



"ALL GOD'S CRITTERS GOT A PLACE IN THE CHOIR"

June 1 through June 17

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-11:30

Taught by Linda Cudworth

Don't want preschool to end? Then join us for our summer session and have fun exploring critters that sometimes get a bad rap. "Critter of the Day" will include snakes, spiders, bats, turkey vultures and coyotes. Stories, facts, finger plays, songs and art will fill the day.

There will be plenty of time for outdoor play, weather permitting. A "Critter Carnival" will be the exciting conclusion to our summer school. Children, 3 through 6 may enroll in this class. If you haven't signed up yet, there is still space available. Don't forget to invite your neighbors, family and friends. They are also welcome to join us. We have extra sign up sheets in the office if you need them.

Jesus, Mommy, and Me Playgroup-- Summer 2010 Schedule

Our playgroup will meet Thursday, May 19th from 9:30-11am at Mount Saint Mary's Park in St. Charles. This will be the kick off to our summer park gatherings at various local parks. Mark your calendars for these additional summer park dates!



*June 16 - Potowatomie Park from 10-11:30a
(bring a picnic lunch!)

*July 14 - Wheeler Park from 9:30-11a

*August 18- Geneva Sprinkler Park from 9:30-11a
(wear a swimsuit!)

This is a tentative schedule and may change if there is bad weather, so please check email reminders for updates.

This is the perfect outing for moms with infant – preschool age children. All are welcome...hope to see you there! If you have any questions or would like to get on our playgroup reminder e-mail list, please call Julie Zimmermann at (630) 584-6625 or email at jjomzimm@juno.com.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

St. Mark's Church will be having Vacation Bible School this summer. It will be held the week of July 26-30. Flyers with information will be e mailed home or available to pick up the first week of May.

REDISCOVER PLAY

Summer is almost here and you want your children outside as much as possible. The warmer weather is the perfect opportunity to play “messy”! In our super-hygienic and electronic world, we have removed the sensory and motor components that our children need for development. The average amount of time with media has increased 327 more hours per year since 1997 and computer time has doubled. Children’s unscheduled time has dropped 16% and bike sales have dropped 21%.



Be a role model for our kids and let them know it’s ok to get messy. Explore new tactile experiences. Use cooking and baking for learning and sensory experiences. Show them how to dress for mess and designate “messy zones” so that they know where and when it is ok to be messy. Go outdoors – clean up is just a garden hose away. Self-directed discovery, experimentation and problem-solving are just a few of the cognitive skills that messy play fosters.

Congratulate yourself for every opportunity you have provided for kids to get messy with mud, paint, glue, cornstarch, dough, clay, soap suds, sand, rice, beans, bird seed, baby powder, snow, water and even food! Say, YES! IT’S OK TO GET MESSY!

PLAYFUL WAYS TO GET MESSY!

1. Declare “Puddle Stompin’ Day” and dress well to enjoy.
2. Build pantry sculptures using cans of spray cheese, pretzel rods, crackers, etc. Or create veggie towers with celery, carrot and pepper sticks.
3. Outdoors, fill a plastic bin with birdseed . . . it’s not entirely for the birds.
4. Goopy-Goo. Experiment with cornstarch, water and food coloring – gooptastic!
5. Cook spaghetti al dente, add a few drops of oil and mound it on a table top.
6. Freeze various shapes and sizes of containers. Build amazing ice castles and see how long it takes them to melt.
7. Do a Feelie Walk. Be brave, have the kids choose what to put in the buckets.
8. Slurp Picnic. A plastic tablecloth, beans and franks, cake and ice cream for dessert – no hands . . . hilarious!
9. Paint a table top with shaving cream. Make pictures, draw letters and get their hands clean at the same time.

In case you would like to make your own homemade fun, here are some recipes.

Bubble Mania - Homemade Bubble Recipe

Kids and kids at heart LOVE Bubbles!

You'll Need:

A pan

Liquid dishwashing Soap

Corn syrup

Pipe cleaners or wire coat hanger

Recipe: in a small mixing bowl combine 6 cups water, 2 cups dish soap and 3/4 cup corn syrup for stronger bubbles. Make the mix 4 hours before use and then pour into shallow pan. Bubble wands can be made by twisting pipe cleaners and coat hangers into circles, squares or any closed shape. Don't forget the handle! Simply dip the wand into the solution and gently wave your arm through the air. The bigger the wand opening, the bigger the bubble will be. Be sure to bend sharp edges of the wand back so they do not make contact with the opening.

Recipe for Sidewalk Paint

1 part corn starch

1 part water

Food coloring

Just mix equal parts of corn starch and water, add some food coloring and you have sidewalk paint. I do recommend using a whisk or better yet a hand mixer if you are making an entire box worth of paint (about 3 1/2 cups of corn starch). I mix up a batch in my large Pyrex bowl and then pour the paint into reusable/disposable 1 cup containers but paper cups would work just fine. An entire box makes about 4 cups of paint, plenty for about 6 different colors. I add 4-6 drops of food coloring once I have poured the paint into individual containers. Store brand corn starch is about \$1 for a box and makes enough paint for 3 kids to paint for over an hour and one toddler to do an amazing Jackson Pollock imitation.

Recipe for Sidewalk Chalk

In a plastic bowl, you will need to mix one cup of the plaster to one cup of the water. If you want to make more, just double, triple or quadruple the recipe. This will make a basic, white chalk. But of course what child wants just white, right? So in order to make colored chalk, you will need to add some Tempera paint. If you are wanting to work with several colors, I suggest mixing one cup of plaster and one cup of water, for each color you want.

Add some Tempera paint and mix it into the plaster mixture. Just keep adding until you get the color you are looking for. When you have completely mixed the color in, you can begin pouring the plaster into your chosen molds. Provided that you used smaller molds, the drying time should be approximately 4-5 hours. If you chose a toilet paper tube, or paper towel tube, cover the end with waxed paper and a rubber band and pour the mixture inside. The drying time for these, is typically a few days. If the chalk doesn't seem completely dry when you remove it from the molds, allow it to air dry for several hours to one day. Repeat for each color you would like. Enjoy!

A cool treat for a hot summer night.

LEMON ICE

Ingredients

- 3 to 4 lemons
- 3 cups water
- 3/4 cup sugar



Instructions

1. Wash the fruit. Grate the peel of 2 of the lemons, then combine the lemon zest, water, and sugar in a medium saucepan.
2. Bring the liquid to a simmer and continue simmering it, stirring occasionally, until the sugar has dissolved (about 3 minutes). Remove the pan from the heat and let the mixture cool. Pour the cooled liquid through a mesh strainer into a medium mixing bowl. Discard the zest left in the strainer.
3. Cut the lemons into halves and, with a lemon reamer or citrus juicer, juice enough of them to make 2/3 cup of strained lemon juice. (If you plan to serve the ice in the reamed halves, store them in the refrigerator until you're ready to use them.)
4. Stir the juice into the sugar water. Then pour the mixture into a large, shallow nonaluminum baking dish. Place the baking dish in your freezer. (Note: if the liquid is still warm, first refrigerate it for 1 hour so you don't defrost your freezer!)
5. When the mixture starts to freeze around the edge, stir and mash it with a fork to break up the ice. Repeat this periodically until the ice is firm (about 3 to 5 hours). Makes 8 to 10 servings.

Here is my last parental advice I will share with you for the school year. At the Culley house, my rule for the summer was – ***no electronics until after dinner.*** I would get lots of complaining about this. On really desperate days, they would ask if we could eat dinner at 3 o'clock! It is surprising what they can find to do when left to their own devices. Yes, it is good to have an arsenal of activities in case they come to you and say the famous line – "I'm bored." Sometimes though, you need to let them come up with things on their own. Our children need to think for themselves instead of always being "scheduled" or directed. Give them the opportunity to let their imaginations go wild. It will serve them well in life.

HAVE A WONDERFUL and FUN FILLED SUMMER

