

FEBRUARY 2012

THE PRESCHOOL NEWS



Dear Families,

January is done and we welcome February. What does February bring to our preschool? Valentine's Day. What will our fruit of the spirit be? Love of course!

"As I have loved you, so you must love one another" John 13:34

An ancient story in Church history tells of the apostle John. He would constantly repeat the words, *"Little children, love one another."* His disciples became weary of the phrase. Finally, in his old age, the disciples asked him, "Why do you always repeat these same words?" "Because friends," John replied, "it is the Lord's commandment — and if only this one were fulfilled, it would be enough."



If the apostle John were at our preschool, he would be able to witness this kind of love each and every day. He would see it when a preschooler hugs their little sister goodbye. He would witness it when a parent offers to bring in a classmate because a parent has a sick one in the car. He would observe it when the teachers interact with your children. He would hear it when a parent shares with me how much their child loves to come to preschool. How blessed are we to be able to rejoice in God's love and share that love with others.

Love never fails. Love can turn evil to good, darkness into light and enemies to friends. True love can totally transform the world around us. I am humbled, are you? Let's strive to start loving the way the Lord would have us love. One of my favorite songs is "Put a Little Love in Your Heart. Its message is simple.



*Think of your fellow man
lend him a helping hand
put a little love in your heart.
You see it's getting late
oh please don't hesitate*

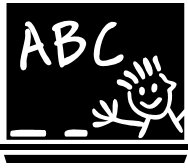
put a little love in your heart.

*and the world will be a better place
and the world will be a better place
for you and me
you just wait and see*

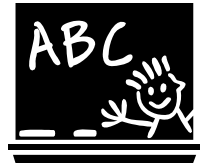


In God's love,

Linda Culley



A PEEK IN YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM



2/3'S TTH

Love is in the air as 2s/3s celebrate Valentine's Day with Love Bugs and lots of red! We will be looking at the special shape of hearts and letters of the alphabet. Our focus will be on how Jesus loves us all, especially children!

Happy Valentine's Day!

Mrs. Spitzer and Mrs. Medder

3's M/W & MWF

February begins with Groundhog Day and learning about shadows. Then there will be a whole "lotta" love demonstrated in the 3's classes as we lead up to Valentine's Day. Our Bible stories teach how we can obey Jesus' command to love one another. Our crafts include constructing Valentine people, a heart collage and decorating a bag to hold all our Valentines brought from home. It's not necessary to put each child's name on the Valentine, just your child's name so we know who it's from. Thank you.

Mrs. Cannon, Mrs. Kingsley, Mrs. Haines and Mrs. Markovich

4'S T/TH/F

Hearts abound and love is in the air as the 4's get ready for Valentine's Day. The children will learn that God loves each and every one of us very much. We will explore rainbows and hear about the story of Noah and the Ark. Many thanks go out to all our reader moms, dads and grandparents and even older brothers and sisters. I will be doing assessments with each child and conferences will be in March. Thanks for all your help and support.

Mrs. Strub, Mrs. O'Reilly and Mrs. Cranfill

PRE K:

I am heartily grateful to Lori Paeth, Patte Kingsley and Nikki Spitzer for the loving care and teaching they shared with your children during my absence. Praise be to God that my surgery went as well as it possibly could, and that my loving father is now in his heavenly home. Yes, it was a difficult 6 weeks, but my family felt God's love and comfort at all times. Thank you for your prayers and understanding.

Our February Bible stories will focus on God's unconditional love for us and how we can share that love with others. Themes for the month include the legend of the groundhog, healthy teeth, dinosaurs, rocks, fossils, volcanoes and quilts. All this and Valentine's Day too!

I will also be re-assessing your child prior to our last conference date during the second or third week in March - details will follow as soon as the date is set.

Mrs. Cudworth and Mrs. Paeth





Thank you so much to everyone who supported our January sale. With 25 orders we were able to earn \$162 in profit. Many thanks to our volunteer Kelli Cameron who came to help. Place an order this month and you have a chance to win the chocolate chip cakes.



Keep your cookie jar full this month with Market Day cookie dough. The more you buy, the more you save. If you buy 2, save \$1, buy 3, save \$3, buy 4+ you save \$5. You have a choice of 9 delicious flavors, convenient and pre-portioned for easy baking - no scooping required.

This month if you place a \$40 order you get a free 4 pack of Cookie Dough Cups. With an online order of \$90 you get a free 1 lb. package of Chicken Gems.

Start qualifying for your spring Freequent Buyer Reward. To qualify: make 2 purchases of \$40 from February through April and a 3rd in May to redeem your free cooler tote.



Paper orders will be due by Thursday, February 9th and internet orders entered at www.marketday.com will be due by Friday, February 10th at 11:00 pm. Our next pick up is Tuesday, February 14.

Thank you so much for your support.
Beth Treichler - Market Day chairperson

BUTTER BRAID

Once again we will offer Butter Braid coffee cakes. Watch for dates and details soon with delivery just in time for Easter! Order forms will be placed in your child's cubby.



THANK YOU

Thank you to the Nolan family (TTHF pm 4's) for their donation of some children's books. Thank you to the Markovich family for their large donation of assorted ribbons.



FUN WITH FATHERS"

A great time was had by all during our "Fun with Fathers" week. It was wonderful to see all the dads, grandpas, moms and special someones! This year we had a record number of fathers that were able to attend. Hats off to you for taking time out of your day for your preschooler. Watch the television in the hall for pictures of the fun we had.



OPEN WIDE



Besides Valentine's Day, February is also dental health month. Dayspring Pediatric Dentistry will be the field trip that comes to us. Dr. Kyle and Dr. Maureen will visit on Feb 21st and 22nd. They will talk to the children about their teeth and how to take good care of them. Be sure to ask your children about the carrots and the whip cream!

JESUS, MOMMY and ME PLAYGROUP

Come join the fun!

Jesus, Mommy, and Me is a playgroup hosted at St. Marks Lutheran Church for moms (and/or dads, grandmas, etc...) with infants - preschool age children.



Each in-house playgroup gathering includes a brief toddler friendly devotion / sing along, a thematic / seasonal art project, a tasty snack, and plenty of time for free play with our big stash of toys! Weather permitting, we enjoy some off site gatherings outdoors as well. It is a great chance to meet other moms and have fun with your little ones.

We will meet in the Sunday School room downstairs. Our February meeting will be Thursday Feb 16th from 9:30am to 11:00am. Mark your calendars for the following dates for playgroup too: March 15, April 12, and May 17. Reminders

will be given via e-mail and through the church and school newsletters. We hope to see you there!

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We have some fun enrichment classes coming up between now and the end of the year. Enrollment forms for each class will come out about a month before the class is scheduled and will be e-mailed to you. Paper copies are always available in the office.

ALL ABOUT ART - FAMOUS ARTISTS

Taught by Linda Cudworth

2/29, 3/7, 3/14 and 3/21

Wed, 12:15-2:15 (2 hours)



Learn about the lives and styles of four different artists. Students will be given the opportunity to experiment and create their own "masterpiece" during each class session.

We will study the painting of American woman artist, Georgia O'Keeffe and of Jackson Pollack (both whose works can be seen at the Art Institute of Chicago).

The popular style of Eric Carle, as inspired by Franz Marc will be familiar to the children and adults, alike.

Sculpture will be explored as another way to express feelings and ideas.

We will study the Swedish sculptor, Claes Oldenburg, best known for large public art pieces replicating everyday objects.



GETTING READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Taught by Sue Strub

4/18, 4/25, 5/2 and 5/9

Wed, 12:15-2:15

This exciting class will help your child keep a positive attitude toward learning as he/she enters kindergarten this fall. They will work on basic math skills such as graphing, counting, patterning and number recognition. Themes will be integrated with reading activities. They will make books, work on letters and sounds and introduce sight words through hands on activities. All this will be done in a fun filled environment. Watch for more details and the opportunity to sign up in March.



SUMMER SCHOOL 2012

5/29 - 6/7 Tues, Wed and Thurs, 9-11:30 (2 ½ hours)

We will be offering a 2 week summer school session this year. The theme and staff are yet to be determined. Learning, exploring and fun are a given. Stay tuned for more details.

