



Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool

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A Mission of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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Fall Festival Celebrations in October

Families are invited to our annual Fall Festivals on Tuesday, October 27th and Wednesday, October 28th. Bring your cameras and enjoy sharing time with your children at school. Siblings are welcome at these events. This is a family time and we hope many parents join us. Parent Receptions will be held both before and after each festival—come meet other parents!



We will need parents to help set up the craft tables for the craft activity that children will create with their parents. Please sign up on the bulletin boards if you can help. **The schedule for the festivals is as follows:**

Tuesday, Oct. 27th

Session 1: Mrs. Lowe's T-Th Totally Three Class (Class 3) and Mrs. Hanlon's AM Two Plus Class (Class 1) will celebrate Fall with songs and a craft activity. Every child needs at least one parent to join him/her at 11:30am in the Shepherd's Hall upstairs. Mrs. Hurley will teach families some of the songs and fingerplays we are learning at school. Each class will go to an assigned table for a parent and student craft activity. The children will return to their classrooms for dismissal—parents accompany their children back to the classroom.

Session 2: Parents of Mrs. Munzer's 4-Day Pre-K Class (Class 8), Mrs. Cunningham's Three Plus Class (Class 6) and Mrs. McMichael's Two Plus Class (Class 2) are invited to join their children at 12:45pm. Our Two Plus children need a parent's lap to sit on as we sing some songs and fingerplays. Parents of Three Plus and Pre-Kindergarten students are strongly encouraged to attend. After the craft activity, the students will return to their classrooms and resume their daily activities (Classes 2 & 8), or prepare to go home (Class 6).

Wednesday, Oct. 28th

Session 1: Parents of Mrs. Allen's and Mrs. Cunningham's 3-Day Pre-K Classes (Classes 7A & 7C) will meet their children in Shepherd's Hall at 9:45 for a music program and craft activity.

B. Parents of Mrs. Munzer's 5-Day Pre-K Class (Class 9) and Mrs. Lowe's MWF Totally Three Class (Class 4) will meet their children in Shepherd's Hall at 11:30 for a music program and craft activity.

Activities for Young Children

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is sponsoring a family movie night on Oct. 10th at 5:00pm. The movie, **BOLT**, is appropriate for all ages. The film will be shown in the new sanctuary on the huge screens—and also in the lobby for those younger children who like

to dance while they watch a movie! Because pizza will be served, please sign up in advance at pastorjon@goserve.net or call the church office at 301-869-1780.

One of our preschool moms came in this week excited about a family trip

to the Virginia Safari Park—it is a bit of a drive there (190 miles southwest of DC). If driving that far doesn't work for your family, just hop on the metro for a trip to the zoo.

We have plastic zoo animals in our classrooms, but nothing compares to the

real thing.

Following up an adventure like this by reading books from our lending library or by having your child dictate and illustrate a story about the journey is a great way to develop literacy skills and vocabulary.

October 2009

Dates to Remember

Chapels:

Tues., Oct. 6 & 20

11:30—Classes 1 & 3

1:00—Classes 2, 6, & 8

Wed., Oct. 7 & 21

9:40—Classes 4, 7A, 7C & 9

Fire Drills: Tues., Oct. 13

& Wed., Oct. 14

GSLP closed:

Fri., Oct. 16

Staff Meeting

Wed., Oct. 21—Classes 7A

& 7C end at 12:00noon.

Classes 2 & 8 do not meet

Fall Festivals:

(parent receptions before and after festivals)

Tues., Oct. 27

11:30am—Classes 1 & 3

12:45pm—Classes 2, 6, & 8

Wed., Oct. 28

9:45am—Classes 7A & 7C

11:30am—Classes 4 & 9

Fall Parties:

Thurs., Oct. 29 & Fri., Oct.

30

Oct 31—GSLP does NOT celebrate Halloween. Please do NOT allow your child to wear a costume on this day.

Songs and Fingerplays at School—Name that Tune!

Having heard their children sing the songs and recite the fingerplays that they are learning at school, some parents have asked teachers for the tunes and words to these songs. We provide parents with the words for some of these songs in our newsletter, but we cannot record and distribute the music because of copyright laws.

Both music and the rhythmic speech used in fingerplays are great tools for increasing a child's pho-

mic awareness. This important pre-reading skill involves a child learning to discriminate and manipulate the sounds of language. If a child cannot hear the difference between hug and bug, it is going to be more difficult to later learn to read those words.

Singing with your child at home or in the car on the way to school is a great way to increase a child's musical ability. Play good quality CD's for your child in a variety of musical types. Children who do not speak

English as a first language often sing in beautiful English.

If you are looking for quality CD's for children, we recommend the following artists:

- Kathy Fink and Marcy Marxer (local artists—watch for concerts)
- Peter and Ellen Allard (they have several CD's out—good quality)
- Hap Palmer—traditional songs
- Red Grammer—children's rock & roll

Parent Conferences in October

Fall Parent Conferences begin on October 2nd and will continue throughout most of the month. These conferences provide an opportunity for teachers and parents to exchange information about a child's activities at home and at school. Establishing an initial line of communication between home and school can make a significant difference in the progress a child makes during the school year.

Parent Conference Sign-up

Sheets can be found on the class bulletin boards. While the teachers are conferencing with parents, each classroom will be run by the assistant teachers and a trained substitute. These scheduled times are the only times that the conferences will be held, so we hope that parents will take advantage of this opportunity.

These first conferences focus primarily on the social/emotional adjustments made by the children so far this year. Teachers have been

assessing the basic skills of the children during these first few weeks and may have specific recommendations for "at home" activities.

The mid-winter conferences focus on the progress made by the children in all curriculum domains. Progress Reports distributed at those conferences include work samples and photographs indicative of a child's development. During the mid-winter conferences, teachers make recommendations for the following year.

GSLP Spirit Shirts on Sale in October

Looking for a great Christmas gift that you can't buy at the mall? A GSLP T-shirt or sweatshirt is a good way to share school spirit with family and friends. Grandparents proudly wear their grandchildren's school logo. For GSLP students, a T-shirt or sweatshirt makes for an easy "wardrobe selection" on busy mornings.

An order form for T-shirts and sweatshirts will come home in late October. Both sweatshirts and T-

shirts are available in purple or red. If you have a question about the size, see samples in the Preschool office.

If your child has lost his/her purple tote bag or simply needs a new one, come by the office to purchase one. The bags sell for \$5.00 each. Each student should bring the purple tote bag to school every day. Be sure to check the contents immediately upon arriving home after school.

About the Playground

Playground rules are published in the Parent Handbook. Please take a moment to review them. When on the playground before or after school, students must follow the safety rules learned in class.

The playground is closed at 1:30 Monday thru Thursday based on the outdoor schedule of afternoon classes. There may be unscheduled days when the playground is closed during arrival or dismissal times. Please exit the playground immediately if a class arrives for its outdoor time.

What Not to Worry About When Your Child Starts School

One of our Preschool parents brought in a wonderful list of things **NOT** to worry about when your child starts school. (taken from "The Park Bench School of Parenting"):

1. "Don't worry if your child brings home sheet after sheet of easel paper completely covered with greenish-brown paint. Don't worry, he's not depressed. It's just one of the earliest stages of painting. To kids, it's a major accomplishment to cover the entire sheet of paper. They also like to paint one

color over another, resulting in that murky shade of brown. It may not look like much, but it takes a tremendous amount of concentration to do.

2. Don't worry if your child doesn't bring home any art work at all. There are so many other interesting things to do at school and they're every bit as worthwhile. You just can't hang them on the refrigerator.
3. Don't worry when your child says she isn't going back to school tomorrow or ever. Around the sec-

ond month of school, reality sets in. It dawns on your child that you actually expect her to go to school each and every week. Even kids who love school sometimes raise objections at this time of year. Remain matter-of-fact and confident as you send her off. It may help to remind yourself that you aren't the only parent whose child has come down with the "please-let-me-stay-home-today blues."

Childfind— County Screening Service for Developmental Delays

Early intervention is extremely important in providing children with the best chance for a positive future. The county has long recognized this need and has created a free county program to provide that intervention. **Childfind** is a department of the Montgomery County Public Schools. Its purpose is to screen and identify children with developmental delays that will affect their performance when they enter kindergarten. Once identified, children receive free corrective services from Montgomery County. This program also includes

screenings and services for infants and toddlers.

Our staff does not diagnose learning delays in children but will inform parents if their child appears to struggle in particular areas. If staff members feel that a screening would be beneficial, we will arrange a conference and we will provide parents with specific information regarding areas of concern. If a screening is recommended, we strongly suggest that you call **Childfind** at 301-929-2222 as soon as possible to arrange an

appointment. It can take up to two months to get a screening appointment.

Childfind usually only takes children with significant delays and there are many children who would benefit from services but do not meet the requirements established by Childfind. Private occupational and speech therapists can be recommended by your pediatrician and treatment is sometimes covered by insurance.

Playgroups and the "Parenthood Network"

The children have been making new friends during the month of September. One of the advantages of a preschool class is the network of new friendships available outside of class. We encourage families to talk to one another in the hallway, arrange for play dates outside of school, and become familiar with your child's classmates and families. In the past, different classes have



arranged a morning "coffee time" during school hours—a great idea!

Put up a sign-up sheet on your child's class bulletin board with information. Once you know one another, you may want to give each other permission to take each other's child if you are

stuck in traffic or at an appointment and cannot reach the school by pick-up time. We really don't want to assess late fees—we'd much rather see the child go with a friend and enjoy a few minutes out on the playground while waiting for their ride.

We encourage you to establish your own "Parenthood Network" - and to use it!

October is Safety Month- A Few Reminders

Parking Lot Safety:

Please do not leave children in the car when you come into the school to pick up your child. Give another adult written permission allowing that adult to bring your child to you. We have many large families this year and we want to keep all those siblings safe. Keep a close eye on children in the parking lot - hold their hands and keep them next to you at all times.

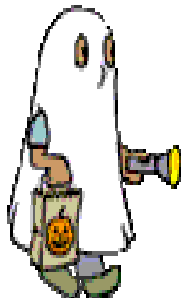
Playground Safety:

We want to remind parents that children need to be closely supervised on the equipment. Parents are welcome to use the space before and

after school if a class is not using it. Please note closure times posted.

Halloween Safety:

Many children will be dressing up for the first time this Halloween. Keep in mind that some of the threes may find this whole evening a bit overwhelming - others will think dressing up is great.



Some simple safety rules to remember with young children are as follows:

1. Take young ones out early - the scarier costumes tend to come out later.
2. Visit friends and neighbors; make the experience fun but short. Remember—excitement can be tiring!
3. Use make-up instead of a mask - the mask limits visibility.
4. Be sure costumes do not drag - cut off the legs if necessary.
5. Have the child carry a plastic flashlight.
6. Be sure to stress that children should not eat any candy until a responsible adult has looked over the candy.

Back to School Night—A Glimpse into Your Child's Day

We had a good turnout for our Back to School nights during September. Parents were able to see some pictures of the different centers the children use in the classrooms. Teachers shared some of their goals for the year and talked parents through the daily schedule.

Parents were introduced to the MCPS curriculum which is used in the Pre-K program and the Creative Curriculum which is used with the Two Plus, Totally Three, and Three Plus

programs. Both of these curriculums are approved by Maryland State Department of Education.

One of the most valuable tools for fine motor development that parents can create at home is playdough. The recipe is listed on this page and we encourage parents to make their own instead of purchasing the commercial brand. Playdough helps children strengthen their hands while they use their imaginations.

Playdough Recipe

- 3 cups flour
 - 1 1/2 cups salt
 - 3 tbsp. salad oil
 - 3 cups water (use food coloring dissolved in the water—the gel cake decorating kind works best)
 - 1 tbsp. cream of tartar
- Cook at med. High heat until pliable. If it is slightly sticky, knead with a little flour. Don't overcook or it falls apart when shaped.

On-Line Ordering for Learning Materials

Quality learning materials for your children aren't always easy to find these days. The following catalogs are ones used by the Preschool to order materials and supplies. If you are interested in any of these, go to the websites mentioned and ask for a catalog to be sent to you.

Lakeshore:

www.lakeshorelearning.com

This company has one of the best

variety of learning tools - great pre-reading and pre-math equipment, especially handwriting.

Constructive Playthings:

www.cptoys.com

This company has good building sets and many interesting things for twos and threes.

Discount School Supply:

www.discountschoolsupply.com

We purchase most of our art materials from this source—they often have bargains on shipping. Liquid water colors are wonderful!

Nasco:

www.enasco.com—the website is hopeless but materials are great.

Scholastic: www.scholastic.com

Along with books, this company has lots of learning tools and toys.

Chapels at Good Shepherd—Please Join Us!

Our children's chapels are led by the Preschool and the pastoral staff of Good Shepherd. These short programs are usually held twice a month in the sanctuary and Preschool families are invited to join us. During Chapel Time, the children hear a Bible story or join in a discussion about a Biblical concept.

The chapel lessons relate to the areas of study currently going on in the classroom. During September, we were studying families in the classroom and the chapel focus was on the story of the Prodigal Son. During our study of safety, we will hear about the Good Samaritan. The children share a time of prayer by repeating a prayer recited by the

chapel leader. Christian songs and finger plays conclude the chapel time. The children often leave the sanctuary singing "Rejoice in the Lord" or another song that has been shared during Chapel Time.

Chapels provide the children with an opportunity to learn more about Jesus and his love for each one of them. The children are active par-



ticipants in a variety of ways— helping to act out a story, singing songs, answering questions. They learn that the sanctuary is a special place that helps us to focus on God and should be treated with respect.

Chapel is a time to get together with the friends in the other classes and enjoy a corporate worship experience designed just for preschoolers.

The Christmas and Spring Chapels are more formal and families are strongly encouraged to attend these special events. A presentation by the children is included in these chapels.

GSLP Lending Library in Preschool Office

The Preschool maintains a Lending Library in the office—the bookcase located just inside the door contains books, videos, and LPs for both parents and children to check out. The books and other materials are labeled with Parent Library stickers.

Issues of various periodicals on parenting and educational topics are also available. The NAEYC publication, *Young Children*, contains some of the latest research on child develop-

ment from leading experts in the field.

A check-out sheet is provided for the parent books and audio-visual materials—please return the books and materials when finished. Children's books are checked out on the honor system—there are several shelves of children's books and some board books for younger children. We encourage a quick stop by the bookshelf as you leave for the day.

Each year we have families who lose

loved ones during the year. We have put together a tote bag of information to help parents talk about death and grieving with young children. Both books and published articles are included. Talking with children in a developmentally appropriate way about death is a challenge and parents have found these resources very helpful. This information is available for check-out in the Preschool Office.

Teaching Independence at School and at Home

Preschool is often the first group experience many of our children have had in their short lives. To facilitate the children adjusting to their new environment, we ask parents to help their children develop a sense of independence. When the child enters the classroom, give him/her a hug and let the child take care of his/her own coat and tote bag. Children will learn to recognize their name and where to put what.

Attiring children in easily removed clothing will greatly assist the bathroom independence. Please send your child in clothing that can be washed—painting is always done enthusiastically at this age and children sometimes wear as much paint as they put on the easel, regardless of the smock.

Children will be learning how to put on their own coats, shoes, etc. Practicing these skills at home will help your child gain confidence. Coats and other

outdoor wear should have the child's name inside—children often do not recognize their own belongings.

Look for ways that your child can take responsibility at home for common tasks. Children also need to learn to play independently without their parents guiding their play. Parents are often surprised at just what these children can really do by themselves.