



Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool

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A Mission of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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Parent Conferences Coming Soon

Parent-Teacher Conferences for all classes will be held during late January/early February. Each class will schedule two days of conferences while their regular class is in session. On conference days, each class will be run by the assistant teacher and a trained substitute. A sign-up sheet with specific conference dates and times will be posted on the classroom bulletin boards in late January.

Attached to this newsletter is a questionnaire which we request be filled out and returned to the classroom teacher before your conference.

Conference days have been specifically set aside for that purpose; parents should make arrangements so that they can be available for a conference on one of the specified days. The teachers have work

sample portfolios and progress reports to share with parents during the conferences. This is an opportunity for parents to ask questions and gain information on ways they can facilitate their child's learning at home.

The last conference each day will begin at 11:30am for morning classes and at 2:30pm for the afternoon class. This provides a brief buffer should conferences run late. **Late pick up rules and fees will be in effect on conference days, so please arrange an alternate pick-up for your child if you have the last conference of the day.**

The conferences will be held in labeled classrooms upstairs. Chairs will be provided in the hall in case you arrive early. Please wait in the hall until the teacher welcomes you into the conference room.

Teddy Bear Days in January



On Teddy Bear Days, children will bring their favorite Teddy Bear (or other special stuffed animal or doll) to school. The stuffed friends will participate in many class activities before we put the friends down for a "nap".

Please have your child bring only one special stuffed friend. Attach some type of owner identification to the friend.

This labeling is especially important if the stuffed friend is a popular one that could be brought by more than one child. We want to make sure that each special stuffed friend goes home with the child who brought it to school.

Each classroom team will plan a set of activities for this special day. Some classes may ask children to bring lunches on that day and plan a picnic; others may be planning to cook something in the class. Check the class bulletin boards for specific information.

January 2010

Dates to Remember:

Chapels:

Tues. Jan. 12 & 26: 11:30 & 1:00
Wed. Jan. 13 & 27: 9:40

Teddy Bear Days:

Thurs. Jan. 21: Class #1, 2, 3, 6 & 8
Friday, Jan. 22: Class #4, 7A, 7C & 9

Fire Drills: Jan. 13 & 14
(rain dates: Jan. 19 & 20)

Kindergarten Readiness Discussion:

Thurs. Jan. 14, 9:40am & 12:45pm
Fri. Jan. 15, 9:40am

Book Orders Due: Fri, Jan. 22

No Wednesday Afternoon Classes: Classes 7A, 7C & 8

Wed., Jan. 20

GSLP Closed:

Jan 18—Martin Luther King's Birthday

Jan 25—GSLP Conference Preparation Day (MCPS Professional Day)

Parent Conferences Begin Jan. 26—see class bulletin boards for exact dates and sign up sheets

Registration for currently enrolled students and their siblings for school year 2008-2009 — Tues. Feb.16. Registration materials and information will be sent home with the February newsletter

Kindergarten Readiness Discussion

Kindergarten Readiness Discussions will be held on Thurs. Jan. 14 & Fri. Jan. 15. This introduction to kindergarten is appropriate for all Pre-school parents. We encourage your attendance regardless of your child's age.

The information presented at the Kindergarten Readiness Discussions, in conjunction with information pro-

vided by teachers during parent conferences, will assist parents in making informed decisions regarding placement for next fall. Some children with late spring and summer birthdays return to *GSLP* for an additional year before attending kindergarten.

There are many things that parents can do with their children at

home to prepare them for kindergarten. Suggestions for activities will be provided at the Kindergarten Readiness Discussions.

Siblings of current pre-school students are welcome to attend with their parents. Identical sessions will be held during the morning and afternoon on Jan. 14 and during the morning on Jan. 15.

Expectations for Students Entering MCPS Kindergarten

By using the MCPS Pre-Kindergarten curriculum, the *GSLP* staff has acquired a clearer picture of the current expectations for students entering kindergarten. Indicators of kindergarten readiness include the following student characteristics:

- Shows curiosity about what is new and different
- Is able to identify and communicate feelings and ideas with complete sentences
- Demonstrates self-direction and independence in self-care tasks and class activities
- Follows basic health and safety rules
- Demonstrates memory of the

past and the ability to apply it to new situations

- Understands concepts about print
- Is able to carry out three-part directions independently
- Is able to make and keep friends
- Is able to control impulses and delay gratification
- Recognizes, verbalizes and tolerates feelings
- Is excited about school and learning
- Identifies a minimum of 30 alphabet letters (upper and lower case)
- Writes random upper and lower case letters
- Recognizes and writes own name

- Is able to correlate first sound of a word to a specific letter
- Identifies spoken words which share an initial sound
- Is able to identify rhyming words
- Is able to count to 10 and to group sets of objects from 1 to 10
- Recognizes numerals and demonstrates the quantity that relates to specific numerals
- Is able to draw a person with recognizable features
- Is able to recognize and draw simple geometric shapes like circles, squares, and triangles and to describe those shapes using appropriate vocabulary
- Uses scissors with confidence and purpose

A Few Reminders

Class Times:

GSLP classes begin promptly at 9:30am and 12:30pm. Please make sure your child arrives on time. Young children need to be present at the beginning of class in order to ease into the school day. Transition times are difficult for many young children and our classes are specifically structured to help stu-

dents adjust to the beginning of each new day.

Peanut Butter & Items Containing Peanuts:

GSLP is a peanut free environment. Please do not send any items containing peanuts or peanut butter in your child's lunch. Peanut allergies can be life-threatening. If items containing peanuts or peanut butter are found in

a lunch box, we will remove the items from the lunch and trash them.

Cold Weather Clothing:

Classes go outside everyday, weather permitting. Please send your child in a heavy winter coat, hat, gloves and boots (if there is snow on the ground). Girls should wear pants or heavy leggings under dresses. Please label ALL outerwear.

Christmas Angels Program Reaches Out to the Community



Thank you to all of the many families who made the Christmas Angels program such a success. Over ninety GSLP families participated in the program this year and their generosity was truly incredible. Because of this outpouring of love, each of the twenty-five sponsored angels received the following:

- A special toy
- An art box or other art supply

- At least one clothing outfit—pants and shirt or dress with tights
- Shoes
- Something warm to wear—a coat, a fleece, a sweatshirt or a sweater

Thank you notes were distributed to children before the holidays—the information was taken from the gift tags attached to the presents. There were several presents that did not have names on the tags, and several tags that became detached from gifts.

If you did not receive a thank-you, please know that the teachers greatly appreciate your generosity in providing for these children who otherwise would not have had such a beautiful Christmas.

Several parents told us that they went shopping with their children for the special angel gifts. This is a wonderful tradition to continue each Christmas. Several of our alumni return each year with Christmas Angel gifts.

Fall 2009 Registration Begins in February

Registration for the 2010-2011 school year will take place in February. Registration for church members will begin on Feb. 1, 2010.

Registration packets for currently enrolled 2-Plus, Totally 3 and 3-Plus students will be distributed with the February newsletter. Pre-Kindergarten students returning for an additional year and families wishing to enroll younger siblings of current students should stop by the office after February 3, 2010 for a registration packet.

Registration forms for currently enrolled students and their siblings can be returned to the Preschool Office at any time prior to 9:45am on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010. **Parents are encouraged to return completed registration forms well before the Tuesday deadline.** Forms turned in after the deadline will be processed after the initial placements are completed.

Siblings of alumni who no longer attend GSLP can register beginning 9:45am on Thurs., Feb. 18, 2010. Community registration will be held on Sat., Feb. 20, 2010 at 10:00 am. If you have friends, neighbors, or relatives with preschool age children, please give

them a brochure available from the office or suggest that they go to www.goodshepherdonline.org to learn more about the program. They can call the Preschool Office and schedule a visit before the registration date. Current and former students are the best advertisements we have!

There have been a few changes in the class offerings for the 2010-2011 school year. In specific:

• Early Pre-Kindergarten

In accordance with current standards for Early Childhood Education, all Two-Plus, Totally Three, and Three-Plus classes will become Early Pre-Kindergarten classes.

There will be 3 levels:

—Early Pre-Kindergarten I.

This class closely corresponds to the current Two-Plus classes. Children must turn 3 by March 1, 2011 to enroll in this class. Toilet training is not required.

—Early Pre-Kindergarten II.

This class is for older two year old and young three year old students. Children must turn 3 by December 31, 2010. Toilet training

is not required.

—Early Pre-Kindergarten III.

These classes are for children who turn three by September 1, 2010 and are fully toilet trained.

• Pre-Kindergarten

Students enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten classes must be 4 years by Sept. 1, 2010. All morning Pre-Kindergarten classes include at least one extended session weekly. Students for whom a standard 2.5 hour preschool day is a better choice are encouraged to register for the afternoon 4-Day Pre-Kindergarten Class. In addition, students whose birthdays fall between September 2 and October 15 may enroll in the 4-Day Pre-Kindergarten class if they demonstrate advanced cognitive and social development. See Mrs. Hurley for information about this option.

Please note: Teacher assignments are not be made until after the end of the school year. As such, teacher assignments should not be assumed to remain constant across years and should not be considered when choosing a class.

PARENTS:

Please complete the following questions and return to your child's teacher before your conference day. Thank you.

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

1. How does your child feel about school?
2. What does your child like about school?
3. What does your child dislike or find difficult about school?
4. What does your child like to do most at home?
5. In what areas do you think your child needs the most assistance at school?
6. What do you think your child may do best at school?

Please share any other information about your perceptions of your child's pre-school experience thus far this year. Parental feedback is very useful to us as we continually try to meet the individual needs of our students.