

# Second Presbyterian Preschool Newsletter

May 2020

Hello Preschool Parents,

Enclosed in this newsletter is the 2020-2021 Preschool Calendar. What a relief it has been to focus on building something for next year and put the 2019-2020 school year to bed. There are lots of new and exciting events added to next year's calendar. We have made a concerted effort to design events that occur throughout the school year to allow you, your preschool student(s), their siblings, and even their grandparents to be together enjoying fun, food and fellowship as a preschool community.

I am grateful for the optimism and passion I continue to have for the preschool despite all the confusing and contradictory news about the spread of COVID-19. I have great faith that the preschool will continue to be a safe and happy place where children are nurtured and cherished and encouraged to learn and grow through play and exploration. Please know that the teachers and I are counting the days until we can greet the students with open arms and welcome them back to school.

You can always reach me at [sally@spres.org](mailto:sally@spres.org) or, on my cell phone at (757)535-4484.

Dr. Sally

## **But, Wait: I Am A Highly Trained Chef, Lawyer, Pastor, Doctor, Interior Designer, Business Owner, Orthodontist..., Not A Highly Trained Teacher!**

While I know many of you are excelling in your new role of homeschool educator, there are others that are not enjoying it at all. The Facebook post below was written by my friend BC Craig. We were in the same doctoral cohort studying curriculum and instruction at Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Craig is an accomplished educator and lives and works in NYC. You may find some solace or solidarity in her words.

*I'm hearing more and more from working parents that the expectations right now are beyond ridiculous. Schools, wanting to maintain their goals and their reality, have--in many cases--tried to simply transfer the classroom to the home.*

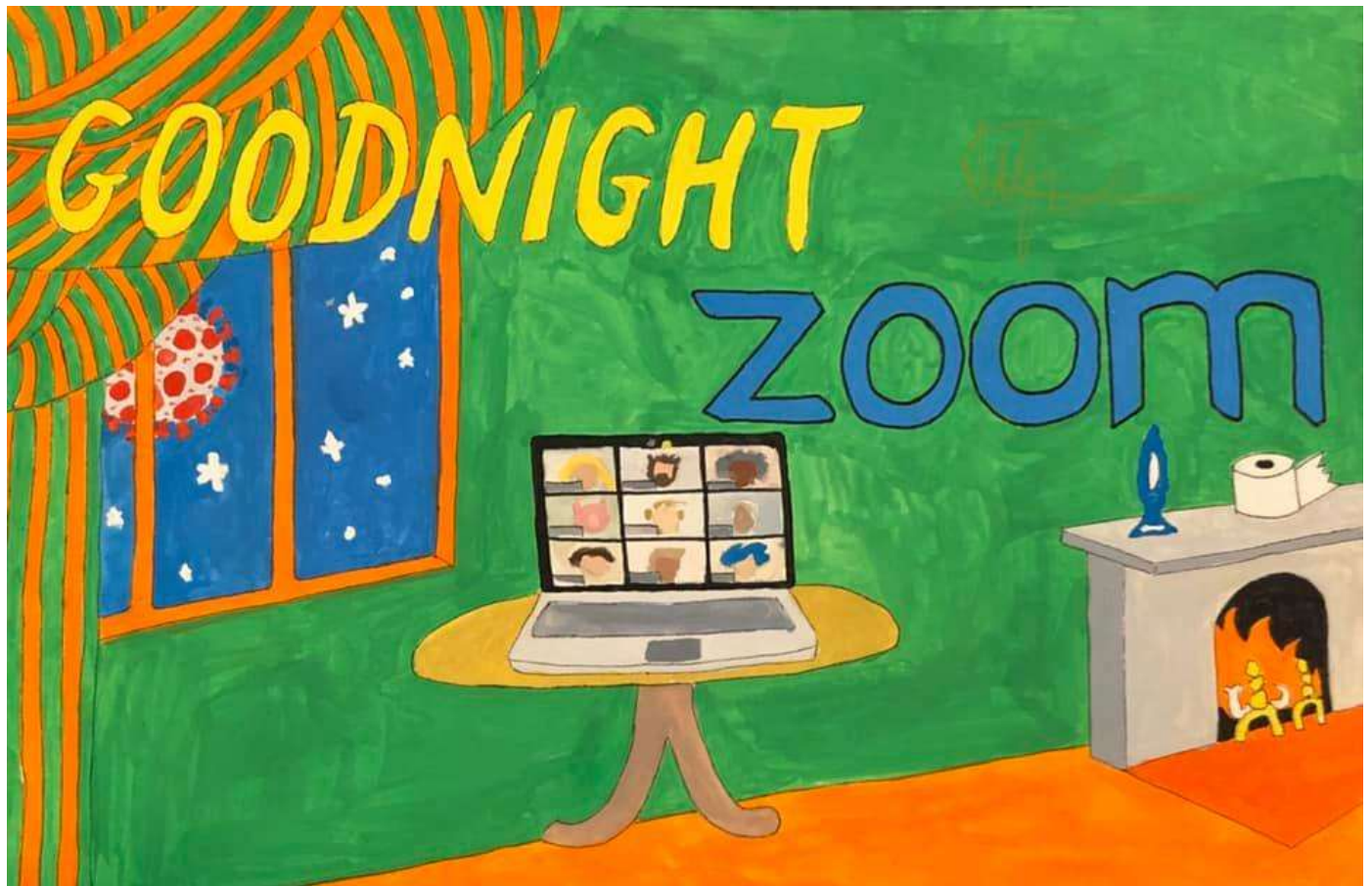
*Workplaces seem to similarly expect that employees who can work remotely will also be able to maintain their same level of productivity.*

*But it is simply not reasonable that students can do the same work at home that they would need teacher support to do without significant parental support. Nor is it reasonable to assume that an employee who is also a parent who is now tasked with 24 hour childcare PLUS several hours of schoolwork support can work in the same way that they do at the office.*

*So, once again, working parents are left to feel inadequate about their inability to be constantly present for their children and made to feel by employers that they are falling behind co-workers who don't have the same home responsibilities. All of this in an economic moment when the threat of layoffs is ever-present.*

*Then add, on top of that, the cultural milieu in which articles, memes, and friends suggest that this is essentially an unplanned staycation which is a fabulous time to learn a language or take up a craft, lest people "waste" this found time.*

*As we talk about the need to continue restrictions for public health reasons, we need to have a conversation how to adjust expectations so that we are not crushing people.*



Please follow this link to see Stefanie Trilling's FB post with more funny, adapted children's book covers [Children's Books for Pandemics](#)



### Finding Joy in Our Mountain Life

Our Preschool community is uniquely blessed by being situated in the gorgeous mountains of SW Virginia. Our location provides us easy access to forest trails that allow us to experience the amazing power of nature to lift our spirits and to see the great wonder of God's creation. John Muir, pictured above, was a great American naturalist, who devoted his life to exploring the woods and mountains of California.

The Village Museum located in McClellanville, South Carolina recently posted an interesting piece on John Muir that inspired me to include one of his quotes in this newsletter. Bud Hill, the museum's curator, is a good friend of mine. We worked together on several projects while I was serving as one of the founders and the first principal of Cape Romain Environmental Education Charter School <http://www.creecs.org>, located in McClellanville, before moving to Roanoke in 2013.

I thought you might enjoy Muir's inspiring words during these stressful times.

*Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like the leaves of Autumn. ~John Muir*

## Teacher Appreciation Parade

Friday May 8th 11:00-12:00

Preschool parent Kate Groff, mom to Eli and Emerson, put together this fun, Covid-19 safe, opportunity for parents to show their appreciation to their children's preschool teachers. Please see Kate's message below.

*\*The parade will take place around the building with the teachers spread out. Please circle the building to wave, cheer, honk--but please do not stop. We want to keep this safe for everyone involved and protect our teachers! Feel free to do as many laps as you want.*

*\*Please decorate your vehicles and/or have signs for your children to hold and cheer!*

*\*If you have any cards or tokens of appreciation you would like to give the teachers please drop these at the front door portico PRIOR to circling the building and Sally will distribute. Please clearly label as well. Please don't feel any pressure to give gifts--we just want to show our love! So, feel free to participate in the parade only if that is what works best for your family. If you would like to give something to your teachers but can't make this day/time feel free to drop gifts off at Sally's house (2510 Stanley Ave. SE, 24014) ahead of time and she will distribute.*

*\*If anyone would like to decorate the school entrances (front door and back playground entrance) with sidewalk chalk, signs, balloons, streamers-whatever! Feel free to decorate the night before or early in the morning as a special surprise for the teachers--no specific time just come at your leisure.*

*The most important thing is to make this a SAFE event. Please stay in your vehicle at all times during the parade and if you are participating in decorating please keep a safe distance from one another. Thank you all so much for your participation-I know this will mean so much to the teachers!*



## 2020-2021 Preschool Calendar

Later this month you will be able to access the calendar on the preschool's website, in the new Family Handbook, and in our new preschool app HiMama. Stay tuned for more information!

<b>August</b>	<b>24-25</b>	Teacher Workdays
<b>August</b>	<b>26-27</b>	Scheduled Parent-Student-Teachers Classroom Meetings
<b>August</b>	<b>27</b>	Back to School Family Barbecue and Open House
<b>September</b>	<b>1</b>	First Day of School!
<b>September</b>	<b>7</b>	Labor Day Observed: School CLOSED for students & staff
<b>September</b>	<b>23-24</b>	School Picture Days
<b>October</b>	<b>15</b>	Spaghetti Dinner!
<b>October</b>	<b>19</b>	Fall Break: School Closed for students & staff
<b>October</b>	<b>25</b>	Preschool Sunday
<b>October</b>	<b>26-27</b>	Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:30-5:00 p.m.
<b>October</b>	<b>30</b>	Halloween Parade at 9:30 & Harvest Festival at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall
<b>November</b>	<b>1</b>	Daylight Saving Time Ends: Fall Back!
<b>November</b>	<b>3</b>	Continuing Education Day: School Closed for students
<b>November</b>	<b>13</b>	Grandparents/Special Friends Celebration! 10:00-11:30 in Fellowship Hall
<b>November</b>	<b>13-20</b>	Book Fair
<b>November</b>	<b>23</b>	Thanksgiving Program at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall
<b>November</b>	<b>25-27</b>	Thanksgiving Holiday: School CLOSED for all students & staff
<b>December</b>	<b>8</b>	SPRES Women's Luncheon Bells Performance 11:00 (Fours Only)
<b>December</b>	<b>14</b>	Nativity Program in the Chapel (Twos+, Threes & Fours)
<b>December</b>	<b>15-16</b>	Pajama Days!
<b>December</b>	<b>18</b>	Christmas Program at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall
<b>December</b>	<b>21- January 1</b>	Winter Break: School CLOSED for all students & staff
<b>January</b>	<b>4</b>	Students return to school
<b>January</b>	<b>18-22</b>	In-House Preschool Registration

<b>January</b>	<b>18</b>	Martin Luther King Day Observed: School CLOSED for students & staff
<b>January</b>	<b>21</b>	Family STEAM Night 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall/Gym
<b>February</b>	<b>4-5</b>	Daddy and Me Days!
<b>February</b>	<b>11</b>	Student Art Show and Auction 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall/Gym
<b>February</b>	<b>12-15</b>	President's Day Weekend – School CLOSED for students and staff
<b>February</b>	<b>16</b>	Students & staff return to school
<b>March</b>	<b>2</b>	Read Across America Day: Dr. Seuss Celebration!
<b>March</b>	<b>12</b>	Continuing Education Day: School closed for students
<b>March</b>	<b>14</b>	Daylight Saving Time Begins: Spring Forward!
<b>March</b>	<b>15-16</b>	Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:30-5:00 p.m.
<b>March</b>	<b>17</b>	Leprechaun Dash!
<b>April</b>	<b>1</b>	Easter Parade 9:30 a.m. and Easter Egg Hunts!
<b>April</b>	<b>2-9</b>	Spring Break: School CLOSED for all students & staff
<b>April</b>	<b>12</b>	Students & staff return to school
<b>April</b>	<b>22</b>	Earth Day Celebration!
<b>April</b>	<b>27-28</b>	Mommy and Me Days!
<b>April</b>	<b>30</b>	Arbor Day Tree Planting
<b>May</b>	<b>3-7</b>	Teacher Appreciation Week!
<b>May</b>	<b>9</b>	Mother's Day!
<b>May</b>	<b>26</b>	Spring Program 9:30 a.m. and Fours' Graduation in the Fellowship Hall
<b>May</b>	<b>28</b>	Last Day of School for students
<b>May</b>	<b>31</b>	Memorial Day: school CLOSED
<b>June</b>	<b>1-2</b>	Teacher Workdays
<b>June</b>	<b>2</b>	End of Year Teacher Luncheon
<b>June</b>	<b>4</b>	Summer Learning Program Kick Off!
<b>June</b>	<b>7</b>	Summer Learning Program Begins
<b>June</b>	<b>14-18</b>	Science Camp 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
<b>June</b>	<b>20</b>	Father's Day!
<b>July</b>	<b>5</b>	Independence Day Observed: School CLOSED for all students & staff
<b>July</b>	<b>12-16</b>	Music Camp 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
<b>August</b>	<b>2-6</b>	Art Camp 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## Spiritual Enrichment for You and Your Preschooler

<https://childofgodwiththerevelizabethlink.podbean.com/> Pastor Elizabeth's podcast can also be accessed on the Church's website [www.spres.org](http://www.spres.org) and most podcast platforms.

### The Due Date for September Tuition Has Been Moved to July 1st!

Given the financial challenges many are facing due to circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Preschool Committee decided to move the September tuition due date from **May 1<sup>st</sup>** to **July 1<sup>st</sup>**. The Committee hopes that this additional time will help those preschool families experiencing financial hardship during these unprecedented times.

Of course, September payments are gladly accepted at any time. If you have questions, or concerns about your tuition payments, please contact Dr. Sally l'Anson at [sally@spres.org](mailto:sally@spres.org).

### New Enrollment Agreement

We will be sending out our new Enrollment Agreement form to families in mid-May. We will be emailing it to you and sending you a hard copy in the mail. Please sign, date and return it to the preschool immediately. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.



The absolute best preschool student recruiting tool is word of mouth. Parents sharing their positive experiences and love of Second Presbyterian Preschool with prospective parents is the most effective way to attract and retain students. Many of you have encouraged your friends, neighbors, and family to apply to our preschool. We thank you for your great PR!

Currently, we still a couple of spots available in the Infants and Twos+ classes. Our Threes classes (3 day and 5 day) have room for more friends! If you know a family looking for a preschool, please encourage them to contact the preschool asap while we still have spots open.



## We are Seeking a Few More GREAT Teachers

Second Presbyterian Preschool is a fantastic place to work. If you someone you know loves God, loves little children, loves teaching and has, or is working towards, a Bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field please encourage them to send their resume to [sally@spres.org](mailto:sally@spres.org).

This is a wonderful opportunity for individuals looking for a rewarding, part-time job that offers highly competitive pay, lots of paid holidays and vacation days and a work schedule that is aligned to the Roanoke City Public Schools calendar!

