

Second Presbyterian Preschool

Newsletter

October 2020



Hello Preschool Parents,

We made it through the first month of preschool together. All students and staff made it 4.5 weeks Covid19 free! Thank you for practicing safe social distancing, helping your preschooler wash their hands frequently, avoiding large crowds, and visiting and vacationing in areas with declining numbers of Covid19 cases. What your family does outside of school hours is critical to our continued healthy status!

While this is wonderful news, this is **NOT THE TIME** to reduce or relax how you are protecting your family from Covid-19. Please keep wearing your masks and washing your hands, and if you suspect you or your child have symptoms of the virus, get tested immediately!

Things That Make My Heart Sing

One morning this week I popped into a classroom in between early drop-off and the start of school. I began chatting with the Assistant Teacher who was sitting on the floor with the few children that were in the room. As we were talking, I noticed one of the students quietly walk over and gently rub her teacher's shoulder and arm. The student then moved on to go play elsewhere in the room.

This sweet gesture is just one example of the connections between our preschool children and their teachers. They share an unspoken fondness for each other that has developed in an atmosphere where children feel safe, cared for, and loved.

(Another) Pick Up Process Change 😊

Twos + (Busy Bees) for 12, 1, 2 pick-up times – please park your car and walk to the main church entrance to pick up your child. If you have an infant in your car at pick up time, please feel free to drive up to the entrance and pull through the portico to park along the sidewalk that runs along the front of the church. Your child's teacher will deliver him/her to you there.

Aftercare Pick Up for Twos+, Threes and Fours- please drive up to the playground to check if the children are outside. If they are outside, please park and pick your child up inside the playground. If it is pouring rain or dark the children will be inside, please pull around to the main church entrance, text Lori Privott (until 2:30) or, Emerald Pagans (until 5:30), and one of them will bring your child out to you.

Curriculum Corner

October is the best time for an initial screening of preschoolers. The children have gotten to know their teachers and settled into a routine making them ready for their screening assessment. Infants through Threes will be administered the *ASQ-3* and the Fours will be administered the *PALS-PreK*.

ASQ-3

The purpose of administering the ASQ tool is the early identification of children with developmental or behavior problems. The *Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ-3)* were administered last year with success. Just like last year, all students in the Infants, Ones, Twos, and Threes programs will be screening. Each questionnaire contains 30 developmental items. The items are organized into five areas: Communication, Gross Motor, Fine Motor, Problem Solving, and Personal-Social.

Questionnaires specific to each child's age are administered by the lead teacher within the classroom setting.

Your child's *ASQ-3* results will be shared with you during your Parent-Teacher conference. Please mark your calendar for the Parent Teacher Conferences on Monday October 26th and Tuesday October 27th from 1:30-5:00 each day. Your child's teacher will contact you to arrange your conference day and time.

PALS-PreK– Phonemic Awareness Literacy Screening

New this year, we will be administering the *PALS-PreK* to the Fours (Wise Owls) to measure their knowledge of important emergent literacy fundamentals including name writing, alphabet knowledge, beginning sound awareness, print, and word awareness, rhyme awareness, and nursery rhyme awareness. *PALS-PreK* is designed to provide a glimpse of developing literacy skills for four-year-old children.

Your child's *PALS-PreK* results will be shared with you during your Parent-Teacher conference. Please mark your calendar for Parent-Teacher Conferences on Monday, October 26th, and Tuesday, October 27th from 1:30-5:00 each day. Your child's teacher will contact you to schedule your conference day and time.

Fall Break

The preschool will be closed for all students and staff on **Monday, October 19th**. We hope you have a relaxing and fun long weekend.

Preschool Sunday

This year we are going to celebrate Preschool Sunday with a video depicting “A Day in Second Presbyterian Preschool.” The video will be a compilation of vignettes showing students playing, making art, engaging with toys and objects in the centers in their classrooms, learning in small groups, participating in Hallelujah Mountain with Pastor Elizabeth, and in Music with Mrs. Rodgers, and so much more. The video will be part of the live-streamed Second Presbyterian Church service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 25th. Following the Preschool Sunday service, we plan to post the video on our preschool website!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

We are looking forward to our Virtual Parent~Teacher Conferences with you later this month. Please mark your calendars for Monday or Tuesday afternoon, **between 1:30 and 5:00 on October 26th and 27th**. Your child’s teacher will reach out to schedule your virtual or phone conference.

Halloween Parade and Classroom Parties

You are cordially invited to watch the preschool children parade around the playground in their costumes (students are not required to wear a costume to participate) at **9:30 a.m. on Friday, October 30th**. Each class will walk two “laps” together on the interior playground sidewalk. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we will not be able to allow parents either onto the playground during the parade or into classrooms for the traditional Halloween parties. Parents are asked to remain on the sidewalk, outside the playground fence, during the parade.

Students will also enjoy their classroom Halloween party! Please coordinate with your child’s teacher about Tricks, Treats, or games.

Dressing Your Children Warmly

The leaves are starting to change, the days are getting shorter, and the temperature is falling. Your child will be outside enjoying a snack, playing, learning, and exploring whenever it is not pouring rain. Also, classroom windows are often open letting in the fresh breezes.

Please dress your child so they will be warm and comfortable in a cool environment. Pants, leggings or tights, long-sleeve shirts, and sweaters or sweatshirts all make good sense. Please send a set of fall/winter clothes for your child to keep at school in case of an accident or spill. Teachers will pop your child's summer togs in his/her backpack to go home. Don't forget to add mittens, hats, and warm coats to your shopping orders. Colder days are coming.

We Celebrate Birthdays Safely!

Your child is most welcome and encouraged to celebrate her/his birthday at school with their friends! We ask that parents send only pre-packaged, store-bought items to be shared with the class. This Covid19 protocol hurts a lot because we all love homemade things for our birthdays. Next year will be better.

What is a Zoffee?

Just yesterday, we held our first Zoffee and it was a huge success with 14+ participants. Zoffee is a made-up word formed by combining Coffee and Zoom Meeting. The Zoffee is our pandemic replacement for parents having coffee and conversation with the preschool director. The purpose of the Zoffee is to provide parents with different ways to be involved with the preschool without physically entering the building.

The Zoffee is also a relaxed setting where parents are encouraged to collaborate with each other and the director to discuss and plan zero to low-cost events and opportunities to make the preschool experience even more fun for children and parents. Zoffees will alternate between the **3rd Tuesday and 3rd Wednesday of each month**. Please join me at the next Zoffee scheduled from **9-10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 20th**.

Original Works!

The preschool teachers are in the process of helping your child to create a piece of artwork that is both original and personal. You will be able to view your student's artwork on-line, select one or more products imprinted with your child's artwork, pay for them on-line and have them shipped directly to your home in time for the holidays! These items make for wonderful keepsakes and gifts for family and friends. Please click on the following link to learn more about this creative fundraising program **Original Works** . Around October 18th look for a letter in your email inbox with directions on how to place your order and information about the deadline to submit orders.

Brothers and Sisters Born in September

Lydia Hatcher (Fours) has a new baby sister (Viola)

Patrick Winesett (Threes 3 Day) has a new baby brother (Cooper)

Henry Eschenbach (Twos 5 Day) has a new baby sister (Ellie)

We had Two Parents Volunteer to Substitute! Hooray and Thank You.

You too can help us by volunteering to serve as **an on-call, substitute teacher in your child's/children's classroom from 8:00-1:15. You will never be called to sub more than one day each month.** Teachers, like all of us, have doctor's appointments, funerals, family emergencies, travel, and other events that require them to take a day(s) off. All teachers will leave a great lesson plan for the substitute teacher to follow!

Seeking a Very Part-Time Webmaster/Media Specialist

The Preschool needs a person to manage our gorgeous new website. We are looking for someone who has the requisite technical skills to, at a minimum, add and remove documents, forms, and photographs to the website. The person must also be skilled at creating and posting messages on Facebook and other social media platforms. Hourly pay will be based on experience and expertise. We will likely need this person to work between 5-10 hours per month. Interested individuals should call or text me on my cell right away at (757) 535-4484.

Blessings,

Dr. Sally, Preschool Director