

Second Presbyterian Preschool

Newsletter

Mid-August 2020



Hello Again Wonderful Preschool Parents,

Wow, sorry to blast you with a mid-month newsletter in addition to my four emails in HiMama this week! Let's jump right in, shall we?

Back to School Meet and Greet

Children are much happier starting the school year when they have had the opportunity to see their classroom and meet their teachers. Like us, they can feel anxious and nervous starting a new routine and meeting new people. Given the necessary restrictions to keep everyone as safe as possible, we are changing things up a bit this year. This year we are starting **TENTTalks**. Teachers will meet families outside, under a canopy tent* (rain or shine) in the main parking lot for students on the ground floor and on the playground for students with classrooms on the second floor, in the fresh air, wearing our masks, and practicing safe social distancing. I hope this format will be a big hit and we can continue to use this **TENTTalks** to meet safely throughout the school year!

***Please let me know ASAP if you have a pop-up tent we can borrow or if you would like to donate a tent to the preschool. We need at least 5!**



I believe the using the **TENTTalk** method for our back to school, teacher meetings will allow the preschool to meet your child's need: to know what to expect on their first day of preschool, without exposing them to germs unnecessarily. Families will work with their Lead Teacher to schedule a time for their individual, 15 minute **TENTTalk**. After greeting you, answering any questions, and visiting with you and your child for a few minutes, the teacher will take your student, with their supplies, into their classroom to show them all of the exciting new things they can play with in there and acclimate them to the space. They may even enjoy washing their little hands inside!

We ask that parents remain under their classroom's tent until the teacher brings your child back out to you. If your child is struggling to go with their teacher, you may accompany him/her into the classroom. **Please remember, one of our top safety goals is to severely limit the number of adults entering the building.**

All adults must always wear a face mask , both inside and outside the preschool. It is not recommended for children under aged two and under to wear any type of face covering. Children over age 2, who can safely wear a mask, are encouraged to wear them. Please help your child practice wearing while a mask at home. Up to an hour a day is a great place to start!

How to make your **TENTTalk** the best it can be!

1. Prepare your child for this fun time at the preschool by repeatedly talking with them about what they will be doing with you at the preschool at the **TENTTalk** (meeting their teachers, delivering supplies, and seeing their new classroom).
2. Bring the following personal items (your child's teacher will contact you with a more detailed list):
 - a. Several changes of clothing and an extra pair of shoes, in a labeled Ziploc bag, to be kept in the classroom.
 - b. If your child stays for After Care 2, please bring in a couple of changes of clothing, a cover for their mat, their blanket and lovey. Please put these items in labeled Ziploc bags.
 - c. 2 (4x6) pictures of your child (if possible- 1 full body and 1 full face) and 1 (4x6) photo of your family
 - d. Sunscreen labeled with your child's name. A hat to protect them from the sun- labeled.
 - e. An extra face mask for your child (if they can wear a mask safely)
 - f. If your child is wearing diapers or toilet training: Diapers or Pull-Ups, Wipes, and an unopened diaper cream labeled with your child's name.
3. Bring the following paperwork *Forms are attached to the email.
 - a. If your student is new to the preschool (Hooray and Welcome!) please bring:
 - i. A copy of her/his Birth Certificate
 - ii. Current School Entrance Health Form (including updated Immunization Record)
 - iii. Proof of Previous Programs Form
 - iv. Signed Handbook Acknowledgement Form
 - b. If your student is returning to the preschool (Yippee and Welcome Back!) please bring:
 - i. Current School Entrance Health Form (including updated Immunization Record)
 - ii. Signed Handbook Acknowledgement Form.

Back to School Town Hall Meeting

Hopefully, you received my email containing the Zoom Meeting login information for our Back To School Town Hall Meeting scheduled for Monday August 24th at 6:30 p.m. To avoid a large, in-person gathering at the school this fall, I decided the safest, but not the BEST, way to communicate with you would be via a virtual meeting. We will get through this together! I selected a 6:30 meeting time hoping that you might be able to get the kids fed, and maybe rinsed 😊, and engaged in something riveting before the meeting but also, not too late to mess up their bedtime routines. The meeting will be recorded, and I will email it out to everyone to view at their leisure.

The purpose of this Town Hall meeting is to review the **NEW Family Handbook** with you and answer any questions you may have. The Family Handbook will be posted this Friday on the preschool website www.sprespreschool.com under the Information tab that can be accessed at the top of each page. It is also attached to this email. Please take time to review the **NEW Family Handbook** and possibly jot down your questions before the Town Hall meeting. Your questions are not limited to the handbook. I ask that you please use Zoom's chat function to enter your questions. I will answer questions in the order they come in. Please be sure your microphone is muted unless you are speaking and be aware if your video is on, we can all see you 😊!

Returning families will notice that the handbook has been greatly expanded and I expect there may be additional information you want added or, things you think should be excluded. New families may have cool suggestions for useful things they have seen in handbooks from their former preschool. This is a working document! My goal is to improve it every year. I encourage you to join me in making the handbook a truly useful resource for parents and, more importantly, one that meets your needs. Please send me your family's handbook suggestions at sally@spres.org.

2020 Supply Fee Change

The \$25.00 Supply fee has been increased to include a \$20.00 charge for COVID19 related supplies. Second Presbyterian Church continues to be hugely supportive of the preschool and has been generous in helping the preschool with its mounting expenses related to keeping the school open and disinfected! We are asking our preschool families to contribute to expenses related to the Coronavirus. Please be on the lookout for your Supply Fee invoice in your HiMama account.

Crowd Sourcing COVID19 Supplies

If we all work together, we can have all the supplies we will need this year to keep the school sparkling clean and sanitized! While you are out shopping, or ordering groceries online, please purchase a few cans of Lysol disinfecting spray, a couple of rolls of segmented paper towel, and a gallon of bleach. Please bring them to the preschool on or before August 24th. These items have been very difficult for me to locate and purchase in any quantity. You can drop off these supplies, wearing your mask, in four easy ways:

1. Ring the doorbell at the main church entrance and leave the supplies in between the two sets of sliding doors.
2. Ring the doorbell at the main Preschool entrance and leave them in the Preschool Foyer.
3. Send me a text at 757-535-4484 and I will meet you at the curb.
4. Bring supplies to your **TENTTalk**.



Choose Any Scent!



Choose Any Brand!



Choose Any Brand!

Preschool Enrichments: Protocols to Keep Kids Safe

Our Three and Four Year Old students love participating in the variety of enrichments the preschool offers! Enrichment activities give your child opportunities to explore and discover their athletic prowess in Soccer Shots, their inquisitive minds in Science Club, their physical expressions in Dance, and their musical gifts in Classical Corner. To learn more about these fun, student-centered activities go to www.sprespreschool.com and select Enrichments from the Information tab menu.

Please see below for a description of the COVID19 plan for each Enrichment class.

Soccer Shots: Monday and Tuesdays for 3s (3 day and 5 day) and 4s together

Soccer Shots will meet outside on the playground unless it is pouring rain, lightening, or snowing heavily. In those instances of severe weather soccer practice will be canceled. Please send your child with or wearing appropriate clothing for the weather. Their soccer coach will set up practice so that our student athletes are spaced apart for proper social distancing. Students masks are optional, and the coach will always wear a mask. . Cones, soccer balls and any other soccer equipment will be sanitized after each use. Students are expected to bring a preschool-sized, non-leaking water bottle to practice with them (in addition to the water bottle they use for snack and Lunch Bunch).

Science Club: Monday for 3s (3 day and 5 day), Tuesday for 4s

This year, Monday Science Club will take place in the 3 Day Threes classroom, and Tuesday Science Club will take place in the Fours classroom. All scientists will have their own marked "lab station" and their own personal set of materials. Any reusable materials will be sanitized after each session. We will go outside as often as possible. Students are encouraged to wear their mask, but it is not required. The teacher will always wear a mask. When not at our lab stations, we will use our "airplane arms" to maintain distance as we have fun investigating the wonderful world around us!

Dance: Wednesday for 3s (3 day and 5 day) and 4s together

The dance floor will be marked, and children will be expected to do their best to dance in their marked spaces to allow for proper social distancing. Students are welcome to wear masks during dance class, but they are not required. There will not be contact in choreography and props will be used sparingly and disinfected after each use. After Lunch Bunch, children participating in Dance will exit their regular classrooms through their specified door and be walked by their teacher to another exterior door that will be used exclusively by the dance class to travel to and from their

dance classroom on the 3rd floor of the church. Dance class students should be picked up at Exterior Door #16 located to the left of the main church entrance.

[Classical Corner: Thursday for 3s and 4s together](#)

Children participating in Classical Corner will use the bathroom and wash their hands just prior to being picked up and taken to the preschool music room on the 3rd floor of the church. This will be the only class to meet in the music room while COVID-19 protocols are in place. Just like in the regular classroom, students are encouraged to wear a mask if they can wear it safely.

Students will be spaced out to allow for proper social distancing while seated on the music rug as well as when seated at the tables for crafts. Each student will have their own bag of crayons to use each week. Tables and manipulatives will be sanitized after each class.

Instruments will be cleaned before class, if used in the regular classroom, and after class following guidelines for cleaning instruments provided by Musikgarten and West Music.

Thank you for taking the time to read this mid-August newsletter. You can always reach me at sally@spres.org, the preschool office (540) 342-6405 ext. 1, or on my cell phone (757)535-4484.

See you in a few weeks!

Faithfully,

Sally I'Anson