

# Second Presbyterian Preschool

## Newsletter

December 2020



Happy Holidays Preschool Parents,

This is truly a wonderful time of the year for our preschoolers. They will spend the next three weeks learning about the birth of Jesus and the true meaning of this Holy season of Advent. The children will continue to learn new skills through play and instructional activities including:

- making Christmas tree ornaments and decorating their classroom's and the preschool's Christmas trees
- singing Christmas songs
- creating Christmas keepsakes for their families
- listening to and looking at Christmas books

We have planned to make preschool a truly joyous Christmas experience for your preschoolers. At the same time, the staff and I are aware that the pandemic has negatively impacted our community, state, and nation and some of our students may be struggling with how this Christmas is different for them and their families. They may be experiencing the loss of a loved one, or missing family traditions such as spending time with grandparents, cousins, and special friends.

The teachers and I are committed to providing all our students with the care and attention they need during this holiday season and throughout the school year. **If your child is having a hard time during this holiday season, or is just having a bad day, please let their teacher or me know so we can give him/her some extra special attention.** If your family is struggling and needs assistance this season, please let me know and we can go together to seek help from the church.

### Wise Owls Lead Food Drive for the Presbyterian Community Center

Trish Taylor, Lead Teacher in the Fours Program, helped her students organize a food drive for the Presbyterian Community Center. Quickly the rest of the Preschool teachers and students wanted to join their school mates in this act of kindness and community service. Ultimately, each classroom donated specific food items. Infants and Ones classes donated peanut butter, Young Twos donated cereal, Twos+ donated canned fruits and vegetables and crackers, Threes donated pasta, and Fours donated canned meals and canned meat.

As you can see in the photos, the Wise Owls collected the donations from each of the classrooms, built a tower with cereal boxes then loaded it all into Mrs. Taylor's car for delivery to the Presbyterian Community Center. It was a massive load of food that the PCC was thrilled to receive as donations are down significantly this year. Thank you to all who donated to this worthy cause.



### **Aftercare Volunteer Ellie Roberson Collects Fleece Throws for the Elderly**

Ellie is a high school senior who volunteers in our aftercare program. Ellie and her mom are collecting NEW fleece throws for the League on Aging (LOA). LOA is the group that also serves Meals on Wheels for seniors throughout Roanoke. During the winter, elderly citizens living on a fixed income tend to keep their heat set lower than is comfortable for them to save money on their heating bills. Your donation of a new fleece throw will help seniors to stay warmer during the cold, winter months. Ellie will be delivering our donated throws on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Preschool Committee Honored Teachers with Thanksgiving Pies

Much to the delight of the preschool staff, the Preschool Committee purchased them pumpkin, apple, pecan, blueberry, and cherry pies from local bakery, *Our Daily Bread*. Thank you to our thoughtful and kind preschool leaders.

**Chairperson:** Christal Pearson

**Church Liaison and Pastor for Christian Education:** Elizabeth Link (non-voting)

**Committee Members:** Lauren Eels, Jessica Kilby, Andrew Murray, Cayce Myers, Jessica Tims

Look for preschool committee member pictures, brief biographies, and contact information on the preschool website later this month!

## Need an hour for holiday shopping, to run errands or, just take a break?

Consider having your preschooler stay for Lunch Bunch from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Please let your teacher know if your child will stay to enjoy lunch with their teachers and classmates. Lunch Bunch is not only a fun experience for your child, but it is also a way for her/him to practice using their manners and engaging in appropriate table conversation. Please see the chart below for monthly fees.

Lunch Bunch	Infants \$8/hour	One & Twos \$6/hour	Threes & Fours \$5/hour
Five Days	160	120	100
Four Days	128	96	80
Three Days	96	72	60
Two Days	64	48	40
One day	32	24	20
Drop In	\$10/day	\$10/day	\$10/day

**Most Drop Ins for After Care can also be accommodated!**

## Enrichments

### Soccer Shots Update

Soccer Shots practices will continue to be held outside throughout the winter months. Your three and four- year-olds will breathe the fresh, cool winter air into their little lungs as they gain soccer skills

including teamwork and listening to their coach. Coach Kyle moved back to his home state of California last month and Coach Alex is back! If you are interested in enrolling your child in Soccer Shots, please let me know. Fours practice on Mondays and Threes practice on Tuesdays. The monthly fee for Soccer Shots is \$45.00.

### Science Club for Threes

If you have a Honey Bear showing interest in science, technology, engineering, or math, please consider having them join their friends and Mrs. Wheeler in Science Club on Monday afternoons. Monday Science Club is held in the 3-Day Threes classroom, gym or outside. Pick-up is at the Main Preschool Door at 2:00 p.m. Students staying for Science Club should also stay for Lunch Bunch on Mondays. If you would like to have your child try out Science Club for one afternoon to see if they like it, please let me know!

### Classical Corner Music Starting Up Again

Mrs. Rodgers is ready to enroll students in her Thursday music enrichment class starting in January. If you have a student who is either a Honey Bear or a Wise Owl, please consider enrolling them in this fun music class on Thursday afternoons! This class will be held in the music room upstairs in the church and pick-up will be at the church's main doors. Students staying for Classical Corner should also stay for Lunch Bunch on Thursdays. If you would like to have your child try out Classical Corner for one afternoon to see if they like it, please let me know!

## Parent Group

Several parents have expressed to me how much they miss being more of an integral part of daily life at the preschool. Our Covid19 protocols have eliminated parents' opportunities to connect with each other and school staff inside the building during drop off and pick up, during classroom parties, and attending student performances and other fun preschool events together. I recognize this unmet need for a united preschool community for our families and know it is even more important than ever for people to feel connected.

My first attempt at finding a way to bring our preschool community closer together during the pandemic was to host two Zoffees that evolved into an unofficial Parent Committee for decorating the playground for Halloween and sending Thankful Messages to each teacher. Any parent can join and a Preschool Committee member plans to coordinate the group so that information gets passed along to the Committee as needed. I will also attend the Parent Group to ask questions, answer questions, and provide input and ideas.

Our Parent Group will serve as a place for parents to work together to enhance the preschool. For example, parents may want to create dedicated events for children and families. I am thankful to have supportive parents who have expressed their desire to be more involved in our Preschool. We welcome your ideas and share your enthusiasm for building a stronger preschool community despite the challenges presented by the pandemic.

Look for more information on the Parent Group coming to you via HiMama in January 2021!

The preschool raised \$402 dollars from your orders of Original Works! Thank you for your purchases. I am very interested in your feedback on this fundraiser.

### **Prevent Cold Ears and Chapped Hands**

Please continue to remember to send a hat and mittens (connected to each other or your child's coat) to keep your child's head and hands warm while they are enjoying the sun and fun outside.

Blessings,

Dr. Sally, Preschool Director



I hope this silly hat makes you laugh!