

Second Presbyterian Preschool

Newsletter

January 2021



Dear Second Presbyterian Preschool Parents,

In the weeks leading up to the end of the year, I felt great anticipation for Friday, January 1, 2021. It was as if my heart believed once this day arrived all would be new, and life would return to the way things used to be. I find it interesting how our hearts lead us into ways of thinking that are hopeful and light-filled.

Our longing to be together and return to physical closeness is natural and powerful. This is quite evident in working with preschoolers and their teachers. Young children love to be with each other, to explore and learn new songs, hear wonderful stories, and play fun games together. Their faces simply light up when they see their classmates and teachers. I am grateful for God's grace and the many blessings he has heaped on the preschool that have allowed us to remain open during the pandemic.

Watching the countdown on tv and seeing glimpses of the people in a few foreign countries ringing in the New Year without masks and in large groups seemed odd and surreal. Yet, seeing them fueled the spark of hope that America may be able to safely do the same next New Year's Eve!

Staying hopeful and optimistic during these trying times can be challenging. For me, focusing on what God provides helps me immensely. Below is my list of blessings I keep close at hand to stay in touch with all the wonder and joy at our preschool. I encourage you to make a similar list and keep it in your wallet or on your phone to give you strength and peace when life events dampen your spirit.

Dr. Sally's List of Preschool Blessings

1. Brilliant, creative, patient, nurturing, compassionate, and kind **teaching staff**
2. Curious, passionate, determined, loving, and funny **preschoolers**
3. Supportive, involved, and communicative **parent partners**
4. Leadership, guidance, and encouragement from the **Preschool Committee**
5. **Second Presbyterian Church's** deep commitment to the preschool
6. A preschool **environment that is clean and sanitized** for children and teachers
7. **Materials and resources** to create exceptional learning activities
8. Coffee and chocolate (just kidding, maybe not...)

2021-2022 PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT BEGINS THIS WEEK!

The Registration Flyer and Registration Form are attached. Please remember January 4-8 is **YOUR WEEK TO REGISTER!** Consider setting an alarm on your phone for Friday morning to remind you!

Have you ever wondered why our tuition rates look wonky?

Over several years, our monthly tuition rates were modified by a cost of living formula which the preschool is no longer using. In December, the Preschool Committee determined it was time to clean up those numbers, so they make sense. You will see these small changes (avg. <\$5) reflected in the 2021-2022 tuition amounts.

As you likely are aware, the Virginia legislature voted to incrementally increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour by 2022. Our talented preschool teachers, who devote their lives to ensuring your children have the best preschool experience possible, deserve to be paid this and more. To help offset these incremental increases, the 2021-2022 tuition for the 3s and 4s classes increased 10%. Please see the 2021-2022 tuition rates below. These will also be posted on the preschool website.

The Preschool Committee and I recognize that our preschool families have experienced some degree of economic impact due to the pandemic, therefore Enrichment, Before and Aftercare, Registration, and Student Supply and COVID-19 fees will remain the same for 2021-2022.

2021-2022 Monthly Tuition	9:00- 12:00
Five Day Infants	\$425
Four Day Infants	350
Three Day Infants	275
Two Day Infants	200
Five Day Ones	375
Four Day Ones	300
Three Day Ones	250
Two Day Ones	175
Five Day Twos	325
Four Day Twos	250
Three Day Twos	225
Two Day Twos	150
Five Day Threes	300
Three Day Threes	225
Five Day Fours	300

NEW SPECTACULAR SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Last summer the church approved the preschool's transition from a 9-month calendar to a Year-Round calendar! For our pilot summer, they approved 11 weeks of summer programming for Infants, Ones, and Young Twos. The Summer Programming Enrollment Period for current students in these classes begins the first week of February. You will receive friendly reminders as we get closer.

If you are interested in keeping your child at the preschool this summer, please observe the registration deadline (February 5th) and register early. I anticipate the spots will go quickly.

Recently, I sent parents of students of rising 3s, 4s, and kindergarteners a survey to gauge their interest in summer programming. If you did not receive the survey, please send me a quick email to sally@spres.org or send me a message in HiMama and I will send you the survey right away. If you received the survey but have not had the time to complete the survey, please do so immediately - even if your child will not attend any summer programming.

I am hopeful that we will have enough interest to offer several weeks of summer programming for our rising 3s, 4s, and kindergarten kiddos.

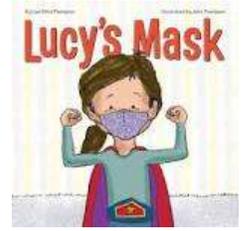
Current COVID-19 constraints require summer classes to be limited in size. I remain stubbornly optimistic that continued social-distancing, staying home, avoiding gatherings, frequent handwashing, and wearing masks will allow us to offer, SPECTACULAR summer experiences for ALL our preschoolers.

I am still working on the **Spectacular Summer Programming (SPP)** budget and will let you know the cost per week/per class as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience while we get this mapped out.

Summer programs will look different than the regular school year. Students will enjoy extended time to engage in exciting learning activities so they can deeply explore new concepts and ideas. They will also be engaged in a multitude of fun opportunities to practice their existing and emerging verbal, social, intellectual, gross motor, and fine motor skills, among others. Children will spend extended time outside to interact with nature and their friends. These are a few of the basics you can expect at SPP:

- 11 Themed Weeks (June 7 – Aug 20)
- Traditional and new “camps” led by SPRES Preschool Teachers
- Parents able to select specific weeks
- Seamless integration for students attending SPRES Vacation Bible School
- SPP Hours 9-1 *Children will bring a snack and lunch.
- Early Drop-Off 8-9 and Aftercare 1-5:30 available
- Student age groups will be separated and socially-distanced whenever possible
- Lots of outdoor time, water play, and FUN

New DSS Covid-19 Regulations



On 12/30 I received a letter from the Virginia Department of Social Services detailing three important updates.

1. Face Coverings

- a. “Children age **two** through four are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings while indoors and outdoors, especially if children are in close contact.”
- b. **This IS a change for SPRES.** Starting on Monday, the Twos teachers will strongly encourage students to wear their masks while at preschool. Teachers in our 3s and 4s classes will continue to strongly encourage students to wear their masks.
- c. Every preschool student age two through four can learn to comfortably wear a mask and should wear her/his mask every day for the entire time they are at the preschool (excluding scheduled, short mask breaks outdoors, snack and lunchtimes, and during nap time). Please send your child to school daily with a clean mask on and an extra in their backpack.
- d. If your child is unaccustomed to wearing a mask while at the preschool, we will need your on-going support and commitment to help your child adjust to this new expectation. Teachers will continue to read books about masks to their students and consistently remind their students to keep their masks on and wear them covering their nose and mouth. Students will also continue to practice how to safely remove and replace their masks to eat snack and lunch and to take mask breaks.
- e. If you have questions about your child wearing a face covering, please contact me.

2. Social Gatherings and Program Events

- a. “All childcare program events and extracurricular activities held at the program must be limited to a maximum attendance of 10 individuals. This maximum number does not apply to classroom sizes of children in care.”
- b. **This is NOT a substantive change for SPRES** because we canceled all program events for the school year and our Enrichment classes do not exceed 10 individuals.

3. COVID-19 Symptoms and Quarantine Guidelines

- a. “VDSS recommends children and staff with close contact with others who are known to have COVID-19 be excluded from the childcare facility for at least **10 days** or until criteria for ending quarantine have been met.”
- b. **This IS a change for SPRES.** The preschool has required a 14 day quarantine period. Effective immediately, the quarantine period has been reduced to 10 days.

The SPRES Preschool COVID-19 Task Force studies all guidance as it becomes available and continues to keep me and the Preschool Committee informed to ensure our preschool policies and procedures continue to meet or exceed the evolving recommendations issued by the CDC, VDH, and DSS.

We are anxiously awaiting information regarding access to the vaccine for our teachers.

Please use these links to access updated COVID-19 information.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

<https://www.dss.virginia.gov/cc/covid-19.html>

<https://childcare.gov/covid-19>

Donations

Several grandparents and parents made financial gifts in honor of their preschooler this holiday season. We are thankful for their kindness and generosity. If you or someone you know is interested in donating to the preschool, look for the *Donate Now* button that will soon be posted on the preschool website. Donation checks are always gratefully accepted in the preschool office.

Check out the new Washer Dryer playset donated to the preschool by Cayce (PS Committee) and Anne Myers (Cayce Anne - Threes 5 day) The preschool classes will share this fun addition to their dramatic play learning centers! Consider asking your preschooler to help you out with the family laundry. They are great sorters.

