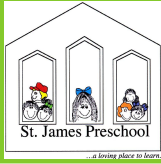


st. james preschool

NOVEMBER
2011



Communicating

Sue Hardrath, Director

"Our words have enormous power: to wage war or bring peace; to change an individual-or an era-for better or for worse. Yet we enter life knowing none, understanding none."
- Ellen Galinsky

The chapter on the third essential skill, communicating, was one of the most fascinating in Mind in the Making. It is clear that long before children can say words or join them into sentences, they are active language learners, and there was so much new to learn about how and when language develops. The research is amazing. From the start, infants pay close attention to language, and in the first year of life, they can distinguish all of the speech sounds that occur in natural language before they even begin to specialize in the sounds of their home language. Through their first six months, infants grow from simply responding to language to attempting to imitate sounds, to exchanging sounds with adults, to listening to conversation. They learn language not just through our speech, but also through the tone of voice, facial expressions, and gestures we use when we are communicating with them. All of these things facilitate their ability to hone in on our emotions and figure out what we think is important. Once they reach the age of two, both understanding language and speaking begin developing very rapidly. The use of language becomes more complex, and it continues to grow exponentially through childhood.

Though humans have great capacity for language, that does not necessarily translate into a good command of language for all. We have heard college professors decry students' poor written communication skills, and similar complaints have arisen

from the workplace. Ms. Galinsky refers to a survey her organization conducted with employers in which they were asked to name the most important skills and competencies they look for in new hires that often fall below expectations. The two named most were spoken and written communication.

The point is that having good communication skills requires more than exposure to communication. We must be taught to be effective communicators. As parents you can help by making words, reading and listening important in your household. Talk to your children from birth paying particular attention to your voice tone, facial expressions and gestures. As children move into their preschool years, use more sophisticated language with them. Require them to expand on what they are saying, using phrases like "what if" and "what do you think." Talk with your children about things that interest them. Read to and with your children - books provide a means for focused communication. Promote writing. Even before children know how to write, they can make the connection between spoken and written language. Write down what they say and encourage their attempts at letter making. Select early childhood programs where communication skills are emphasized and where teachers use complex language. Finally, remember that the arts - music, art, dance - are forms of communication, and children should have opportunities to be exposed to and participate in them.

Children who learn to comprehend, read, and speak language become masters at communicating. It takes time and effort on our part, but it is a powerful gift to give.



Giving Thanks at St. James Preschool

At St. James Preschool we have much to be thankful for. A forward-thinking and knowledgeable staff. Loving, supportive teachers. Actively involved families. And the adorable children we all strive to inspire every day. So a warm "thank you" to the wonderful community that makes St. James a truly special place. Have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving!

table of contents:

Parents Club	2
Scholastic Book Fair	3
St. James UMC Events	3
Preschool Calendars	4

2011- 2012 Parents Club Update

A HUGE thank you to all families who have donated to the Parents Club Annual Drive. We are thrilled to report that 102 families contributed this year and we raised over \$19,000 for our preschool. As you may remember, the Parents Club Annual Drive provides improvements to the preschool that are not covered by tuition. Past projects include the covered walkway into the school, the playground and the library renovation. This year, funds donated will be used to make IT improvements and send teachers to continuing education classes.

It's not too late! If you missed the deadline to donate, we will gladly accept the donation in the preschool office. All contributions are tax deductible.

Thanks again to all our wonderful families for your generosity!

From Our Music Teachers...



We are so blessed at St. James pre-school.

One very important facet of those many blessings is our music program. Did you know that every child at St. James is involved in a music class each week of the school year? We start off the week with Monday chapel. Our music teachers lead us in inspirational songs to help us through the week. Jennifer Christie teaches pre-k with June Abbott and also has class with all the 3 year olds and 2 two year old classes on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. June Abbott team teaches the pre-k children with Jennifer on Mondays and teaches the babies, toddlers, young 2s and Ms. Luisa's regular 2s on Thursday and Friday. Each class is 20 minutes and it goes by so quickly!

We do a lot of singing and creative movement in our program. Singing and moving to music give the children a chance to hear and appreciate different kinds of music, express themselves through their movement, and practice new skills. The children love to sing, dance, act out poetry or chants, enjoy music from different cultures, explore instruments, listen for specific sounds, and generally learn to cooperate in a group.

We feel so lucky to see all the smiles that music brings into the classroom. It gives the children a chance grow in creativity, and explore the wonderful world that music offers each of us at his/her own level.

We look forward to a fun filled musical year.

Jennifer Christie
June Abbott

Our School Rules

If you have looked around your child's classroom recently, you may have noticed a colorful new poster entitled, "Our School Rules." St. James has always had rules for the children while they are in school, and the rules on our poster reflect those we have always used.

However, as a result of a continuing education class that some of our teachers attended over the summer, we have put the rules in a format that is consistent throughout all our classes.

Teachers who did not attend the summer training received training on the use and implementation of this system, and the posters were made to be a visible reminder in all the classrooms of the rules.

Rules are color coded as a way to cue children, and there is also a song sung to the tune of "Wheels on the Bus" to help children remember the rules.

School rules are important because they help us maintain a safe environment and curtail discipline problems. By having the same rules in the same format across the school, we give our children a clear and consistent message about our expectations for their behavior.

Our 5 school rules include:

- The purple rule – Listen well
- The green rule – Walking feet
- The blue rule – Inside voice
- The red rule – Hands to ourselves
- The golden rule – Be kind to others

Congratulations!!

We want to congratulate Jennifer Christie on her recent engagement! Jennifer and her fiancé, Jamie Hanna, are planning a summer wedding.

St. James UMC November Events

St. James United Methodist Church offers many opportunities for kids and families of the preschool and community to get involved and have fun:

Wednesday Night Supper Programs

Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. Programs start at 6:30 p.m.

November 2: Come and join us for fall fellowship on S'mores Night! After Wednesday Night Supper, we will be making s'mores at each table.

November 9: M&M's for the Troops! Back by popular demand for the third year we will be collecting tasty M&M's to be shipped to and distributed by our member on the ground in Iraq, Dick Jarrell.

November 16: Children's Thanksgiving choir program, 6:30 pm.

Holiday Events

November 27: Save the date for our FAMILY ADVENT WREATH MAKING CLASS AND LUNCHEON. Get in the holiday spirit as your family creates a beautiful Advent wreath to use (along with our devotion booklet) during the Christmas season. Look for the registration forms outside of the church office by November 1st.

December 10: Don't miss registering your child for our annual Countdown to Christmas! This year the ever so popular event will take place on Saturday, December 10th from 9:30 - 12:30 pm. Children (ages 3 years old through 4th grade) will travel around the church on a journey to find the true meaning of Christmas. Along the way they enjoy crafts, music, cookie decorating, and a dramatization of the Christmas story. Fifth and sixth graders assist during the event as our "Christmas Elves." Look for registration forms outside of the church office by November 29th.

Scholastic Book Fair will be "Out of this World!"

Visit the Scholastic Book Fair at St. James Preschool:

Tuesday, November 29 - Friday, December 2

8:50 am to 9:20 am and 11:45 am to 12:15 pm

PLUS evening hours from 5 pm - 7 pm on Wednesday, November 30

Every book purchased at the Book Fair earns Scholastic Book credits for the Preschool. These credits are then used to purchase new and replacement books for our Children's Library and classrooms. You will also have the opportunity to purchase books from the Teacher's Wish Lists.

We will be collecting spare change during the Book Fair to purchase additional books.

If you would like to volunteer for the Book Fair, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Diane Jarrell at djarrell@graytonbeach.net This is a wonderful opportunity to volunteer and "shop" for books.

Miss Library Recommends ...



For Children:

In November I like to read "Please Say Please Penguin's Guide to Manners." It is fun and silly - and a great way to talk about manners and behaving at the Thanksgiving table!

For Moms & Dads:

Beth Ford got me hooked into a series called "Maisy Dobbs" (the name of the first book). Beware - you might not stop until you have read all 8 books!

Looking for Some Drama?

Preschool Creative Dramatics Workshop

Give your little performer a chance to explore, create, and play while school is out with these Creative Dramatics workshops led by Forefront Arts. Students will develop their confidence and creativity by exploring physical choices and unique ways to express themselves while acting out characters and story lines from children's books and fairy tales. Fun theatre games, music, and activities will help students learn to express themselves artistically while working as a team and having fun! A short performance at the end of each day will give every mini performer a chance to shine!

Monday, November 7th & Tuesday, November 8th
9am-1pm

Registration open to preschool students

\$40/day or \$70 for both days

REGISTER TODAY:
www.forefrontarts.com/workshops

november 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Fall Conferences (Y3s, 3s & PreK) NO SCHOOL	8 Election Day NO SCHOOL	9	10 School Pictures (T/Th classes)	11 School Pictures (M/W/F classes)	12
13	14 Speech, Language & Hearing Test (3s and older)	15	16 Staff Meeting No Lunch Bunch	17	18 The Reptile Show 10 AM	19
20	21	22	23 THANKSGIVING NO SCHOOL	24 THANKSGIVING NO SCHOOL	25 THANKSGIVING NO SCHOOL	26
27	28	29 Scholastic Book Fair	30 Scholastic Book Fair	Dec 1 Scholastic Book Fair	2 Scholastic Book Fair	

Registration Materials: 2012 - 2013!

Be on the lookout for your 2012 - 2013 registration materials. They will be sent home in your child's backpack the first week in December.

If you have friends or family who aren't enrolled at St. James yet but are interested in having their children attend next year, please let them know registration packets will be available in the preschool office the first week of December.

Take Note:

Don't Forget to Check Backpacks!

St. James Preschool is a happening place with lots of fun activities for our little ones. We send communication about preschool and class events in your child's backpack, so please make sure you check your child's bag regularly. We don't want you to miss a thing!

Salvation Army Angel Tree

The Salvation Army Angel Tree will be at St. James UMC again this year. Please consider being an angel for a child in need. The Angel Tree will be set up by Monday, November 7th. Gifts are due back at the church by Sunday, November 27th.

plan
ahead!

december

- 1 - 2 Scholastic Book Fair
- 9 Christmas Fairy Godmother, 10:00 am
Staff Christmas Party, No Lunch Bunch
- 13 - 14 Class Christmas Parties, 11:30 am
- 15 - Jan 2 SCHOOL CLOSED for Christmas Break