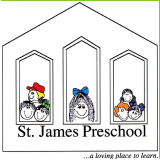


st. james preschool

SEPTEMBER
2010



Parents Make A Difference

Sue Hardrath, Director

As happens every year, the summer at St. James Preschool is about making sure that everything is in place for a wonderful preschool year. While that is largely an administrative function, others are also involved in the preparation. The preschool board holds its annual planning meeting to review comments and implement suggestions from the parent survey as part of our continuous improvement philosophy. Teachers use some of their time away to participate in continuing education and to review their curriculum and lesson plans. And, of course, all of us take some time to refresh and build momentum for a new school year.

As we begin the 40th year of St. James Preschool, celebrating the return of our children, we are eager, too, to share our year with our parents because, as research findings consistently show, it makes a difference when parents are involved over the life of their child's education. The earlier parent involvement begins in a child's educational process, the more powerful the effects. Whether it is asking your child the question, "How was school, today?" or taking an active role in the life of the school, what matters is your child senses that school life is important to you.

When parents are invested in their children's education at home, the children perform better academically. Additionally, when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school, and the schools their children attend are better.

The family makes critical contributions to student achievement from preschool through high school. A home environment that values and encourages learning is more important to student achievement than income, educational level or cultural background.

Reading achievement is more dependent on learning activities in the home than is math or science, and the single most

important activity that parents can do to increase their children's chance of reading success is reading aloud to them and talking about books.

We encourage and are proud of the parental involvement at St. James Preschool. We see it in so many different ways. First and foremost is attendance at preschool functions and activities – parent orientation, open house, parent-teacher conferences, spring carnival, and activities in the classroom. Secondly, is being a part of the life of St. James – from serving on the board or chairing a committee to being a room parent, serving as a parent reader or baking party treats. There are opportunities to be a little involved or a lot involved. The level of involvement is not as important as the consistency of involvement. Whatever the level, keep it up throughout your child's educational life, and the next time you ask your child about her day or participate in a school-wide event, know that you are sending a message to your child and to your child's school that you value the relationship enough to be a part of it. Know, in return, that we value each of you and the contributions you make to this program. We are grateful for your support, your care and your investment in our precious children.

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**DON'T
MISS IT!**

St. James Consignment Sale!

If you've never been before, you're in for a real treat! The St. James Consignment Sale is September 17 and 18. If you're interested in being a seller, visit stjamesatlanta.org to download a Consignor Registration Form. And tell EVERYONE you know about the dates to come and shop!

Our preschool family continues to grow:

A Warm Welcome to Five New Teachers

One can't say enough about the fabulous teachers at St. James. And the same is true of the five wonderful ladies who've recently joined our preschool family.

Angela Dryden - 5day3s
Graduate of Metropolitan State College of Denver. Experienced preschool teacher and nanny.

Peyton Gore - 3-day Young 2s
Graduate of LSU. Experienced nanny.

Whitney Gregory - PreK
Graduate of Vanderbilt University. A preschool parent who has been an active board member and volunteer, is a church member, and has been a substitute teacher in the preschool.

Kristi Holmes - 5-day Young 2s
Graduate of Georgia Tech. Former elementary school support teacher, music teacher and art teacher. Also a former St. James Parent!

Sarah Wofford - 5-day Young 3s
Graduate of Gordon College in Massachusetts with a Master's in Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary. Former assistant preschool teacher and nanny.

Where & How to Make Contributions

You can make donations to the Parents Club by submitting a membership form (available in the preschool office) and your tax-deductible donation to the preschool office before October 29, 2010.

Dear St. James Preschool Family,

On behalf of the St. James Parents Club, we would like to welcome all of the new families and welcome back our returning families. Back-to-school is such an exciting time – new friends, new experiences and a new opportunity to help our children become the best people they can be.

For those of you who are new to the school, we want to make sure you know about the Parents Club and the wonderful things that are made possible through it. The club was formed so that parents' voices could be heard and also to give back to the preschool and our children. Each year, we hold an annual drive to raise money for important initiatives we are undertaking, which are not covered by tuition.

Last year we were able to send 12 teachers to continuing education and make an annual contribution to the Caroline Reese Lewis Foundation. But the largest and most visible project was the complete renovation of our outdoor play space. We took the preschool mission and philosophy and brought them to life through the amazing design of the new playground.

This year, our plan is to do the same thing with the Children's Library. We want the space to be a state-of-the-art learning center, where our children can explore, discover, learn, and get the most out of their library experience. The design of the space is still under development, but it will have new shelves, new books, new floors, new paint, and new reading areas – in addition to whatever else our expert consultants deem necessary.

Please help us make this goal a reality by supporting the St. James Annual Parents Club Drive. The club offers several membership levels and exciting new benefits that go along with each. You will be receiving a letter in your child's backpack in early September. Thanks so much for your support!

Sincerely,

Robin and Mike Ortale
Carter and Jimbo Price
Co-Chairs, 2010 Annual Parents Club Drive

New Parents Club Membership Levels

- ★ **\$0 to \$49 : Basic Membership**
- ★ **\$50 to \$99 : One-Star Membership**
St. James Preschool t-shirt for each enrolled child
- ★ **\$100 to \$249 : Two-Star Membership**
All One-Star benefits PLUS a book donated to the library in your family's name
- ★ **\$250 to \$399 : Three-Star Membership**
All Two-Star benefits PLUS a special event for your children - "Mrs. Library" will take the children on an adventure through one of her favorite books; lunch will be provided (noon to 1:30 p.m. - date to be announced)
- ★ **\$400 to \$549 : Four-Star Membership**
All Three-Star benefits PLUS a pajama, pizza and movie party for your children (date to be announced)
- ★ **\$550 and above : Five-Star Membership**
All Four-Star benefits PLUS a Patron Party to be hosted by the Preschool Board in the Fall

Staff Spotlight:

Sallie Duncan, aka "Miss Library," in her own words ...

I am married to Kirk Duncan, and we have two kids: Maggie is 13 and an 8th grader at Ridgeview Charter School; Peter is 11 and a 5th grader at High Point. When they attended St. James, Maggie had Ms. June and Ms. McBride, Peter had Ms. Ada, Mrs. Cartwright and Ms. McElveen. When I'm not at school, I am driving (to football, soccer, baseball, cross country, girl scouts, basketball, music concerts ...) and volunteering for the PTA of both schools. We also have a mystery terrier named Tina (like Tina Turner because she sings!), who we adopted from the Humane Society two years ago.

I was born and raised outside of San Francisco in Marin County. I earned a degree in political science and economics from University of Arizona. I came to Atlanta for a job more than 20 years ago and never left. My father was born and raised in Macon, so I have relatives all over Georgia.

Before children I worked as an actress in Atlanta, doing stage (children's theatre), television, movies and training videos. I recently auditioned for a role in Tyler Perry's latest movie – but did not get it. I'm not sure I have the time to pursue it full time again, but I'd like to do a few things. I have an agent again, so we'll see ... My husband's family owns a resort in Northern Michigan on Lake Michigan that we run in the summertime. Every Wednesday during the year, I sing to retirement homes with a group called "The Peach Pipes" (through the Junior League). On September 14, you can come see us sing at the Braves game!

Of course I love to read. I've read many of the books in "Mom's Corner." I also love to travel. This past May I took my daughter to Paris, and I hope to take my son to China in the next year or so to climb the Great Wall.

When the librarian position came up at St. James preschool, I knew I had to take it! Not only do I love to read; I love to read to children. My favorite sound in the whole world is the sound of children laughing. This job lets me "act" in the library! (Sometimes I think I have more fun than the kids!). I love to try to bring the books alive, either by using different voices or by dressing up as a character in the book. Sometimes the kids even act the book out with me. My goal is to make their library time a fun and memorable experience. Hopefully it will instill a lifelong love of reading and of libraries.

St. James UMC Offers After-School Enrichment Activities

Elizabeth Johnson has put together another great selection of after-school enrichment activities for our preschoolers. All of the registration materials and activity descriptions can be found at stjamesatlanta.org; a list is provided below. Please register by the designated deadlines. It ensures your child a spot, allows St. James to provide the appropriate number of instructors, and ensures you avoid any late fees or delays in getting your child started. If you have any questions about individual activities or need help with registration, please contact Elizabeth at ejohnson@stjamesatlanta.org.

Ballet Valet
Capoeira for Kids!
Come and Play for One More Day
Creative Movement and Dance

Indoor Tennis
Kindermusik ABC Music and Me
"Sense"ational Science
Sports 101

Mrs. Library Recommends ...



A great children's book for the start of school for both parents and kids is "The Kissing Hand" by Audrey Penn. It is a sweet story about a little raccoon and the first day of school.

MOMS: Visit our Mom's Reading Corner in the children's library, where you can check out books any time. And make room on your bookshelves at home by donating books you no longer use to Mom's Corner for other moms to enjoy!

Sniffly Children:

Should they stay home or go to school?

St. James works hard to keep our kids healthy, including providing a clean and safe environment where they can learn. But germs are out there, and sometimes sharing toys means sharing germs too.

As parents, we can do our part to limit the spread of contagious illnesses by keeping our little ones home when they're too sick to go to school. The question is, "When is that?"

When Kids Should Stay Home
Kids who exhibit any of the following symptoms within 24 hours of school **MUST** stay home and remain home until 24 hours **AFTER** the symptoms subside:

Fever, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, undiagnosed rash, boil, ongoing cough, congestion, "pink eye," head lice or any infectious illness

For the complete Health & Wellness Policy, please refer to the St. James Preschool Handbook.

Navigating the Private School Application Process

September 30, 2010

If you are considering private school for your children, you won't want to miss this discussion.

On September 30, St. James Preschool will host education consultants Barbara Levy and Fontaine Draper from Education Connection (educationconnection.us). They will discuss the complex application process for private schools and answer your questions.

The time for this event will be announced later this month!

Preschool Sunday September 19, 2010 10:55 a.m.

Please join the St. James UMC congregation for a worship service honoring the preschool and its families.

No Nuts!

St. James is a **nut-free school**.

That means no nuts of any kind, including peanut butter. Please be mindful of this when you're packing snacks for your children. Also, talk with teachers and room moms to find out if children have other allergies you need to be aware of when preparing goodies for school parties.



St. James UMC Welcomes Kids, Families and Community

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

September 1, 5:15 p.m.: Children's Choir Practice Begins

September 8, 5:45 p.m.: Wednesday Night Suppers Resume with family BINGO as the program for this evening (dinner starts at 5:45 p.m., activities begin at 6:30 p.m.)

September 15: Ice Cream Social

September 17 - 18: Fall/Winter Consignment Sale

September 19: Preschool Sunday - worship service honoring the St. James preschool and its families

September 22: Sacred Harp Music Program, featuring shape note singing

September 29: St. James activities sampler

Also this month ...

Worship services are now back to two services each Sunday: 8:45 a.m. and 10:55 a.m.

Adult Yoga has begun and you can join at anytime. There are classes for a variety of levels on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Sculpt and Burn is on again this year with a class on Mondays, two classes on Wednesdays and Fridays, and a class on Tuesdays and Thursdays to be added soon.

Next month ...

October 1: Movie on the Lawn. Movie TBD.

For more information about these events and other St. James UMC-sponsored events, please visit www.stjamesatlanta.org or contact the church office at (404) 261-3121.

Good Fun & Great Buys at the St. James Consignment Sale

Join us to shop for high quality children's clothing, furniture, toys, books, and accessories, as well as maternity items. Better yet, sign up to be a consignor! Consignors who volunteer for two or more shifts receive 75 percent of the selling price. Consignors who volunteer for one shift receive 70 percent of the selling price. All other consignors receive 65 percent of the selling price. All sale proceeds retained by St. James are used to support children's ministries at St. James.

Our Kids Consignment Sale is held in the gym located in the Activities Building. The public sales are held on a Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday is half-price day when many of the items will be marked down 50 percent. The preview sale for volunteers is held on Thursday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For additional information, please visit the Upcoming Events section at stjamesatlanta.org.

september 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Class Get-Acquainted Parties	2 Class Get-Acquainted Parties	3	4
5	6	7 Preschool Begins - T/Th & 5-Day	8 Preschool Begins - M/W/F & W/F	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Preschool Sunday	20 Chapel Begins (3's and PreK)	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Navigating the Private School Application Process		



Check your child's backpack each day ...
it's how important information will come your way!

plan
ahead!

october

- 4 Lunch Bunch begins (3s & PreK)
- 11 Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL
- 13 Prospective Parent Open House
- 20 No Lunch Bunch
- 21 Open House & Dinner (6 PM)
- 22 Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL
- 28 - 29 Halloween Parties

Take Note:

Give Us Your Galoshes

If you have old rain boots sitting around the house, please consider donating them to the school. The children would love to have them so they can splish and splash in the new water feature on the playground.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you were unable to sign up for a volunteer position in your child's class but want to get involved, please contact Missy Madden at missymadden@gmail.com and let her know your interests. Missy, our Volunteer Coordinator, will keep you in mind for future opportunities throughout the year.

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