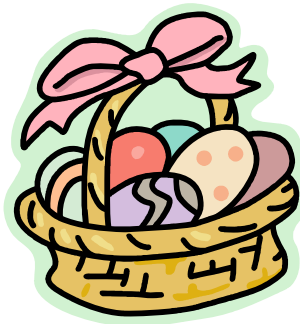




St. James' Nursery School News



April 2011

Calendar of Events

4/4: In-house registration for the Summer Program begins!

4/5: Wolfgang Candy Delivered

4/5-6: Chapel Times

4/8, 11 & 12: 2's Mini-Chapels

4/11: Public registration for the Summer Program begins

4/11-15: Week of the Young Child!!

4/14: Zoo Trip for all TTH 2's and 3's and MW 2's classes (no classes at school on this day)

4/15: Zoo Trip for MWF 3's, Pre-K 4's and Enrichment Class (no classes at school on this day)

4/20-26: Closed for Easter Break

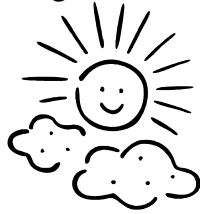
4/20: Make-up Day for Main Street MWF classes, TTH PM 2's and Friday 2's (at the regular class times)

4/21: Make-up classes for TTH PM 2's from 12:00-2:00 and 4's Enrichment Class from 11:30-3:00

4/26: Make-up Classes for TTH PM 2's from 12:00-2:00, 4's Enrichment Class from 11:30-3:00, and the Annex Full Day 3's from 9:00-2:00

4/27: Classes resume and Collection for Mt. Airy Net begins!

From the Director's Desk



As spring weather slowly arrives to Mt. Airy we are busy preparing for some exciting events and activities at St. James! Let's all say a prayer that we will have beautiful, sunny weather for the zoo trips coming up in two weeks. There are many wonderful animal exhibits at the zoo and remember to enjoy the children's section of the zoo with a petting farm and hands-on and large muscle experiences for children. And remember that parents are also allowed to slide down the tree slide!!

We will be asking for volunteers soon to help with the year-end picnics at Watkin's Park. If you would like to help call volunteers, I would surely appreciate any help you can provide.

The Mt. Airy Net is in need of certain items for their food closet. This year we are going to have a spring food drive (the staff decided to delay the food drive to this time and focus on certain items that the Net needs. We will be collecting the following items: toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo, canned soup and tuna fish beginning after the Easter break and ending May 13. Our intent is not only to help needy families in our community, but to also provide an opportunity for children to learn about the joy of giving to others.

Have a smile-filled April and enjoy every moment with your little ones,

Pat

A new sidewalk for Mrs. Thomas's Annex Students!

Cornerstone Landscaping and Design so generously donated their time, their materials and their employees to transform the Annex building's sidewalk leading to the entrance of our nursery school.

The family of Pete and Julie Berggren has nearly graduated 3 children through the St James program. The Berggren's own and operate Cornerstone Landscaping and were able to show their gratitude with an amazing gift that we will continue to enjoy long after their youngest son graduates this Spring.

The previous sidewalk was made of slate stepping stones and was a safety hazard that couldn't be properly cleaned during bad weather. The brand new sidewalk has made our school handicap accessible and is easy to clean off in the event of a snowstorm.

The families of the Annex raised funds to pay for the hardscape pavers. Thank you to Cornerstone Landscaping, The Berggren Family, the congregation of Mt. Olive Church, Gaithersburg Equipment Company, Frederick Equipment Company, Howard County Equipment Company, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie and Judy Smith of Knoxville, Maryland, and the Hardy family. Those listed gave very generously to the Annex project and we are sincerely grateful for their support and cooperation.

Deanna Rippeon
Annex Beatification Project
Coordinator

Dates for the End-of-the-Year!!

May 20: Last Day for Friday 2's

May 23: Last Day of Class for M/W 2's, Pre-K 4's and 3-day a week 3's

May 24: Last Day of Class for T/Th 3's and AM 2's

May 25: Graduations and Picnic for AM and PM Pre-K 4's Red Room and Annex Full Day - graduations at 9:00/10:15 - picnic 11:30-1:30 at Watkin's Park

May 25: Last day and Make-up Day for the TTH 2's PM

May 26: End-of-Year School Picnics for 2's from 9:00 - 10:15 and 3's 10:30-12:00

May 26: Last day and Make-up Class for the Four's Enrichment – meeting from 11:30-3:00.

May 27: Graduations and Picnic for AM and PM Pre-K 4's Yellow Room - graduations at 9:00/10:15 - picnic 11:30-1:30 at Watkin's Park

Book Fair

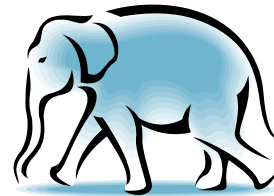
We once again had a successful Scholastic Book Fair. I would like to extend our appreciation to Jessie Smith for serving as the Book Fair Coordinator. Jessie arranged for many volunteers to help with set-up, break-down and serving as cashiers for the sale. We are so thankful for all of the parents that served in any of these capacities. Only with the help of many can an event this big go off without a hitch!!

Campbell Soup Code Collection!!

We are so appreciative for Laura Moore for serving as our Campbell Soup Collection coordinator for the last two school years. She is preparing another batch of labels to send in to Campbell's so please send in any that you have!!

It is wonderful to report that our school has reached a total of 19,353 Campbell's Labels. We used some of our points to purchase a wonderful, big face paint kit to use at our End-of-the-Year Picnics!! Thank you all for bringing in your labels!!

The school is seeking someone who can take on the coordination of this collection for next school year (and beyond!). If you would like to serve the school in this capacity please let Pat know!!



Zoo Trip!!

We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo!

How about you, you, you!

You can come too, too, too!

We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo!!

For information about the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore and guest tips, please follow this link!

<http://www.marylandzoo.org/visitor-information/guest-amenities/>

There is also info on their site about the zoo's snack bar menus and animal exhibits not to miss!!

Summer Program!!



Once again, St. James will offer a Summer Program. The program will be held weekdays from 9:00-11:30 AM. The program will run from June 13 to July 29 with the exception of the July 4th holiday week. Your child can attend for only one week or a number of weeks, not necessarily in sequence, depending on your family's schedule.

Former participants will happily describe the fun they have had doing science experiments, water play and building things from wood, to name a few of our many activities.

The program is available to all 3, 4 and 5 year old children in our community who have not yet attended kindergarten and will have turned three by 9/1/11 and are potty trained. Children need not have attended St. James' Nursery School prior to this summer, but medical forms are required.

Registration for the program for children currently attending St. James' Nursery School, and their siblings, will begin at 9:00AM on Monday, April 4 in the Main Street office. Community registration will begin at 9:00 AM on Monday, April 11th in the Main Street office.

Sign up to join the summer fun!!

Week of the Young Child

April 10 -16, 2011



St. James' Nursery School, along with hundreds of organizations around the country, will celebrate Week of the Young Child, April 10-16, 2011. Week of the Young Child honors the more than 35 million children from birth through age eight in America, and the families, teachers and other adults who help children make the most of the opportunities of their early years.

Research and experience clearly show that children's earliest years are crucial learning years. Week of the Young Child is a chance to celebrate the learning opportunities of young children, and to recognize the responsibilities we share for helping them make the most of the early years.

St. James' Nursery School advocates a comprehensive effort to improve the quality of early childhood education, including: providing professional development opportunities for teachers and staff; improving the health and safety of programs; using developmentally appropriate practices to encourage literacy and the development of the whole child; and supporting the family's crucial role in early education.

The children of St. James' Nursery School will be decorating paper grocery bags for the Mount Airy Safeway. These bags will be used by the store during the Week of

the Young Child to draw attention to the importance of the children in our community. Other special activities will be done in the classroom and at home! Our school-wide trips to the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore will be a great way to end the week!!

"Educating Children in the New Millennium: Child's Play"



Steven Webb, writing in **Education Week** ("Educating Children in the New Millennium: Child's Play;" October 10, 2007; www.edweek.org) adds his voice to the ever-growing movement in support of play as a cornerstone of education:

"Jean Piaget...theorized that a child's mental models, or cognitive structures, are based on the child's activities; engagement makes meaning. Free, unstructured play is healthy and, in fact, essential for helping children reach important social, emotional, and cognitive developmental milestones. Piaget's theory is based on the idea that the developing child builds cognitive structures known as mental maps or schemes for understanding and responding to physical experiences.

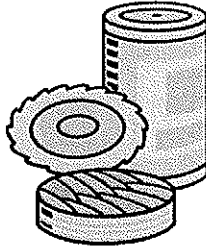
"What is known as constructivism postulates that by reflecting on our experiences, we develop our own understanding of the world. Each of us generates our own mental models to make sense of our experiences.

Learning, therefore, is the process of adjusting our mental models to accommodate new experiences. Constructivist teaching focuses on creating experiential and engaging activities for students.... This kind of learning also involves an element of play.

"...Many children today are not benefiting from a balance of intellect and imagination. As an American Academy of Pediatrics report published last January notes, changes in the family structure, the highly competitive college admissions process, and federal education policies have led to reduced time for recess and physical education in many school systems, a fact that has reduced free play and unscheduled time for children.

"Even worse, some school systems have reduced or eliminated curricular art programs that look like play to some people. Increasingly research in neuroscience suggests that the arts (and play) have a significant impact on students' cognitive, social, and emotional development. From a Piagetian perspective we know this is true in theory. But recent developments in neuroimaging (brain-based research) have added another important dimension to our knowledge, by allowing scientists to observe how various processing systems in the brain collaborate. Not only do play, the arts, and physical education have inherent value — new technology demonstrates a significant link between artistic and cognitive development."

Collection for the Needy To Benefit Mt. Airy Net!!

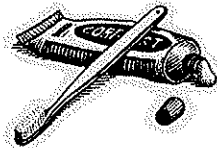


Mt. Airy Net is an organization located right here in town that assists community members in need. Specific items requested by the Net are:

Shampoo
Toothpaste
Tooth brushes
Canned soup
Tuna fish

A collection box will be located near the parent bulletin boards at the Annex and Main Street locations. We ask you to limit your donations to items that your child can carry. We want to expose children to the joy of giving to others.

These items can be brought in from Wednesday, April 27 – Friday, May 13. Thank you!



"...But it is only fair for you to share with them when you have so much, and they have so little. Later when they have more than enough and you are in need, they can share with you. Then everyone will have a fair share, just as the Scriptures say..." 2 Corinthians 8:13-15



Kids and Screens

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no screen time for children under 2 and less than 2 hours per day for older children.

Excessive screen time puts young children at risk.

- Forty percent of 3-month-old infants are regular viewers of screen media [2], and 19% of babies 1 year and under have a TV in their bedroom [3].
- Screen time can be habit-forming: the more time children engage with screens, the harder time they have turning them off as older children. [4]
- Screen time for children under 3 is linked to irregular sleep patterns [5] and delayed language acquisition [6].
- The more time preschool children and babies spend with screens, the less time they spend interacting with their parents. [7] Even when parents co-view, they spend less time talking to their children than when they're engaged in other activities. [8]
- Toddler screen time is also associated with problems in later childhood, including lower math and school achievement, reduced physical activity, victimization by classmates [9], and increased BMI [10].

On average, preschool children spend 32 hours a week with screen media. [1]

- Direct exposure to TV and overall household viewing are associated with increased early childhood aggression. [11]
- The more time preschool children spend with screens, the less time they spend engaged in creative play [7] – the foundation of learning [12], constructive problem solving [13], and creativity [14].
- On average, preschool children see nearly 25,000 television commercials, a figure that does not include product placement. [15]

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that parents create an electronic-media-free environment in children's bedrooms.

Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood
Reclaiming Childhood From Corporate Marketers
www.commercialfreechildhood.org