



December 2011



St. James' Nursery School News

Calendar of Events

12/1 & 12/2: Full Day Pre-K Trips to the Tree Farm

12/3: St. James' Church Quartermania

12/7-9: Two's Mini-Chapel in the sanctuary

12/6: Last day for the PJ Drive and Main Street Bookmobile Visit

12/6 and 9: Bookmobile Visit

12/12: Mrs. Thomas' Pre-K 4's Christmas Gathering with Carols—6:30PM at the Annex

12/13: Ms. Kim's MWF Pre-K 4's Classes Christmas Gathering with Carols—6:30PM in St. James' Sanctuary

12/14 & 15: 3's and Pre-K 4's Chapel Times

12/14: Look for Sign-up Sheets for January conferences on the Parent Boards

12/15: Mrs. Garnand's and Ms. Kim's (TTH class) Pre-K 4's Christmas Gathering with Carols—6:30PM in St. James' Sanctuary

12/22-1/2: School Closed for Christmas and New Years

1/3/12: Nursery School Classes Resume

1/17: In-House Registration Begins—no registrations will be accepted by the office until the morning of January 17 for our currently enrolled children and their siblings. In order to assure your child a spot in our program you must register the first week, January 17-20. Be aware that some classes will fill rapidly. Please find more information inside this newsletter on what classes will be offered and tuition costs for next school year.



From the Director's Desk

We have had a beautiful fall – and are gearing up for winter and all the holidays it brings. As time flies by, I try to remind myself to enjoy each day God has given me. Savor each moment this Christmas season with your children. Take lots of pictures and videotape them as they smile and talk about the happiness they are experiencing.

We are quickly getting into the holiday spirit here at St. James' Nursery School! The children will begin singing Christmas songs right after Thanksgiving.

Our pajama drive collection will come to a close on December 6th. Many children will be a lot warmer this winter thanks to the contributions made by our children and families. The children will also receive a book for each pair of pajamas collected – thanks to Scholastic Books! Thank you to Jessie Smith for helping to coordinate this collection.

Our Corbi Fund Raiser was a success thanks to the many parents that made purchases and to the many helpful volunteers that unloaded the truck and helped to sort orders. A big job became a lot smaller as lots of hands pitched in to help.

We are continuing to move along in our journey to obtaining a second school accreditation! Our Annex location recently received our first visit from an MSDE accreditation staff member. Our Main Street location has conducted two of our three Accreditation Self-Appraisal Team meeting. I want to extend very warm thanks to Mrs. Hess, Mrs. Neff, and Mrs. Austin for their considerable

help with this process. We hope to have our first visit at our Main Street location in January. Please keep our school and staff in your prayers as we work on this second accreditation. Our desire to continue to improve our school is an important one and we hope to have this accreditation process completed by the end of this school year. Please know that, as always, we welcome your questions and encouragement!!

Have a blessed Christmas and happy New Year!

Pat

Preschoolers in the Kitchen **Shortbread Star Cookies**

- 2 cups butter at room temperature
 - 1 cup brown sugar, lightly packed
 - 4¼ cups all-purpose flour
1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees Fahrenheit.
 2. Taking turns with your child, use a wooden spoon to cream together butter and brown sugar in a mixing bowl.
 3. Help your child add the flour slowly and mix it in thoroughly.
 4. Place some dough on a piece of waxed paper and roll it to a thickness of about ¼-inch.
 5. Use a star-shaped cookie cutter to cut out shapes.
 6. Place the star-shaped dough onto baking sheets lined with aluminum foil.
 7. Bake cookies for 12 to 15 minutes.
 8. Remove from oven and decorate with sprinkles if you desire.
 9. Let cookies cool for 2 minutes. Transfer cookies to a flat surface to cool completely.

Registration Coming Up in January for Currently Enrolled Families!!

To let our families know, and you can certainly pass this information on to your friends and neighbors, we will be offering the following classes for the Fall of 2012!!

For Two's

*One day (F), AM and PM for \$80/month (2 classes available)

*Two day (MW or TTH), AM and PM for \$160/month (4 classes available)

For Three's

*Two day a week (TTH) in the AM for \$154/month (2 classes available)

*Three day a week (MWF) in the AM for \$200/month (2 classes available)

*Two day a week (TH) full-day from 9:00-2:00 for \$308/week (1 class available)

For Pre-K 4's

*Three day a week (MWF) in the AM and PM for \$190/month (1 AM class and 2 PM classes available)

*Two day a week (TTH) full-day from 9:00-3:00 for \$280/month (1 class available)

*Three day a week (MWF) full-day from 9:00-3:00 for \$396/month (1 class available)

We will be holding in-house and sibling registration from 9:00 AM on Tuesday, January 17th through 3:00 PM on Friday, January 27th. This registration is for siblings of current students, 2's wishing to enroll in our Preschool 3's program, and 3's wishing to enroll in a Pre-K 4's class.

Children must turn the age for the class prior to September 1, 2012. Children in the two-year-old classes do not need to be potty-trained. Children

entering the preschool three-year-old classes and up need to be potty trained. Registration for St. James' Church members and alumni of our school will be from Wednesday, February 1 to Friday, February 3. Registration for the public will begin on Monday, February 6th.

December Chapel Schedule



Chapel with Rev. Portia

Dec. 14

Chapel with Ms. Pat

Dec. 15

This month's chapel theme is
The Birth of Christ.



Please provide winter coats, hats, mittens, etc for children to go outside. Names of children should be written in all outdoor clothing! The children will go out for at least a few minutes unless it is terribly cold or raining. Thank you!

Inclement Weather School Closing Procedures



- When Carroll County Schools are closed due to bad weather, St. James' Nursery, **both locations**, will also be closed.
- When Carroll County Schools open one **or** two hours late: All AM classes will begin one hour late and dismiss at the scheduled time and PM classes are held as scheduled.
- Early closings due to bad weather will also follow the announced Carroll County School policy for kindergarten.
- When afternoon Carroll County kindergarten is cancelled, we will have no PM classes.
- If Carroll County Schools dismiss one or two hours early, we will not hold PM classes.
- As always, your child's safety comes first. If you are uncomfortable with the driving conditions, we will respect your decision to keep your child at home or pick them up early.
- If you are unsure of closings, please call the nursery office at 301-829-0014 to hear the recorded message.



ST. JAMES CHURCH 2011 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT "BETHLEHEM BLUES" Sunday, December 18, 2011 at 5 pm

St. James Sunday School and the St. James Choir will present our 2011 Christmas Pageant "Bethlehem Blues". There will be finger food and desserts after the pageant. Contributions are welcomed. So, mark your calendar and tell your family and friends. Who knows what we have up our sleeves this year????

Christmas Services at St. James

Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m. Family Christmas Eve service with children's sermon, Eucharist and familiar carols.

8:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil with the Proclamation of Christmas, lessons and music

8:30 p.m. Christmas Eucharist with hymns and carols

Christmas Day (Sunday)

11:00 a.m. Christmas Eucharist with familiar carols--ONE service, No Sunday School or Crib Nursery

New Year's Day (Sunday)

9:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols, simple Communion

The Importance of Make-Believe

by Dr. Joyce Gerber

Dorothy and Jerome Singer stated in their book Make Believe that make-believe play adds richness to children's lives by sharpening their senses. Imaginative and fantasy play "increases their ability to explore new contexts and to try out new situations in odd combinations. This exploration makes children sensitive to the creativity of others. It also lays the groundwork for their own creative development."

For younger children use rhymes like "Baa, Baa Black Sheep" to encourage them to get down on the floor on their hands and knees and crawl around pretending to be sheep and saying "Baa, Baa" while you sing the nursery rhyme. By hearing their own words or those of others, they are, in effect, practicing vocabulary, learning new ways to express themselves, and picking up phrases of the language. As they get older add more physical activities related to the development of both gross and fine motor skills and body awareness. As they use their bodies they refine and develop skills which enable them to feel physically confident, secure and self-assured. Have the children act out actions such as sleeping, walking, eating, bathing, running, and swimming. Then have them make sounds such as roaring, crying, laughing, yelling, and snoring. Next they should imitate the actions of animals such as wiggling like snakes, flying like birds, swimming like fish, jumping like kangaroos, crawling like lions, and hopping like rabbits.

Make-believe can help to improve language development, memory, problem solving, creativity and critical thinking skills. Research indicates that children who have well developed imaginations learn reading and vocabulary more rapidly. Make up guessing cards by cutting pictures out of magazines and pasting them on cards. Each

child chooses a card and has to act it out and make the sounds of the following objects. The others must guess. Possible ideas are: cars, airplanes, trains, buses, boats, and bicycles. Try actions and sounds of nature such as wind, rain and thunder.

Let yourself go! Creative children and adults are very responsive to their bodies and are tuned in to the details of their environment including sights, sounds, smells, and objects to touch and explore. The most important tools for adults to have are the desire to participate in being an imaginative partner with children, and a readiness to use everyday materials in unusual ways.

Christmas

Every time a hand reaches out
To help another....that is Christmas
Every time someone puts anger aside
And strives for understanding
That is Christmas

Every time people forget their
differences
And realize their love for each other
That is Christmas

May this Christmas bring us
Closer to the spirit of human
understanding
Closer to the blessing of peace!

unknown

Child Development

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Why We Should Take Play Seriously

By Lenore Skenazy

Two four-year-old girls are standing in the corner of the playground, playing house. One gets to be the mom—she's thrilled; the stuck being the baby. Wah. But then, accidentally, the "mom" scrapes her hand against the brick wall. Does she drop everything and cry?

Of course not! *She's the mommy*. And in her desire to keep playing the game—to keep having fun, to keep pretending to be an adult, she ignores the little sting and goes back to "making dinner." In other words, by pretending to hold it together, the little girl actually stays together.

Play is nature's way of getting kids to do the work of growing up. More and more, child development experts are turning their backs on play—the kind that does not involve parents or coaches or anything with batteries. The new idea is that replacing free play time with academics or organized activities is not doing kids any favors. "Play *looks* like a waste of time because it's not 'goal directed,' " says Hara Marano, author of "A Nation of Wimps." After all, kids don't get extra credit for pretending to be a lion. They can't put "hide and seek" on a college essay. Nonetheless, play turns out to be a sort of kiddie supervitamin. It not only makes children happy, it makes them more focused and, Marano argues, smarter. As she puts it: "Play builds brains."

Think about a group of kids that gets together and has to come up with something to do. At the very least, this demands creativity. "Baseball." Then they have to agree on how it's played: they will use a plastic dinosaur as their bat. That just involved communicating (and using a Barbie).

Now think about a boy who strikes out and wails, "One more pitch!"

"No!" yell the other kids. "It's not your turn anymore!" And with that, the boy has a choice: he can have a tantrum and run off, or he can suck it up, and heads to the outfield. And with that he has just learned, literally, how to play by the rules.

Play is dress rehearsal for adulthood, and, before that, for school. Think how many times a teacher has to say, "Wait your turn!" and how much endless practice waiting their turn. Self-control gradually becomes second nature. Schools that cut short recess think they're actually saving time.

Play is so crucial that all mammals do it. "In play," says Peter Gray, a professor of psychology at Boston College, "young mammals practice making it into adulthood." Young predators practice pouncing on dead leaves. It's not "real" hunting, but it's making them limber and teaching them how to get away from the pouncers. Squirrels' play looks like a whole lot of tag.

Why would Mother Nature program animals to frolic, even though it wastes valuable energy *and* puts them at danger? Wouldn't it be better to conserve energy and hide at home? How come they gambol out in the open? Because play is even more important than conserving energy or hiding at home. Our kids are learning. *I'll ignore the scrape and keep acting like the mommy.*

Staying on task. Focusing. Creating. Cooperating. Communicating. Free play fosters almost all the traits we're dying for our kids to have.

St. James' Nursery School
 1307 N. Main Street
 Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771
 (301) 829-0014

January, 2012

Lunch Bunch Registration

Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 11:30-12:30

Name of child _____

Allergies/Special Considerations _____

Please indicate below with a check mark the dates you would like your child to attend.
 Payment in full required at the time of registration.

Total number of days _____ x \$8.00/day = _____ (Total due)

Sign up for January, 2012 Lunch Bunch will begin on Monday, December 12 at 9:00 AM.

Pick up Person(AM classes only) _____

Please let the office know if there is a change in pick up person.

I understand my child must bring a **nut-free** lunch (milk will be provided by the school). There will be no refunds or make-up classes provided for missed days, with the exception inclement weather closings.

Parent Signature

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 13
School Closed Martin Luther King Day 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 18	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	<input type="checkbox"/> 20
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	<input type="checkbox"/> 25	<input type="checkbox"/> 26	<input type="checkbox"/> 27
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 31			

St. James' Episcopal Church **QUARTER MANIA FUNDRAISER**

DATE: Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011

Time: Doors open @ 6pm and game starts @ 7pm

Held at: St. James' Episcopal Church

1307 N. Main St., Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Cost: \$5.00 Reserved Advance tickets – will receive 2 game paddles

Door Admissions (if available): \$8.00 – will receive 1 game paddle

Extra paddles cost \$2.00 each

NO REFUNDS – EVERYONE PAYS AT THE DOOR, BUT CALL FOR YOUR ADVANCE SEATS!



Food & Refreshments Available

To reserve your tickets or for more information call: Judy 240-674-1961 or e-mail

jcque116@hotmail.com OR quarter2011@yahoo.com

(put in subject area "quarter mania" or it will not be opened)

Vendors to include, but not limited to, and subject to change without notice:

****lia sophia jewelry***

****Candy Bouquet***

****Tastefully Simple***

****Longaberger***

****Tupperware***

****Pampered Chef***

****Handyman Tools***

****Avon***

****Catherine Crafts***

****Judy's Creations***

****Tealightful Treasures***

70-80 Prizes to be given away with

40 paid admissions

Less than 40, number of prizes given away will be adjusted