



# St. James' Nursery School News



**December 2010**

## **Calendar of Events**

12/1-3: Two's Mini-Chapel in the classroom

12/3: Last day for the PJ Drive and Main Street Bookmobile Visit

12/3: Annex Pre-K 4's Fieldtrip to a Christmas Tree Farm

12/6: 4's Enrichment Class trip to Firehouse Pottery

12/7: 3's Bookmobile Day

12/13: Mrs. Thomas' Pre-K 4's Christmas Gathering with Carols—6:30PM at the Annex

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

12/15-17: Cuddle-up and Target Reading Book Distribution

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

12/22-12/31: School Closed for Christmas

1/3/11: Nursery School Classes Resume

1/10: In-House Registration Begins—no registrations will be accepted by the office until the morning of January 10 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 10-14. Please find more information inside this newsletter on what classes will be offered and tuition costs for next school year.

**Please note: The date of the March Staff In-Service has been changed from Wednesday, March 2 to Monday, February 28. Consequently, we will be closed on February 28 and open on March 2.**

*From the Director's Desk*



November certainly flew for me. It is hard to believe that December is here and the year is beginning to come to a close. I have been enjoying visiting the classes as I do staff observations, story time with the Annex classes and chapel time with the 3's. I have enjoyed these visits so much and hearing the children laughter rejuvenates me as I return to 'office' work.

I would like to extend my appreciation to Monica Armagost and Rachel Price for coordinating this year's Pajama Collection. Our containers have been overflowing with pajamas and it is clear to see that many needy and homeless children will benefit from this collection. Thank you all for supporting this collection with your donations.

I hope that all of our St. James' parents, children and staff have a truly blessed, safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

*Pat*

December Chapel Schedule



Chapel with Rev. Portia

Dec. 15

Chapel with Ms. Pat

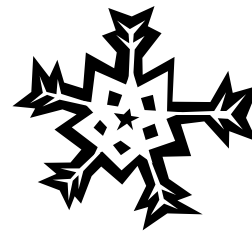
Dec. 16

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

Inclement Weather School  
Closing Procedures



- When Carroll County Schools are closed due to bad weather, St. James' Nursery School, **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.
- If Carroll County Schools dismiss early, we will not hold PM classes and the full-day classes will dismiss at 12:00.
- 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.
- We will endeavor to contact parents in the exception of the above policy. If you are unsure of closings, please call the office at 301-829-0014.



## **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 2011!!

### **For Two's**

- One day (F), AM and PM for \$75/month
- Two day (MW or TTH), AM and PM for \$150/month

### **For Three's**

- Two day a week (TTH) in the AM for \$146/month
- Three day a week (MWF) in the AM for \$189/month
- Two day a week (TH) full-day from 9:00-2:00 for \$292/week

### **For Pre-K 4's**

- Three day a week (MWF) in the AM and PM for \$181/month
- Two day a week (TTH) full-day from 9:00-3:00 for \$265/month
- Three day a week (MWF) full-day from 9:00-3:00 for \$378/month

We will be holding in-house and sibling registration from 9:00 AM on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> through 3:00 PM on Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. This registration is for siblings of current students, 2's wishing to enroll in our 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, 2011. Children in the two-year-old classes do not need to be potty-trained. Children entering the three-year-classes and up need to be potty trained. Registration for the public will be on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.



## **Young Children Learn Through Play**

*"Young children learn best through direct sensory encounters and not through a formal academic process. Learning should be the outcome of hands-on experience, especially play."*  
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

When looking for an early childhood program, parents often say they want "something academic." As parents visit nursery schools and centers, it may appear to them that all the children do is play. They sometimes question whether children are learning.

***The key is understanding how young children develop and learn. Children under the age of eight years acquire knowledge in ways that are significantly different from the ways older children learn. Therefore, programs for young children should look different from those for older children.***

An appropriate early childhood program should include a variety of materials such as sand, water, clay, blocks, puzzles, games, pretend play props, art supplies, books and equipment for physical activity. The program should allow for long periods of time when the children choose the materials with which they want to play and experiment.

The early childhood classroom is prepared according to the needs of

children. Teachers select materials based on their knowledge of how young children learn and their observations of each child's abilities and interests.

Children will have opportunities to learn about reading and writing, and math concepts as they play with materials and go about daily activities. A skilled teacher finds meaningful ways to help each child think. For example, the teacher may ask a child to put out a napkin for each person having a snack. By not telling the child how many the teacher has set up a problem for the child to solve. Because of the meaningful context (having a snack), the child will be motivated to think about the number of napkins and to solve the problem.

There are specific philosophies in which early childhood educators have been trained. This accounts for some differences in programs. Montessori schools and centers are based on the work of Maria Montessori. They use specialized learning materials developed through her observations of young children. Montessori classrooms reflect a high level of order and include many daily activities.

Other programs may define their philosophy as "constructivist" based on the research and observations of Jean Piaget. Materials in a constructivist classroom are designed for child experimentation and to be used in a variety of ways. Constructivist classrooms reflect a high level of interaction between children and include many pretend play activities.

**Indicators of an appropriate early childhood program:**

- A wide variety of materials with which children can play and experiment

- Children making choices about activities
- Teachers with training in early childhood education
- Each child's interests and abilities are considered in the teacher's plans so that each child can experience success and joy in learning
- A philosophy that reflects the way young children learn
- Accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

**We are concerned...**

Please do not leave children unattended in your car and please turn off your car when escorting your child in or out of the building. Thank you much.

Heartprints

(author unknown)

Whatever our hands touch-

We leave fingerprints!

On walls, on furniture

On doorknobs, dishes, books.

There's no escape.

As we touch we leave our identity.

Oh God, wherever I go today

Help me leave heart prints!

Heart prints of compassion

Of understanding and love.

Heart prints of kindness

And genuine concern.

May my heart touch a lonely neighbor

Or a runaway daughter

Or an anxious mother

Or perhaps an aged grandfather.

Lord, send me out today

To leave heart prints.

And if someone should say

"I felt your touch,"

May that one sense YOUR LOVE.