



St. James' Nursery School News



February 2011

Calendar of Events

2/1 & 2/2: Alumni Registration Day

2/4: Bookmobile visits Main Street

2/7: PM Classes Only Closed and Full Day
Pre-K 4's Class Early Dismissal at 12:00 – In-Service

2/8: Bookmobile Visits the 3's

2/9 & 10: Dental Health presentation for the
3's and Pre-K 4's from Dr. Hasson's Office

2/9-11: 2's Mini-Chapel Times

2/10, 11 & 14: St. Valentine's Day Parties

2/15: Mrs. Thomas' and Ms. Dona's Three's
Fieldtrip to the Skyview Gym!!

2/16-18: Cuddle-up and Target Reading Book
Distribution

2/17: Ms. Susan's and Ms. Kim's Three's
Fieldtrip to the Skyview Gym!!

2/18: Ms. Dona's MWF Three's Fieldtrip to
the Skyview

2/16-17: Chapel Times for 3's and Pre-K 4's

2/21: **Closed: President's Day Holiday**

2/23 & 2/24: Music with Monte Shows!!

2/28: **Closed: In-service Training Day**

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



The year is moving steadily along – and at a fast pace too! This month, on February 28th, St. James will be closed for a Staff In-service Day. On this day the staff will take a six-hour training on Medication Administration. This is a licensing required course that will fill our day.

We have completed our fourth and last month of the Cuddle-up and Target Reading Program. February will be the last month that children will be receiving a free book for reading. I hope all of you and especially the children enjoyed this program. We look forward to doing it again next school year!

The Scholastic Book Fair this year will be held in March. Our Book Fair Chairperson, Jessie Smith, will be asking for lots of help with setting up the fair, working at the fair, and also with breaking down the fair. Please respond to Mrs. Smith if you are able to help with any of the time slots. I appreciate your participation in this event.

As part of our yearly annual report process for our accreditation with NAEYC we will be surveying our parents soon. Please look for a survey link to come by e-mail some time in the future. We appreciate your participation in this survey and will consider carefully and thoughtfully any feedback and suggestions you may have.

Happy Valentine's Day to all of you and thank you for your continued support of St. James and its staff,

Pat

Dr. Hasson's Dental Office to
Visit Classes in February!!

We are grateful to the staff of Dr. Hasson's Dental Office for scheduling visits to all of the 3's and Pre-K 4's during Children's Dental Health Month.

Classroom visits will occur on Wednesday, February 9, and Thursday, February 10.

And remember...(sung to "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")!!!!

"Brush, brush, brush you teeth

Brush them everyday

Helps to keep them nice and clean

And keeps cavities away!!"



Snow Closings and Delays

When Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) are closed due to bad weather, St. James' Nursery School, both locations, will also be closed.

When CCPS 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.

Also, if CCPS dismisses one or two hours early, due to bad weather, we will not hold PM classes.

If you are unsure of closings, please call the nursery office at 301-829-0014 to hear the recorded message.

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.

Learning Through Play

By Shelley Butler

One sunny summer day, I looked out the window to see my son and a friend spinning and laughing, playing at something known only to the two of them, unfettered by time, expectations, or adult rules. Never before had I seen such pure expressions of joy. Were they playing to learn or consciously seeking new information or skills? No, but if you look closely, they were exploring spatial relationships, honing motor capabilities, practicing social skills and language, creatively thinking, gathering information about the world through their senses, or to put it simply, learning through play.

Play may be as old as the existence of humankind. Playthings have been discovered in the artifacts of ancient civilizations and many believe that the earliest chess pieces date back to 6,000 B.C. Though the link between play and learning was more fully investigated in the 20th century by theorists such as Jean Piaget, the connection was made as early as the first century B.C. by Plato, "You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation."

What is now undeniably clear in the 21st century is that play is essential, vital, critical, and fundamental to a child's social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development. Without adequate, healthy play, children run the risk of entering school unprepared, growing into teens and adults without needed skills, and failing to meet their potential. Experts at the Institute for Play believe that healthy play in childhood can even prevent violence.

Through joyful, healthy play, children begin a love of learning and prepare for life itself.

Preschoolers in the Kitchen

Cherry Chocolate Cake

This is a quick and easy cake that is both festive and delicious! Use heart shaped cake pans if possible.

1 box chocolate cake mix

21 oz. can cherry pie filling

2 eggs

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9-inch square pan and a 9-inch round cake pan. Mix the above ingredients in a large bowl. If you mix by hand, count 300 strokes, or use an electric mixer for two minutes on high speed. Bake about 30 minutes or until a tooth pick inserted into the center comes out clean. Let cool 10 minutes then turn out of pans. Cut the round cake in half and place the cut sides on the adjacent two side of the square cake to form a heart. Frost with pink frosting or make a sugar-snowflake by dusting powdered sugar over a lacy doily. Lift the doily to reveal the delicate design.



Music with Monte

Monte will be performing at St. James' Nursery School for all classes on February 23 and 24. Monte is an entertaining musical performer, a passionate musician and a fun loving children's minister. Please feel free to join us for your child's performance. You can find out more about Monte at his website -musicwithmonte.com