

Mary Ann Sherman

From: Leslie Dunlap <ecw@ssechurch.ccsend.com> on behalf of Leslie Dunlap <leslie@ssechurch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 6:04 AM
To: Mary Ann Sherman
Subject: St. Stephen's Preschool 2015 November/December Newsletter

St. Stephen's Preschool November/December 2015

Newsletter

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Important Dates:

Nov. 25-27 No School - Thanksgiving Holidays

Dec. 1.: 4's and 5K to Children's Theatre to see *Dear Santa*.

Dec. 2: Preschool Board Meeting at 6:15 p.m

Dec. 8: Magic Show for the 4's and 5K 1t 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Director's Corner

I can't believe November is almost over! We had a great time this month with a visit from the ice cream truck, school pictures, and Thanksgiving Feasts. The 3's had a wonderful Thanksgiving Program and Feast in the Parish Hall. They sang lots of songs that they've learned in music with Ms. Whitney. "Ooh wah, ooh wah! Shoot the arrow!" was one of their favorites! Thanks to Beth, Rosemary, Kim, and Whitney for all their hard work!

Christmas is quickly approaching! We will have a Lesson and Carols service for the Threes, Fours, and Fives on December 11 at 12:15 in the church. The children will be telling the Christmas story through songs. Parents and Grandparents are invited! It should be a wonderful program! Children won't need a costume for this. Just wear Christmas colors.

We will have a Christmas adventure in Chapel on December 14-15 with a birthday party for Jesus! Preschool children (2's - 5k) should come dressed as one of the nativity characters - Mary, Joseph, wise man, sheep, cow, or a star. Please keep it simple! It's amazing what you can do with a bathrobe or a bath towel! This event is just for the children. Sorry, parents are not invited to this one. We will take lots of pictures though!



Please mark January 30 on your calendar for our annual fundraiser. We will have a FIESTA with a band, and both silent and live auctions, and lots of fun! Go on an book your babysitter because

Dec 11: Lessons and Carols service for the 3's, 4's and 5K at 12:15 in the church. Parents and grandparents are welcome to join us!

Dec. 14/15: Preschool Christmas Story for the 2's, 3's, 4's and 5K and Birthday Cake for Jesus.

Dec. 15: TTH MDO, 2's and 3's Christmas Parties in the classrooms at 12:15 p.m.

Dec. 16: MW MDO, 2's, 3's 4's and 5K Christmas Parties in the classrooms at 12:15 p.m.

Dec. 16: Last Day before Christmas Holidays - No Tigger Time.

Dec. 17 - Jan. 2: No School - Christmas Holidays .

Jan. 5: Teacher Workday - No School

Jan. 6: School Resumes

Jan. 13: Registration for St. Stephen's members currently enrolled and siblings.

Jan. 14: Registration for non-members currently enrolled and siblings.

Jan. 18: No School - Martin Luther King Holiday.

Jan. 20: Preschool Board meeting at 6:15 p.m. in room 139 - all welcome.

Jan. 20-21: Preschool Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Jan. 26: Registration for St. Stephen's members not currently enrolled.

Jan. 27: Registration for all others at 9 a.m.

Jan. 30: Preschool Fundraiser in Parish Hall

Registration for 2016-17

Registration for the 2016-17 school year will be as follows:

Tuesday, Jan. 12:

Church & School Staff and Preschool Board members.

Wednesday, Jan. 13:

Currently enrolled St. Stephen's members and siblings.

Thursday, Jan. 14:

All others currently enrolled and siblings.

you will not want to miss this awesome night! Look for more information soon! If you have a business and/or vacation home and would like to donate something to our auction, please let me know!

Registration for the 2016-17 school year is coming up in January. We will be using a new online registration system this year and more information will be coming soon! If you know of anyone that is looking for a preschool, please let them know that we will be registering at the end of January.

Thanks!

Leslie

School News

Many Thanks to:

- Ellen Duncan and Shana Peaglar for chairing our Fundraising/Auction Committee.
- Whitney Saunders for organizing our Little Hands Big Heart Drive.
- Jane Emanuelson for organizing the Three's Feast for the Program and all the moms who help set up and provide the food.
- Mary White and Jennifer Lester for all their hard work with our Scholastic Book orders.
- All moms who substitute - we are so thankful for you!

Finances

Just a reminder that your December tuition will be the same amount as it is in other months. In our budgeting process, we determine the amount of annual tuition that is required and then divide that total amount by nine (9) to arrive at your monthly tuition. Regular tuition, monthly Early Bird tuition and monthly tigger Time tuition is due by the first of each month and considered late if not received in the preschool office by the 10th of the month. The late payment fee is now \$25 and will be added to your accounts for payments received after the late date. For those of you who prepaid the first half of the year's tuition in September, please note that the second payment will be due by January 15, 2016. You will be sent a reminder by the end of the year as to the amount of the second payment.

Thanks to all for being prompt with your payments and making my job easier! - Mary Ann

Directory Changes

Unfortunately Samantha McCrary had to withdraw from Miss Jennifer M's babies class and Emma Cloar had to withdraw from Miss Kim's Older Toddlers class.

Please make these changes in your directory.

Tuesday, Jan.26:

St. Stephen's members not currently enrolled.

Wednesday, Jan.27:

All others.

This year we will be using a new online registration system and more information will be coming regarding the specifics of the new system. All currently enrolled and their siblings are guaranteed a place in the program. Choice of days is based on first come-first serve basis. Look for more information and registration forms to download on our website (www.ssepreschool.org) in December.

Teacher Highlights

This month we'll learn more about Miss Marianne H., Miss Elaine and Miss Judy!



Marianne Howell - Story Time and Spanish teacher

On the weekend I like to:

Sleep late, cook fun dinners, watch movies.

Pets: Part time - black Lab
Favorite restaurant: Hot & Hot Fish club.

Ideal vacation Spot: The beach
Things from Bucket List: Trip to Holy Land, Trip to Africa

Reminders

- Picture Orders are due by December 3rd! Please return any unwanted pictures along with a check for the pictures that you do want to your classroom teacher.
- Off-season extra clothes and washable rest mats will be sent home the last week of school before the Christmas holidays. Please replace these with clothes for cold weather. Label everything! Wash the rest mat and return it with the new change of clothes when we return to school on January 6th.
- We like to go outside and enjoy the fresh air whenever the weather permits so please send labeled sweaters and jackets with your child to school.
- Please let us know if your child will be out of school. Call anytime at 967-9317 or e-mail Leslie at leslie@ssechurch.org.
- Our program follows the Mountain Brook School system for inclement weather only. We have our own unique calendar that is approved by the Preschool Board each year taking into account the various school systems that are represented at our school. If the preschool closes for weather, you will be notified by School Cast through e-mails, texts and phone calls. School Cast is a rapid alert and notification system.

Early Birds and Tigger Time

Early Birds

Thank you for bringing your child to Early Birds. We enjoy having them and are here every morning at 8 a.m. You can drop off your child for a fee of \$10 per morning or sign-up in advance at a reduced rate.

At Early Birds we play in Miss Monica's room in the new 4 year and 5K hall.

Early Birds is open to all ages from 8:00 to 9:00, Monday through Friday and will be available on the last morning before the Christmas break, December 16th.

Thanks and can't wait to see you at Early Birds!
-Miss Jennifer and Miss Monica

Tigger Time

We've really been busy this holiday season enjoying each other's company and being thankful for the time we spend together in Tigger Time.

If you have not had a chance to take advantage of the 5 days of Tigger Time for \$50, please feel free to join us during the month of December! (Don't forget that Tigger Time carpool ends at 2:30. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to get to know your children.

Song that gets stuck in your head: *This is my fight song*
Movie you could watch over and over: *Jaws and Godfather*
Salad dressing: Ranch
Who you'd like to see in concert: U2 or Police
Guilty Pleasure TV show: Food Network shows



Elaine Yeager - Creepers

On the weekend I like to: Take a long walk
Pets: 2 dogs - Baxter and Cupcake
Favorite Restaurant: Chinese Buffet II
Ideal Vacation Spot: the mountains
Things from Bucket List: Lose weight, Bike trip, Do a 5K
Song that gets stuck in your head: *Mosquito Burrito* by Roger Day!
Movie you could watch over and over again: *Fried Green Tomatoes*
Salad Dressing: Raspberry Vinaigrette
Who you'd like to see in concert: Kari Jobe
Guilty Pleasure TV show: *Walking Dead*

Please note that the last day for Tigger Time is Tuesday, December 15th. There will be no Tigger Time on Wednesday, December 16th.

- Miss Jennifer and Miss Beth

Mother's Day Out

Babies and Creepers

We are moving right along and are so proud of how much our little ones have grown. Several are walking and we can't wait to see how much they will grow and change over the holidays! For those moms with children in the MDO and older ones who go through carpool, please make sure you pick up your child from MDO first and then pick up your older child in carpool.

We enjoy our strolls outside so please make sure you send coats, hats and other cold weather gear with your child each day! We won't go outside when it is frigid outside but do go out as much as we can!

Thank you for sharing them with us and we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

-Miss Alison, Miss Jennifer M and Miss Elaine



Miss Alison's babies love the Rec Room!



Judy Jones - M-F 4's

On the weekend I like to:
Spend time with family & friends

Pets: None

Favorite Restaurant:
Seasons 52

Ideal Vacation Spot: Beach

Things from Bucket List:

Go to Ireland to trace family history, two weeks in Italy on culinary/wine tour, take painting lessons

Song that gets stuck in your head: *Honey I'm good* by Andy Grammer

Movie you could watch over and over again: *Grease*

Salad Dressing: Raspberry Vinaigrette

Who you'd like to see in concert: Meghan Trainor, The Band Perry, Jimmy Buffet, Abba, Ed Shearen, Luke Bryan
Guilty Pleasure TV show: *Scandal*



Miss Jennifer's baby showing off his smile!



Creepers enjoying their snack!

Quick Links

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Creepers checking for mail!

Toddlers

We are adjusting well to coming to school and sharing with our friends. What a difference a couple of months makes! Miss Kim's classes are excited about turning "two" and Miss Wanda's classes are looking forward to being "two" in the spring of 2016. Please feel free to bring sugar cookies and we will celebrate the birthdays after lunch on your child's special day.

We are enjoying the courtyard and will look forward to going out to the big playground in January (weather permitting). Please remember to send coats, hats and mittens because we will go outside as long as it is not frigid and/or raining. We are learning to hold markers and paint brushes and are so excited about doing our artwork!

Thank you for sharing your precious little ones with us! They are our blessings! Hope you have a Merry Christmas!

-Miss Kim and Miss Wanda!



Young Toddlers enjoying their morning snack!



Older Toddlers checking out the books!



Preschool

2's

November was such a busy month. We learned to recognize the color brown and the rectangle shape. We also learned all about Thanksgiving and the Native Americans. Our headbands and necklaces were so much fun to make! At our Thanksgiving share we look forward to using our place mats that we made and eating all the yummy food that everyone will bring to share.

December is quickly approaching and will be full of lots of fun things as well. We will make lots of fun crafts and decorations for your tree and will learn about the true reason for the season. We will act out the Christmas story on December 14th & 15th (we come dressed as someone from the first Christmas). Our class Christmas parties will be December 15th & 16th at 12:15 p.m. in our classroom. Have a Happy Holiday and see you next year!

-Miss Donna and Miss Jennifer



Even Miss Jennifer loves the Ice Cream Truck!



Miss Donna's classes showing off their headdresses_

3's

November has been a very short month, but an eventful one! Our program/feast was so much fun! We really enjoyed sharing all we have learned about the first Thanksgiving. We sang songs about turkeys, Indians, Pilgrims and especially about thanking God. Then we loved sharing our special feast with our parents and our other special guests. Thank you so much for sharing that time with us. It is one of our favorite things we do in the Threes class. We are so proud of all the children! Thank you to Mrs. Whitney for organizing and practicing with them. Also thank you so much to all of you who helped before and after.

December will be just as active and exciting! They will learn and sing lots of Christmas carols, and make special Christmas art for you to treasure as we learn all about the true meaning of Christmas! We love teaching them about Jesus' birthday. We have some special activities planned. Lessons and Carols will be on December 11th and parents are invited. The re-enactment of the First Christmas is when they dress as a character from the First Christmas for a special Chapel lesson. We will end with our Christmas parties! More information will be coming for all of these special events.

We are amazed how fast this year is flying by but especially at how much they are learning and growing. They are such blessings to us and we are so thankful we can be a part of their lives! May you all have a joyous Christmas!

Peace,

Miss Beth, Miss Kim and Miss Rosemary



Miss Beth's class ready for their Thanksgiving Program!



Miss Beth and Miss Rosemary's boys proud of their performance!



Kim and Beth's 3's performing on stage!

4's

The Fours are having a wonderful and very busy year. We are learning expected kindergarten skills and behaviors. We are having a lot of fun learning letters, letter sounds, writing our names, and math skills. The fours work on centers every morning. These centers are games and activities designed to support our curriculum. The kids enjoy this fun approach to learning.

In November, we were visited by Letter People I, T, and S. We learned the Thanksgiving story including the Pilgrim families who left England and came to our country on a ship called the Mayflower. We discussed how long and treacherous their journey was. We discussed Squanto and the Native Americans who helped the Pilgrims hunt, plant crops, and find food so they could survive their first year in America. We made Native American headdresses, necklaces, and placemats. On Tuesday, November 24th we had our classroom Thanksgiving feast. Thank you to all the parents for providing the food.

On Tuesday, December 1st, we will be going to the Children's Theater. We will see Dear Santa. Thanks to all the parents who will be driving. Field trips would not be possible without your help.

On Friday, December 11th, we will have our Christmas program, Lesson and Carols, at 12:15 in the Nave. We ask that your child wear holiday clothing that day, it can be holiday colors or an outfit with seasonal patterns on it.

On Tuesday, December 15th, we will participate in a nativity scene in chapel and birthday party for Jesus. This will be the day that you send your child to school dressed as a nativity character. Your teacher answer any questions you have but just for example, boys wear a robe with a crown or girls can wear all white with a halo. Feel free to dress as any character from the nativity scene.

On Wednesday, December 16th, we will have our classroom book swap/party from 10:00-10:30. Following the party the fours will go hear Christmas songs played on a guitar and a Christmas Story. This will be a fun day filled with holiday cheer and celebrating Christ's birthday.

During all the "busy-ness", we should remember the wonder and miracle that is Christmas. The children get so excited during this special time. They are wide-eyed and full of joy. Thank you so much for sharing your precious children.

We wish you and your families a very joyous Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

-Miss Judy, Miss Monica, and Miss Stephanie



Miss Judy's class ready for their Thanksgiving Feast!



Miss Monica's class on Pajama Day!



Miss Stephanie's class enjoying their treats from the Ice Cream Truck!

5K News

We have loved learning about the first Thanksgiving! Our math centers have been done around all the symbols of the holiday. We have earned feathers for our headdresses, made pattern necklaces, counted Indians and feathers, learned Indian symbols and songs, met some new letter people and enjoyed each others company!

On Tuesday, November 17th, we had the opportunity to go to the Botanical Gardens! Whitney Saunders, (Bennett's mom) who is a docent there, took us on the Native American Experience. We were able to see some Native American tools, painted gourd masks, cooking items, learned a legend about why some trees are evergreen and some deciduous, looked for plants Native Americans used as medicines, learned about the 3 sisters garden versus traditional garden, made an interpretive garden, saw an actual dugout canoe, replica corn crib, summer shelter, and a small fire pit with a drying rack." There are many things we are thankful for this year but especially our family of friends here at St. Stephen's. Thanks to all the moms who joined us to help make 5K so much fun!

Things could hardly get more exciting but yet, here comes Santa Claus! We can hardly wait but wait we must! During this Christmas

season, we will meet new letter people friends and continue working on recognizing our letters and sounds, blending our sounds into words, reading color words, sight words, counting, sequencing, reading lots of books and enjoying the season together. We will also be busy working on special art projects and some secret things, too! (No peeking in our room without asking first!

I am counting my blessings during this special season for the opportunity to work with your children! Happy Thanksgiving from 5K!!!!!!

-Miss Leslie



Learning about the Legend of the Three Sisters Garden at the Botanical Garden!



Thanks to Bennett's mom for all we learned at the Botanical Gardens!

Creative Movement

We are having so much fun in creative movement! We are learning to bounce and catch a ball and how to hula hoop. We have been practicing our balancing skills with fun games and obstacle courses as well as playing with rhythm sticks and parachutes. The children especially love our stretching routine and our yoga poses! Creative movement is so much fun! Thank you for sharing your children with me.

-Miss Amber



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