

Mary Ann Sherman

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Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:40 AM
To: maryann@ssechurch.org
Subject: St. Stephen's Preschool September 2014 Newsletter

St. Stephen's Preschool September 2014

Newsletter

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Important Dates:

Sept. 26 4s & 5K to Children's Theatre to see *Rumplestiltskin*

Sept. 29/30 Speech, Hearing and Vision Screening for 3's & 4's

Oct. 2 Roger Day Concert 5-7 p.m. Melt Food Truck and Doodles will be here!

Oct. 13 NO SCHOOL Columbus Day

Oct. 15 MDO/Preschool Board Meeting at 6:15 p.m. in Room 139 in new building. All welcome.

Oct. 29 MW 2's Halloween Parade - 9:15 in Parish Hall. MW classes: Trick or Treating and Halloween parties at 12:15 pm

Oct 30 TTH 2's Halloween Parade - 9:15 in Parish Hall. TTH classes: Trick or Treating and Halloween parties at 12:15 pm

Director's Corner

We are so excited to have everyone back in school! We love seeing their smiling faces every day! We have lots of new families this year so please introduce yourself to anyone you don't know. The room mothers are planning Fall play dates for your child's class so I hope you will get to meet everyone in your class.

Please don't forget to update the School Cast website with your correct contact information. We will use the School Cast system to notify you of school closings. This was very helpful last year during the snowy weather. If your contact information changes during the year please undated School Cast and also let me know.

Roger Day will be here October 2! Thanks so much for pre-ordering your tickets and t-shirts. It's not too late to invite your friends and neighbors. We will be selling tickets at the door, \$5.00 person or \$15.00 per family. The MELT food truck will be here with yummy grilled cheese sandwiches and Doodles will be here with delicious frozen treats. We will have a fun photo booth available for all the little rock stars! The t-shirts will be in next week and we will send them home with your children. This event is also so much fun! Thanks for your support!

If you have any questions or concerns please let me know!

Oct. 31 All 3's and 4's Trick or Treating and Halloween parties at 12:15 p.m.
 Nov. 11 NO SCHOOL - Veteran's Day
 Nov. 12/13 Individual School Pictures
 Nov. 19 MDO/Preschool Board Meeting at 6:15 p.m. in Room 139. All welcome.
 Nov. 21 3's Thanksgiving Feast with Parents - 12:15 p.m. in Parish Hall
 Nov. 24 MW 2's Thanksgiving Feast in classrooms - 12:15 p.m.
 Nov. 25 TTH 2's, all 4's Thanksgiving Feast in classrooms - 12:15 p.m.
 Nov. 26-28 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Holidays

Leslie

School News

Many Thanks to:

- Zach Peagler and Michael Odom for notarizing paperwork.
- Cryshelle and Jason Patterson, Elaine Yeager and Martha Ann Livingston for painting the rec room and Ms. Jennifer's classroom.
- Tiffany Pierce for planning the Roger Day concert and organizing the volunteers.
- Paul Crane, Mike Manary, Adam Miller, Chris and Mindy Strickland, and Martha Ann Livingston for sprucing up the playground.
- Mindy Strickland for taking the staff pictures for the bulletin board.
- Kim Eriksson for taking pictures for our website.
- Whitney Weaver, Mary White and Marianna Odom for organizing our Scholastic Book Orders.

2014-15 School Year

Openings

We still have a few openings for this year. If you know anyone who might be interested please have them call Leslie at 967-6713 to inquire about our openings.

2014-15 Staff

We have a wonderful staff here to take care of your children! Our pictures are on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the lost and found and we hope you will learn more about us in the monthly Teacher Highlight feature below. Please introduce yourself to anyone you have yet to meet!

Babies: Jennifer Manary (MW)
 Alison Hall (TTH)

Creepers: Elaine Yeager (M-TH)

Young Toddlers: Wanda Manzella (M-TH)

Old Toddlers: Kim Green (M-TH)

Toddler Playday: Wanda Manzella (F)

Young Twos: Jennifer Bemowski (M-TH)

Old Twos: Donna Schanbacher (M-TH)

Friday Play Day 2's: Jennifer, Donna and Jennifer M (F)

3's: Beth Swantek (MWF) & (TTH)
 Kim Green (F for Miss Beth's TTH class)
 Rosemary Nichols (TTHF)

4's: Judy Jones (T-F)
 Monica Ishee (T-F)
 Leslie Lynch (M-F)

Music/Chapel: Whitney Page (MT)

Spanish: Kara Ogden (F)

Creative Movement: Amber Craig (WTH)

MDO Aide: Mary Ann Huie (TWTH)

Housekeeping: Lillian Jennings (M-F)

Finance: Mary Ann Sherman (MTHF)

School Fundraiser - Save the Date!

Mark your calendars...January 31, 2015

This will be our only fundraiser for the preschool so please mark your calendars and make plans to attend! We will have a silent and live auction, great food, and live music! This is a fun night for grown-ups so go ahead and secure your babysitter!

Blue Immunization Forms

The State Health Department mandates that ALL children attending Preschool, Mother's Day Out, Daycare as well as public school MUST have an updated, unexpired Alabama Blue Immunization form or a Certificate of Religious Exemption in order to attend school. We are audited on our Blue Forms so it is imperative that when we contact you about not having a valid Blue Form, you provide us with one as soon

Director: Leslie Dunlap (M-F)

Room Mothers

Thank you so much for all who volunteered to be Room Mothers this year. We so appreciate your willingness to serve in this way! Also a big thank you to Georganne Perrine for serving as our Head Room Mother this year!

Alison/Jennifer's Babies - Clark Richards			
Elaine's Creepers - Virginia Noble			
Wanda's YT - Frances Wang			
Kim's OT	MW	Beth Ann Morgan	
Kim's OT	TTH	Susan Russell	
Jennifer's Y2s	MW	Liz Lee	
	TTH	Whitney Saunders	
Donna's O2s	MW	Jane	
Emanuelson			TTH Kim
Eriksson			
Beth 3's	MWF	Cara Dorough	
Beth/Kim's 3's	TTHF	Georganne Perrine	
Rosemary's 3's		Samantha Ebert	
Judy's 4's		Ashley Johnson	
Monica's 4's		Amber Craig	
Leslie's 4's/5's		Ellen Duncan	

Special Feature

Teacher Highlights

To help you get to know our teachers better we thought we'd highlight a couple of teachers each month and give you some fun facts about each one!

as possible. The form must be an Alabama form and can be obtained from your child's pediatrician's office. If you have moved from out of state, the form can be obtained from the Department of Health. Also, all children 12 months and older are required to have had the varicella (chicken pox) vaccine or documentation that they have actually had the chicken pox. Thanks so much for your help with this matter!

T-Shirts

St. Stephen's Preschool t-shirts are available in youth sizes XS-L. All 4K and 5K students must have a t-shirt for the field trips. They are \$10 each and are located in Leslie's office. You may take what you need and leave the payment in the payment box. Please make checks to St. Stephen's Preschool and write "t-shirt" in the memo line.

Arrival Time and Absences

We understand that this is preschool but have found that it is so much better for your child if they arrive at school ON TIME. This is especially important for our 2-year, 3-year and 4-year old preschoolers who have activities beginning right after carpool, but it is also important for our MDO children to get used to their routines. Please try to make this effort to get your child to school on time.

Also, please remember to let us know if your child will not be at school. We like to keep up with our little ones. You may call any time at 967-6317 and leave or message or e-mail Leslie at Leslie@ssechurch.org.

Carpooling

If you are carpooling on a regular basis, please write a note. We will file it and will know to let your child go with the parent picking up.

Labeling

Label EVERYTHING! We have a Lost and Found that is located in the hallway outside of the recreation room.

"Pick up" Safety Precaution Policy

If anyone other than yourself will be picking your child up please verbally notify the teacher when you bring your child, backing it up with a hand written note. Also, you may call



Rosemary Nichols - 3's

On the weekend

I like to: Relax
Pets: 2 dogs and a fish
Cheers for: Alabama football
Ideal vacation spot: Beach
Favorite board on pinterest: Preschool ideas
Twitter, Facebook or Instagram: None
Favorite breakfast food: Coffee
Who inspires you?: My parents
Superhero power
you'd love to have: Hold breath
under water
First Concert: Kenny Rogers
What you know now that
you wish you knew then: Take the time to
listen.....

during the day. The person must be on your Release Form. If the person is not on the Release Form a note must be written stating the name of the person who will be picking up your child and they must show an I.D.

If the same person picking him up brings your child to school, we will let him go with that person. Notification is requested by either a phone call or a note prior to the date.

Vision, Speech & Hearing Screening

Jerri Smith of Over the Mountain Speech, Language and Learning Services will be at St. Stephen's MDO and Preschool on September 30th and October 1st. We will be sending forms home in the children's bags for you to sign up if you wish for your child to participate. Any child who has turned three is welcome to be screened.

Student Handbook

Our Student Handbook was handed out to all new students at the beginning of the school year and is also available under the links section on the left side of this newsletter. We encourage you to take the time to review our policies and procedures.

Illnesses

In an effort to minimize passing illness throughout the school, please **DO NOT SEND** your child to school if he or she has not been fever free for 24 hours and/or if he or she would not be able to fully benefit from being here.

Finances

Please remember that regular, Tigger Time and Early Bird tuition are due on the first of each month and considered late if received after the 10th of each month. You may write one check for all items, but please indicate the amount for each on the memo line on the bottom of each check. September was a "free" month with respect to late payment fees, but **beginning in October**, late fees will be added to those accounts in which



Kara Ogden - Spanish

On the weekend

- I like to: Play with the family
- Pets: No
- Cheers for: Colts football/IU basketball
- Ideal vacation spot: Beach with family
- Favorite board on pinterest: Recipes
- Twitter, Facebook or Instagram: None
- Favorite breakfast food: Bacon
- Who inspires you?: My husband
- Superhero power you'd love to have: Super Strength
- First Concert: Reo Speedwagon

Quick Links

[Student Handbook](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[Full Website: Saint Stephen's Preschool](#)

the tuition is not received by the 10th or first business day following the 10th of the month. Note that the late payment fee is \$25 so please be prompt with your payments. If you pay via internet billpay, please make sure that your payment is set so as to arrive at the church by the 10th of the month. If you are experiencing extenuating circumstances, please contact Leslie or me and we will be glad to work with you.

Remember that if you enroll for a permanent day(s) in Tigger Time or Early Birds by December 1st, then the month of May will be free of charge. Drop-in fees for Early Birds is \$10/day. With Tigger time this year if you register for a permanent day or our 5 for \$50 special, then drop-in fees for additional days is only \$10/day. There is a one-time only registration fee of \$15 and I will be sending out bills to those of you who have not paid the registration fee. If you take advantage of our 5 for \$50 special, I will notify you when you have one TT left. Remember the discounted \$10 rate only applies if you pay for TT no later than the day your child attends TT. We also offer a 5 for \$40 special for Early Birds where you will receive a 20% discount off the drop-in rate for Early Birds.

If you use either Early Birds or Tigger Time on a regular basis, a significant price break is given for permanent reservations as detailed below:

	<u>TT</u>	<u>EB</u>
1 day /week	\$40	\$30
2 days/week	\$75	\$60
3 days/week	\$105	\$80
4 days/week	\$120	\$95
5 days/week	\$140	\$105

Sibling discounts of 50% apply!

If you have any questions about fees or your account, please email me at maryann@ssechurch.org.

-Mary Ann

St. Stephen's Preschool Calendar

Our program follows the Mountain Brook School system for inclement weather only. We have our own unique calendar that is approved by the MDO/Preschool Board each year taking into account the various school systems that are represented at our school. Our school calendar is available under our [links](#) on the left side of the newsletter as well as on our website at www.ssepreschool.org.

2014-15 Directory

The first draft of the 2014-15 Directory is complete and you should have received a copy via e-mail. Please email any changes or corrections needed to Leslie at Leslie@ssechurch.org as soon as possible so we can get the final version to you via email. Thank you for helping us to keep our clerical costs down!

Early Birds and Tigger Time

Early Birds

Early Birds meet in Ms. Jennifer Bemowski's room every morning at 8 a.m. You can have a reservation or you can just drop in. If something comes up at the last minute and you need your child to be at school early, just stop by; you don't need to call ahead. The drop in rate is \$10, paid when you drop off your child. If you have a standing reservation the rates are lower and siblings are half price. (See Finances above for rates). In addition, if you know that you will need Early Birds periodically but are not sure of the dates, you can purchase our 5 for \$40 Early Bird special and receive a 20% discount off the drop-in rate. You may also sign up for permanent days and receive an even greater daily discount. In addition, if you sign up before December 1st then you will receive the month of May 2015 free!

The children play in my room, the rec room and then will be taken to carpool by Ms. Leslie or one of the teacheres at 9 a.m. Thank you and we look forward to seeing your child at Early Birds.

- Ms. Jennifer & Ms. Monica

Tigger Time

Things have been "tigger-rific" in Tigger Time thanks to all of the precious children who come each day! With the hot weather earlier in the month we have been playing in the rec room but with the cooler weather we look forward to going outside to play on the playground. The children really enjoy

playing with their friends from different classes that they are not able to see during regular school time from 9 am - 1 pm. If you haven't had a chance to register (\$15 registration fee), take advantage of our 5 for \$50 special or of enrolling for a permanent day, which is even less expensive. See rates above under Finances. Remember that if you enroll for a permanent day or days before December 1st then the month of May will be free of charge!

The best way to let us know that you want to drop-in for Tigger Time is either through an email or a phone call to Leslie. You can assume your child will have a spot in Tigger Time unless you hear otherwise.

Carpool for Tigger Time begins at 2:20 p.m. and is over at 2:30 p.m. Thanks for allowing us the opportunity to enjoy playing with your child!

- Ms. Jennifer & Ms. Beth

Mother's Day Out

We would like to welcome everyone back and welcome all the newcomers. It is great to see all of the children and we are looking forward to a great year! We know that some of you are concerned about "separation anxiety", but please be aware that this is a normal occurrence for some children. Don't be concerned if your child seems fine one day and then cries the next time you drop him or her off at school. The most important thing that you can do as a parent is to be consistent with your drop-off routine. These children are so perceptive and they can sense a parent's uneasiness. Feel free to call the office and check on how your child is doing. Just remember that this separation anxiety is normal with children of this age and fortunately it will not last long! Here are just a few other important reminders:

Label Everything! Please label bottles, diapers, sippy cups, change of clothing, lunches, etc. This is a great help to the teachers

Change of Clothing Always keep a change of clothing in their bags.

Lunch If you send fruit cups, please be sure to drain off the juice and put their food in plastic containers, if possible.

Habit Sheets Be sure to read your daily habit sheet prepared by the teachers.

Diapers Send 3 diapers each day.

Early pick-up If you are coming early to pick up your child, please call the office or inform your child's teacher so she can

have your child ready to go home. For those of you who have children who are used to a morning nap and are having a bit of a time making the adjustment to MDO, it might be a good idea to pick them up a little early during this transition period. Discuss this with your teacher and she will be happy to give you her input.

Thank you and we look forward to a wonderful year!

Babies and Creepers

We are so excited to be back in the swing of things, our new friends in the babies and creepers. We all look forward to watching them grow and change this year. Both the babies and creepers enjoy strolling outside, weather permitting. We will continue to do this as long as the weather allows us, so remember to bring a sweater or jacket once the temperatures cool off. The children are enjoying their trips to the rec room, they love the change of scenery and the open space.

We are already off to a great start! Remember to LABEL EVERYTHING!

Miss Elaine, Miss Jennifer, and Miss Alison



Babies love strolling!



Creepers exploring in the classroom!

Old and Young Toddlers

We are off to a good start this year. We are still adjusting to coming to school and settling into our rooms. Tears are part of this process, but the more times they come, the easier they will adapt. We are learning to sit at the big table while eating snack and lunch.

Miss Kim's classes have birthdays coming up! Feel free to bring cookies or a special treat to share with the class after lunch. We will sing and celebrate that they are turning two!

You all are doing a great job with labeling everything. Thank you so much for that! Also, thanks for keeping the lunches simple so that the children have an easier time eating their lunch. Please send all drinks in sippy cups. Pop tops are dangerous for little fingers and juice boxes tend to spill. It's best not to send red juice because we want to try to avoid staining clothes if at all possible. Also, please remember to put sunscreen on your children before coming to school. The weather is great this time of year and we will go outside as long as it is not raining.

-Miss Kim and Miss Wanda



Young Toddlers love Miss Wanda!



Toddlers having fun in rec room!

Preschool

2's

What a great start to the year we have had. Everyone is adjusting so well with very few tears. Please remember to label everything. If you haven't brought in a change of clothes, please do so. While we do have extra clothes in the office in the event of an accident, the children usually feel more comfortable in their own clothes.

The two's are enjoying Creative Movement with Miss Amber and Music and Chapel with Miss Whitney. All the two's are doing carpool everyday this year and they are doing a great job. Please remember that the children have to carry their own bags so try not to make their bags too heavy. Our shape this month is the circle, our color is yellow and our nursery rhyme is "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

Thanks for a great September.

-Miss Donna and Miss Jennifer



Young 2s have so much fun in creative movement!



Older 2's love their time in the rec room!

3's

Welcome all our returning and new St. Stephen's families. The last few weeks have been super fun but very busy. We have enjoyed spending time together and getting to know one another. The children have gotten to participate in Music, Chapel, Spanish and Creative movement. Each day the boys and girls have circle time where we sing good morning songs, say hello to our friends, work on the calendar and find out our weekly theme. This time is very important because it will strengthen your child's attention span and patience while they listen and interact. Plus, they all love talking and sharing something special about themselves or families! We go

outside or to rec room everyday. This is a treat for us because we get to really see your sweet children at play and socialize. Being "three" is a big step from last year and it is so neat observing how quickly our little friends can adapt to a new routine, class schedule and learning environment. It is a great age to have their speech, vision and hearing checked! Please take advantage of OTM Speech visiting our school on September 29 & 20th. We appreciate all of you entrusting your children with us. This upcoming year will be amazing filled with many new adventures and experiences. We hope to see you all at the Roger Day concert; it should be so much fun and the children love it! Thank you very much for your support and please feel free to contact us with any concerns. Our doors are always open!!!!

Miss. Beth, Miss. Kim & Miss Rosemary



Who knew shaving cream was so much fun!



3's having fun in creative movement!

4's

We have such a great group of 4 year olds this year! They are eager to learn and eager to please. We have really enjoyed getting to know each other and have gotten off to a great start. Thank you for all you have done to help.

We will be meeting a new letter person at the beginning of each week. The children think it's great fun to hunt for the "Mystery Letter Person" each week. We will be reinforcing the letters with activities ranging from reading stories to creating our families from paper dolls.

We have already met Mr. M, Miss A, and Mr. F and we can't wait to meet the rest of our letter people. We have also been working on "All About Me". We are enjoying getting to know your children and learning their favorite things!

We have our first field trip to Children's Theatre on Friday, September 26th to see *Rumplestilskin*. Remember to wear your St. Stephen's t-shirt and to leave your child's car seat at carpool.

We are also getting ready for our Cowboy Lunch which will be Friday, October 10th. The children are having fun making their stick ponies. There will be fun games, activities, and even a pony race! We are working on a cowboy menu so you will not need to send your child a lunch that day. Remember to have your child dressed as a cowboy/cowgirl and no guns please! Thanks to all the moms and dads who are putting it together. Yeehaw!!

Miss Monica, Miss Judy, and Miss Leslie L.



Math is fun when you learn with M&Ms!



Miss Judy's 4's having fun on the playground



Miss Leslie's class enjoying the fall weather on the playground!

Creative Movement

We are having so much fun in creative movement! We have a special song to start our morning and get us ready to have some fun! We start with stretches that incorporate some cool Yoga poses and get ready for the activity of the day. We have played with parachutes, bean bags, and rhythm sticks. We have danced to some really fun animal songs and had a ball on our obstacle course. Thank you so much for sharing your precious children with me!

Miss Amber



Rhythm sticks are fun!



The balance beam isn't as easy as it looks!

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