

January 2, 2017

From: Lee Walsh

Parent Information

Upcoming Events:

- January 9: First day of yoga mini-session
- January 11: Preschool Open House Tour (9:30am)
- January 16: No school (MLK Day)
- January 17: Staff Meeting at 12:30pm
- January 19: Preschool Open House Tour (9:30am)
- January 20: No School (Inauguration Day)
- January 23: Church member's last priority registration day
- January 23: Deadline for rising pre-K students and currently enrolled Hummingbirds to register
- January 24: In-person registration for rising 3 year olds
- January 26: In-person registration for siblings
- January 27: In-person registration for alumni
- January 27: Pre-K Parent/Teacher Conferences
- January 31: Community Lottery applications due

Countdown to Registration for Fall 2017

January is the month to complete registration for the 2017-18 school year.

CCUM Church members have priority registration for any of the classes. If you are a member please turn in the completed application with the appropriate registration fee by January 23.

Parents who would like to register their child for a pre-K class (i.e., those students who are currently Doves, Blue Jays, Cardinals or Robins) and parents of children currently in the Hummingbirds class must also turn in the registration form at any time between now and January 23. Please note that children currently enrolled in the Hummingbirds class have a choice of attending 2 days or 3 days the following year.



Parents of children currently in the Buntings, Sparrows, Chickadees, Wrens or Finches classes will have an in-person registration on Tuesday, January 24 on a first-come, first-served basis.* The office will open that morning to begin registration by 8:00am. We hope

that the early time will better accommodate working parents. Parents registering these students will have an option of choosing 5 days (Doves or Blue Jays classes) or 3 days (Cardinal or Robins classes). If it matters to you which option you will get, it behooves you to be at our office bright and early.

Registration for siblings of current students will take place in-person on Thursday, January 26 on a first-come, first-served basis.* The preschool office will open that morning at 8:30am.

Registration for all alumni will take place in the preschool office on Friday, January 27. The preschool office will be open at 9:00am for this registration.

Please be aware that all community applications must be in our office by 3:00pm on Tuesday, January 31. If you have friends who are interested in the preschool, but who are not currently enrolled, please make sure that they are aware of this important deadline. The lottery for community applications will take place on Tuesday, February 7.

If you have questions about the registration process or about which class would be appropriate for your child, please speak with Lee or Lauren.

*Please note that parents do not have to be present for the in-person registrations. They may send a representative to take care of their child's registration.

January Book Recommendations

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Pena This 2016 Caldecott Honors book tells a story of community service and seeing beauty in everything. A boy and his grandmother take a bus to go help out at the soup kitchen. During the bus ride the young boy questions why they have to take the bus, why it is raining, etc. His is a failure of perspective. The grandmother points out the beauty in all these situations that the boy had previously not appreciated. By the end of the book the boy is able to see what his grandmoth-

er sees. It is probably her ability to see value and beauty in everything that undergirds her desire to help those at the homeless shelter. A valuable reminder for all of us that our attitudes and perspective powerfully influence the way we behave.

Supertruck by Stephen Savage As we enter the snowy time of year this may become a favorite for your kids especially those who love trucks. This award winner tells the story of an average garbage truck who transforms into a

snowplowing superhero in the face of a blizzard.

Waiting by Kevin Henkes A recent Caldecott Honors book it promotes the virtue of patience. A great deal of life, especially for children, is about waiting. This book explores the beauty that can take place during these times of waiting and reminds us that waiting is not necessarily a bad thing. (Remind your kids of that the next time they demand your iPhone during a wait.)



Buy your tickets to the auction now! The auction will be held at Columbia Country Club on Saturday, February 11.

January is Helpfulness Month

In January teachers will be emphasizing the virtue of helpfulness (i.e., being of practical use). This will be a great month to talk about the jobs that kids do in the classroom and at home. Giving a child a job to do helps them to feel capable and needed by others. This may be a perfect time to point all of those people in the community

who are helpers. People like firefighters, police, doctors, nurses, janitors, waiters, grocery baggers, are great candidates for discussion. There are great children's books that emphasize being helpful as well. Check out *Helping Out* by George Ancona and *Do-Something Day: 2* by Joe Lasker

Snow Policy Reminder

We will be closed due to snowfall if MCPS schools are closed. If MCPS has a two-hour delay, we will have a one-hour delay (i.e., we will open at 10:00am). MCPS delay or closure information can be found on the major television networks as well as on WTOP (103.5) FM. In addition, you may find out what we are doing by calling the preschool (301.652.7660) after 7:30am. My outgoing message will reflect what is happening that day.

Parent/Teacher Conferences for Pre-K Students on January 27

If your child is in our Owls, Penguins or Eagles classes, we will be holding our parent/teacher conferences on Friday, January 29. There will still be school that day for our students as we will have substitutes in the classrooms for those teachers. Each teacher will have her own sign-up for you. Some teachers post theirs outside the classroom door and some may utilize Sign-up Genius. Please

check with your child's teacher to find out how to sign up. Mrs. Baker's conferences will be in room 107 downstairs, Mrs. Delgado's conferences will be in room 300 upstairs and Mrs. Kerns's conferences will be in the church library downstairs.

The parent-teacher conference is a good opportunity for you to learn

about your child's progress thus far. Please come to the conference prepared to discuss any questions or concerns that you might have about your child's progress. Teachers are excited to discuss their observations of your child.

Please note that younger siblings should be left at home so that parents may speak freely.

Some Remarks About Parent/Teacher Conferences

The teaching staff strives to ensure that all children at CCUMCP meet the learning objectives that they have been working towards over the course of the year. As the learning objectives are for children ages 2-5, you will see that it will take the entirety of their time at preschool for them to master those skills. These skills, attached to the email containing the newsletter, encompass all domains of learning including the cognitive, physical and socio-emotional. The children will progress through a series of steps the mastery of which will lead them closer to the learning objectives. Much as a child learns to walk in steps—progressing from sitting alone to scooting to crawling to walking holding on to something prior to walking unaided—so do children master other skills. The teaching staff knows the steps that each child must make on the way to accomplishing the skills listed as

learning objectives. It is the staff's job to find out where your child is on the way to meeting those learning objectives and to build activities into the curriculum to respond to your child wherever he/she is. What we want to see over the course of the year is not that all children have mastered each and every skill, but that each child has made progress over the course of the year. By the end of his/her time at preschool, each child should show proficiency with all of the skills.

Both on a daily basis and during formal assessments, the teachers and assistants observe the children to see which areas are progressing naturally and which areas may need more intentional, focused refining. In response, teachers adapt their activities to meet the needs of the children in their class. Should your child not be progressing as we be-

lieve that he/she should be, then we will communicate our concerns with you. As always, we value your input about your child's progress and hope to hear from you regarding your concerns about your child's progress. You can expect that at a parent/teacher conference you will hear about your child's strengths and his/her challenges. The pre-K conferences occur early in the school year to facilitate applications to private school for kindergarten. Conferences for the remainder of our students take place in March. Parents who desire to have another conference later in the school year should let their child's teacher know. In like manner we will take the initiative to request a conference with you if we think that one is warranted.