

January 5 2018

From: Lee Walsh

## Parent Information

### Upcoming Events:

- January 5 & 11: Mad Science show in Philip's Hall at 10:30am
- January 10 & 18: Preschool Open House Tour (9:30am)
- January 15: No school (MLK Day)
- January 16: Staff Meeting at 12:30pm
- January 16: Chipotle Fundraiser (4-8PM)
- January 23: Church member's last priority registration day
- January 23: Deadline for rising pre-K students and currently enrolled Hummingbirds to register
- January 25: Online registration for rising 3 year olds
- January 29: Online registration for siblings
- January 30: Online registration for alumni
- January 31: Pre-K Parent/Teacher Conferences
- January 31: Community Lottery applications due

### Countdown to Registration for Fall 2018

January is the month to complete registration for the 2018-19 school year.

CCUM Church members have priority registration for any of the classes. If you are a member please complete the online registration through the parent portal 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 complete the online registration 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, Starlings, Chickadees, or Finches classes may complete online registration in the parent portal at any time on January 25. Parents registering these students will have an option of choosing 5 days or 3

days. Next year we will offer (3) 5-day classes and (1) 3-day class. If it matters to you which option you will get, it behooves you to complete the online registration early that day. They will all bear a date/time stamp and will be approved in order of their submission.

Registration for siblings of current students will take place online on January 29 on a first-come, first-served basis (as described above).

Registration for all alumni will take place online on January 30. Again, appli-

cations will be considered on a first come, first served basis.

Please be aware that all community applications must be completed online by 3:00pm on 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 Friday, February 2.

Detailed instructions on how to complete the online registration for returning students or their siblings is included on the last page of this newsletter and will come home in the backpacks beginning today.

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



## 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 Preschool's 50th Birthday Bash (and auction)! It will be held at the home of the Kneller/DeFlorio family on Saturday, February 10.

## 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.

January 12 Starlings

January 19 Sparrows

January 19 Buntings

January 31 Owls

January 31 Eagles

January 31 Penguins

February 5 Robins

February 5 Cardinals

February 6 Finches

February 6 Chickadees

February 7 Blue Jays

February 7 Doves

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. Conferences for all classes will take place in January and February. 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.

## Parent/Teacher Conferences Schedule

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.

Please see the table to the right for date of the parent/teacher conference for your child's class. Each teacher has a sign-up sheet or sign-up genius for the conferences.

### 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 believe that he/she should be,

## CCUMC 50th Birthday Bash & Celebration Sunday

The birthday celebration begins on Sunday, February 4th with special church services aimed at celebrating the founding of the preschool 50 years ago. We hope the founder, Vivien Otto, will be joining us that day for church. The Preschool will host a special coffee hour between services. All families are invited to attend service and the coffee hour.

The celebration continues with the upcoming 50th Birthday Bash on Saturday, February 10 at the home of Mike Kneller and Andrea DeFlorio. We will enjoy wonderful food, drink and conversation as well as the chance to support the Preschool by participating in the auction and raffle. Invitations are coming home in the backpack mail today. You may purchase tickets through the portal or through backpack mail.



## Chipotle Fundraiser Night January 16

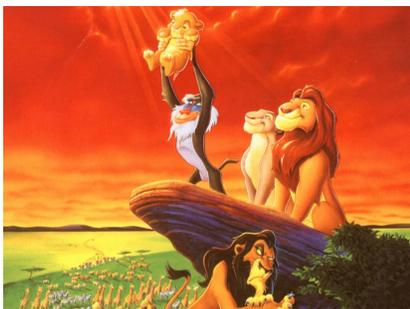


Join friends from the preschool for a night out with the kids enjoying some yummy Tex Mex at Chipotle (7600 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda) on Tuesday, January 16 between 4pm and 8pm. A portion of all purchases made in the store (using the flyer coming home soon in the backpack or attached here) will be given back to the preschool. So, make a date to meet friends for dinner with the kids and get the night off from cooking.



## Pizza/Movie Night-January 19

Put on your warmest pajamas, bring a pillow and come to the preschool to enjoy some pizza and the movie "The Lion King" on the big screen. Buy your tickets NOW for this fun, family-oriented event. If you have friends and neighbors who want to join you, bring them too! This will be a night to remember. Form attached to email.



## Jump Bunch has Begun

It's uber cold outside, but the preschoolers are still getting plenty of exercise thanks to our Jump Bunch Program which starts in January and runs through early April. Once a week your children will be led through different gross motor exercises by the skilled teachers from Jump Bunch. The exercises will be fun for the kids all the while building important coordination and balance skills as well as listening and cooperation skills. If you are co-oping on your child's Jump Bunch day be prepared to run, jump and move yourself. If you have any questions about this program, please feel free to ask.

## How to Register a Currently Enrolled Student or a Sibling for Next Year

**IMPORTANT:** We will be unlocking registration so that anyone has access to it. **HOWEVER,** if you are registering a rising 3, sibling or alumni you may **NOT** complete the registration process **PRIOR** to your designated date or your application will be rejected and you will have to complete registration again on the designated date.

**For siblings:** At any time prior to the designated registration day log into the Parent Portal.

1. Click on the "Personal" tile.
2. Click "Add a New Student" (located under the words "Information Summary") and complete the information that pertains to the new student you will be registering
3. Follow the rest of the directions below on the designated day for registration.

**For everyone:**

1. On the designated day for registration log into the Parent Portal.
2. Click on the "Registration" tile.
3. Scroll down to the section titled "Preschool Application Form."
4. Click on the button marked "Unlock to View Offerings."
5. Type in "unlock" and then click on "Submit".
6. Scroll down to the class desired and click on "Enroll." When you do that it will ask you to select the student you wish to register.
7. Select the appropriate student and click "Submit."
8. Answer the registration questions that arise and then click on "Add to Cart."
9. At this time you will be asked to pay the \$50 registration fee. You may do so with your credit card (3.5% convenience fee) or echeck (\$.35 fee)

Once done this application will save and will be entered into a queue for Lauren and Lee to accept and approve. You should receive an email confirming that you have submitted an application. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact Lauren or Lee.

**NOTE:** The best browsers to use are Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Firefox. Internet Explorer does NOT work well with this software.