

January 5, 2019

From: Lee Walsh

Parent Information

Upcoming Events:

- January 10 & 16: Preschool Open House Tour (9:30am)
- January 11: Pizza/Movie Night (doors open at 6pm)
- January 21: No school (MLK Day)
- January 22: Staff Meeting at 12:30pm
- January 22: Church member's last priority registration day
- January 22: Deadline for rising pre-K students and currently enrolled Hummingbirds to register
- January 24 & 25: Mad Science show in Phillip's Hall at 10:30am
- January 25: Online registration for rising 3 year olds
- January 28: Online registration for siblings
- January 29: Online registration for alumni
- January 31: Pre-K Parent/Teacher Conferences
- January 31: Community Lottery applications due

Countdown to Registration for Fall 2019

January is the month to complete registration for the 2019-2020 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 22. 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 22. Please note that children currently enrolled in the Hummingbirds class have a choice of attending 2 days, 3 days or 5 days the following year.

Remaining classes, siblings and alumni are assigned a particular day to register on the portal.

Applications received through the portal prior to the specified date will be rejected and will need to be completed again.



Parents of children currently in the Buntings, Sparrows, Starlings, Chickadees, or Wrens 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. 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 28 on a first-come, first-served basis (as described above).

Registration for all alumni will take place online on-

January 29. Again, applications 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 the first week of February.

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 January 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.

January Book Recommendations

Breathe with Me: Using Breath to Feel Strong, Calm, and Happy by Mariam Gates. Just in time for our yoga mini-session comes a picture book extolling the virtues of breathing deeply. When you feel mad, scared, highly emotional, just breathe. I'm not sure who needs to hear this more; us or our kids.

Baby Shark by John John Bejet. Though I'm the last human on the face of the earth to have learned about the Baby Shark phenomena, I'm not the last to have

learned about this book. Your kids will love this one (and maybe you will too). The book introduces to the entire Baby Shark family. Sing along. You know you want to.

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.)



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 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.

Classes on conference days occur as regularly scheduled.

Date	Class (Location of Conference)
January 22	Wrens (Rm 300)
January 23	Starlings (Rm 300)
January 28	Sparrows (Rm 300) & Buntings
January 29	Chickadees (Wesley Rm) &
January 30	Cardinals (Wesley Rm) & Robins (Rm 300)
January 31	Blue Jays (Wesley Rm) & Doves (Rm 300)
February 5	Robins (Rm 300)
February 1	Penguins (Rm 300) & Eagles (Wesley Rm)

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.

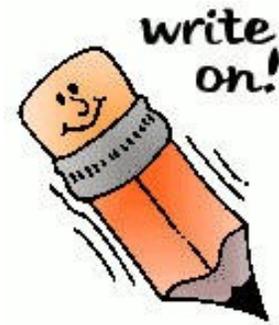
Some Remarks About Parent/Teacher Conferences

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,

Curriculum Corner: Handwriting Without Tears



lines and
little
lines.
Once
mastered

The only boxed curriculum piece used at CCUMC is Handwriting Without Tears (HWT). Developed by an occupational therapist in Maryland and used in many schools nationwide, this program focuses on fun, developmentally appropriate paths to correct letter and number formation.

This program emphasizes the formation of good habits in even the youngest of children by building appropriate pre-writing skills and the introduction of concepts essential to good handwriting. This program encourages the use of short, chubby crayons in our youngest children. The length and girth of these crayons helps to develop a proper grasp. Because they are short, children cannot grasp them using their entire fist (i.e., incorrectly), but must use the correct grip.

To develop the hand strength required to grip properly, children play with playdough, use chopsticks to pick up objects, and “write” or draw in shaving cream, sand, or other soft surfaces. This

helps to prepare them for the actual work of writing.

This program emphasizes that efficient handwriting, which puts the least strain on hand muscles and results in the most legible handwriting, is formed by moving the hand from top to bottom and left to right.

Being able to do this requires that children understand directionality. They must learn to differentiate top from bottom and learn left and right. We use fun songs (think “Hokey Pokey”) and even the exercise of saying the pledge of allegiance (because the children learn that it is their right hand which is to be placed over their hearts) to help them learn this.

Finally, HWT eases students into handwriting by breaking down letter and number formation into big curves, little curves, big lines and little lines. The thinking is that it is easier for children to master the execution of the parts first. So, we work on writing big curves and little curves and big

with some proficiency teachers show how to use those components to build letters and numbers. Teachers have wood pieces in the shapes of big curves, little curves and so on to demonstrate for students these components. Students can manipulate for themselves how these pieces can be put together to form letters and numbers.

Once in pre-K each student is given a workbook in which to practice writing the components of handwriting—the big curves, little curves, etc. Afterwards they move on to letter formation beginning with the least complex letters like “T” and “I” and concluding with the most complex like “R.” By the end of the pre-K year students have been taught all capital letters as well as numbers.

Feel free to ask your child’s teacher should you wish to know more about this wonderful part of our curriculum.



Summer Camp

Summer will be here in the blink of an eye. Plan ahead and

enroll your children in CCUMC’s exciting, fun summer camp. We are offering three weeks of camp for all ages directly following the end of school. All camps will have

water play, arts and crafts, and special summer activities. We anticipate having mixed age camps this year, but that will depend on the number of children who enroll. Summer camp runs from 9am to 1pm each day of the week. Snack is provided by the preschool. We ask you to provide a bagged lunch for

your child.

To enroll, please visit the parent portal and register there. The cost per child per week is \$310. There are no refunds for summer camp enrollment unless the camp does not run due to low enrollment.

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

IMPORTANT: Registration is unlocked so that anyone may access it. **HOWEVER,** if you are registering a rising 3 year old, 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.

To register 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.

To register anyone:

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. 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.
5. Select the appropriate student and click "Submit."
6. Answer the registration questions that arise and then click on "Add to Cart."
7. 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.

Registration Dates:

Through January 22: For CCUM Church members, current Hummingbirds and rising pre-K Students (i.e., currently enrolled Blue Jays, Cardinals, Doves, and Robins)

January 25: Rising 3 year olds (i.e., currently enrolled Buntings, Chickadees, Sparrows, Starlings, and Wrens)

January 28: Siblings

January 29: Alumni