

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 2—(NO SCHOOL)
- Nov. 8—  
Scholastic Book Orders due
- Nov. 17—AC Meeting  
6:30pm
- Nov. 22 —  
Starlings, Buntings, Orioles, Robins, Blue Jays, and Doves Chapel Service
- Nov. 23—  
Cardinals, Owls, Penguins, Eagles, Wrens, and Sparrows Chapel Services
- Nov. 24-26  
NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving
- Nov. 30 Staff Meeting at  
6:30pm

# CCUMCP Parent Information

PROGRESSION FOR

NOVEMBER 2021

## Thanksgiving Pajama Drive (Nov. 22 & 23)

The Thanksgiving season provides us with a wonderful opportunity to teach our children and remind ourselves about the blessings that we enjoy that can be shared with others. This year at Thanksgiving the CCUMCP family will again join together to donate new pajamas for area children. This program is nationwide, but serves local communities. This means that every pair of pajamas donated will find its way to a child in our area. **We are asking the children to bring those new pajamas or**

**nightgowns to school by November 22.** Classes will gather in the Sanctuary, fully masked and separated by rows of pews,



for the communal service. **We ask children to wear their favorite pair of pajamas to school the day that they have chapel (either November 22 or 23).**

Talk to your child about this effort and involve your child in the process. **Make sure to bring in all pajamas and nightgowns by Monday, November 22.** Thank you so much for your help in this important effort.

## Celebrating Thanksgiving with Preschoolers

Celebrating Thanksgiving with preschoolers can be tricky. The story that I was told as a young child depicting smiling pilgrims and Native Americans becoming best friends is, not entirely accurate. However, preschoolers are too young to be given the details of the relationship which devolved into something that included violence. So, what to do?

1. Use part of the story in which the Wampanoag tribe helps the pilgrims learn how to farm more effectively following their

first winter when they almost starved to death. The natural reaction of the pilgrims would be one of gratitude. In other words, focus on gratitude and thankfulness as the origin of Thanksgiving.

2. Teach about the [Wampanoag tribe](#) both as a historical tribe and as a flourishing modern tribe. Native Americans don't want to be relegated to the past.

3. Talk about the foods associated with Thanksgiving and where they have their origins. Corn, for example, was gifted to the pilgrims by the Native Americans.

When children begin elementary school they are old enough to hear more of the story that followed in the decade after the celebration of that harvest festival that we commemorate with Thanksgiving.

If you would like to read  
(Continued on page 3)

# Mastering Cutting with Scissors

## Current Openings

Spaces are still available in our 3-day 3's, 5-day 3's and pre-K classes. If you know of someone who may be interested, please let them know.

## Preschool Tours

This year we are offering in person tours and virtual Q & A sessions about the preschool for prospective parents wishing to enroll in the 2022-2023 school year. The next couple of dates are November 10, 18 or 19 and December 3, 6 and 9. If you have a friend or neighbor who is looking for a preschool, please have them visit our website to RSVP or contact Lee or Lauren.

We will have 50 spaces for 2 year olds with options for 5-day, 3-day and 2-day classes as well as 10 spaces in our Hummingbirds class that starts mid-year. In addition, we always have spaces available in our 3 year old and pre-K classes.

As an assistant in a 2 year old class years ago I joked about the amount of cutting that was necessary for my job—I was constantly cutting out letters and shapes for art projects—and how delighted my preschool teacher would be to know that I was using what she taught me. While it is true that I perfected my scissor skills in kindergarten, children are now expected to enter kindergarten having mastered the art of cutting. This means that children need to work with scissors throughout their preschool years **beginning at the age of two**.

Obviously, using scissors is a skill that one utilizes for the whole of life so it is important to learn in itself, but the skills honed while mastering cutting are also helpful in other areas. According to OT Kimberly Wiggins in [Scissor Savvy—Part I](#), utilizing scissors

1. builds up the tiny muscles in one's hand that are necessary for handwriting, painting, using eating implements or just pulling up one's pants,
2. enhances hand-eye coordination necessary for sports or eating with utensils, for example,
3. and utilizes bilateral coordination which is using both halves of your body at the same

time. Bilateral coordination is used frequently. For example, whenever you zip up a jacket (you hold one part of the jacket with one side while pulling upwards with the other half), or walk.

The best scissors to use are child-safe scissors with the rounded edges. These scissors provide stability for developing hand muscles. Before the lesson begins, outline some rules of safety. Explain that scissors can cut and should be used carefully with an adult's supervision. Instead of outlining what they can't cut exclusively be sure to mention what they can cut. For example, "We never cut other people or animals. We use scissors to cut playdough, paper and fabric."

After the rules have been set forth, begin by showing them their thumb and demonstrating that when they want to cut their thumbs should face the sky. This will help children learn how to orient their hands in the scissors. Demonstrate for them how the thumb goes into one hole and the next two fingers go into the other hole. Help them open and close their fingers.

In another article Kimberly Wiggins mentions that learn-

ing to cut progresses in stages. At 2 yrs. of age children should be able to snip at the end of a piece of paper. (Note that this leaves out cutting through the paper completely and moving forward as one cuts.) Children move from snipping to cutting through paper to cutting straight lines, circles and then squares in the next 2 years of their development.

Like any other skill, cutting precisely takes practice. While they do get to practice at school, it is important that they have plenty of practice at home too so give them the opportunity. While you are preparing supper sit them at the kitchen table with some old newspaper or magazines and have them snip or cut at will.

If your child is having a great deal of difficulty, her hands may not be strong enough. Help her build her hand muscles by using tongs to pick up small objects or by manipulating playdough. These are fun activities that won't feel like work to her, but will build up her hand strength each time that they are done.





# Progression for Current Pre-K Students

Normally at this time of year CCUMC would be hosting our Kindergarten Roundup event open to all parents in the preschool and surrounding community. Unique to CCUMC, this morning long event has admissions experts from many of the area private schools as well as representatives from Rosemary Hills, our primary public feeder school, to speak with parents about the programs that they have for kindergarten and beyond. This helps parents to determine which schools to explore further. Because of the pandemic we will not be able to hold the Kindergarten Roundup.

Instead, I invite parents to begin discussions with their child's teacher and with me about their child's placement the following year especially if you have questions concerning your child's readiness for kindergarten.

Applications for private schools will be due generally in January though application deadlines vary widely especially this year and may depend upon whether you are applying for the first time or with a sibling of a currently registered student.

In most cases parents should expect to solicit at least one letter of recommendation in support of an application. **We ask that you provide suffi-**

**cient lead time to your child's teacher when requesting those letters. Please provide self-addressed stamped envelopes if the letters need to be mailed or a clear reference to an online address if that is the appropriate way to submit letters of recommendation.** We must have a signed release from a parent in order to provide letters of recommendation. A release statement is most often found on the application itself, but, if not, please provide such permission.

## NEW Illness Policy—Effective Nov. 1

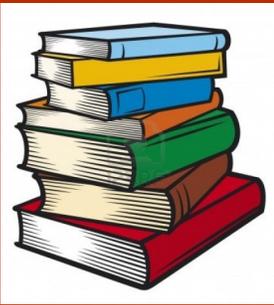
If a child becomes sick, with one or more Covid like symptoms (currently defined as sore throat, fever at or above 100.4 degrees, cough, vomiting, diarrhea, new onset of loss of taste or smell, severe headache (especially when accompanied by a fever)) while attending CCUMC Preschool, the student will immediately be removed from the class, placed into an isolation area and parents contacted to pick up the sick child as soon as possible. The remainder of the students in the class will also be sent home. The class will quarantine until the sick child receives a negative PCR Covid test result or a specific alternate diagnosis by a physician. At this point the class may return to school as normal. If the child receives a positive test result, the class will quarantine for 14 days from the day on which the symptoms first began. Parents are expected to watch their children closely for any onset of symptoms.

If a child becomes sick, with one or more Covid like symptoms, while not in attendance at CCUMC Preschool, the student should obtain a negative PCR test result before the child may return to school. The sick student's classmates will be notified and parents will have the option to keep their child home or attend school. Upon receipt of a negative test result the sick child may return to school. If the child is found to have a positive PCR test result, the entire class will begin to quarantine for 14 days from the day on which the symptoms first began.

Students who are also household members of the sick student will not be able to attend school until either the sick student obtains a negative PCR Covid test result or specific alternative diagnosis from a physician or, in the case of a positive Covid test result, until they have quarantined for 14 days from the day on which the symptoms first began.

## Top Ten Activities for Children When You Need 15 Minutes

1. Put on a book on CD, MP3 or YouTube—Kids can follow along themselves.
2. Blow up and tie off a balloon and have them play balloon volleyball alone or with a sibling.
3. Provide a spray bottle of water and a cloth. Point to a glass surface or table in need of “cleaning.”
4. Playdough!!
5. Watercolor paints and paper at the kitchen table.
6. Give them a sheet and ask them to make a fort out of the sofa cushions and sheet.
7. Put on some crazy music and have an old fashioned dance party.
8. Bring out that jar of buttons you have—from all of the extra buttons from new clothes—and let them sort them at the table.
9. Get out a puzzle or two.
10. Give them a pair of scissors and an old magazine or newspaper and have them practice cutting.



## November Book Recommendations\*

[The Greatest Table](#) (start at minute 1:39) by Michael Rosen celebrates that each time we eat we are connected to the entirety of humanity and that there is always room for one more. It alludes to sustainable farming practices and care for the earth.

[Before We Eat: From Farm to Table](#) by Pat Brisson. As we prepare for Thanksgiving this book reminds us of all the people we must thank in order for us to be able to prepare that Thanksgiving meal. This book seems especially resonant as we have been reminded, during COVID, of how each person plays a part in making our daily lives function well.

[Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message](#) by Chief Jake Swamp. Written by a contemporary Mohawk Chief, this book is a celebration for the gifts provided by the earth.

[Thanksgiving Is For Giving Thanks](#) by Margaret Sutherland. This book reminds us all of the heart of the holiday which is giving thanks for our many blessings. The simple pictures and streamlined text are wonderful even for our youngest children.

[Cranberry Thanksgiving](#) by Wende Devlin. This book was one I remember from my childhood. Set in Maine, it is the story of a grandmother and her grandchild celebrating Thanksgiving with a dinner featuring her grandmother’s special cranberry bread. The child is told to invite someone to dinner who is poor or lonely. A story about acceptance, generosity and love. The book includes the recipe for the special cranberry bread and I remember making it with my mom after reading the book.

\* Links are to YouTube readings of each book.