

October 2022

Halloween Parade

Halloween is an exciting time for children at CCUMC. We will celebrate with a parade on the large playground by our 3's and pre-K classes sporting costumes made in class. Parents are invited to view the parade, then join the classes indoors for a party. The parade will begin *promptly* at 11:15am on Monday, October 31. Don't forget to bring your camera! In the event of rain the parade will be held in Phillips Hall.

Our two year old classes will also be making their own costumes but may be celebrating in a lower key kind of way since a parade may be too much for them. Watch for further details from your teacher.



Advisory Council

The Advisory Council, our governing body, is composed of preschool parents, a staff representative (Kelley Gronda) and representatives from the school and church administration (The Reverend John Nupp, Lee and Lauren). This board does the hard work of planning and carrying out all of the wonderful community wide social and fundraising events that we enjoy as well as being responsible for policies and oversight of the administration. The Chairs of the board this year are Jaclynn Dayse (Matthew, Owls & Myles, Buntings) and Layna Connolly (Quinn, Eagles & Kipp, Sparrows). The remaining Council members are Niki Hamilton (Isobel, Eagles & Isla, Cardinals), Amy Klug (Maggie, Buntings), Michael Bourgeois (Margot, Blue Jays), Rebecca Lungren (Lulu, Eagles), Laura Arling (Henry, Orioles), Catie Hurley (Hope, Wrens), and Victoria Van Stekelenburg (Freddie Bianco, Doves). If you have questions about the preschool, these are good people to ask. The Council holds monthly meetings on Tuesday evenings in the Wesley Room at 6:30pm with a time to hear from parents at the beginning of each meeting. The next meeting will be on October 18. Consult the portal calendar for the remaining dates. The preschool community is blessed to have these parents serving in this manner.

FOOD TRUCK SOCIAL
OCTOBER 14
6-9pm



Go into the [parent portal](#) NOW and buy tickets to the Food Truck Social hosted by Liz and Michael Bourgeois (7311 Brookville Road) and to buy a chance to win a reserved parking space at the preschool for the remainder of the school year!!

Caregiver Coffee

We know how important your child's nanny, au pair or grandparent caregiver is to your family. We would like to honor them with a special Caregiver Coffee on Wednesday, October 12 immediately after drop off.

Invite your child's caregiver to join Lauren and Lee in the Wesley Room, located on the 2nd floor of the preschool, for some refreshments and fellowship. They are welcome to bring along any children that they care for while your preschooler is attending school.

October Book Corner

Click on the link to access the YouTube read aloud of each book or look for the books at your local library.

[Amara's Farm](#) by JaNay Brown-Wood

Visit the pumpkin farm with Amara in this book and learn about pumpkins as she harvests them.

[It's Fall](#) by Linda Glaser

This short book introduces children to the sights and sounds of fall. The book also includes suggestions for activities using nature.

[Firefighters A to Z](#) by Chris Demarest

Follow the alphabet as it relates to all things firefighter. Great for Fire Safety Month in October.

[Because of an Acorn](#) by Lola Schaefer

On my walks with Scout we are finding lots of acorns right now. Maybe your child is finding them too. This beautifully illustrated story shows, using simple language, the interconnectedness of all living things. And to think it could start with something like the humble acorn.

[Spooky Hour](#) by Tony Mitton

This is a favorite at the preschool. This rhyming book captures the spooky mood of Halloween very well with lots of vivid imagery and introduces preschoolers to onomatopoeic words on almost every page



The firefighters are coming!! In honor of Fire Safety Month, we plan to have firefighter visits on Monday, October 3 and Tuesday, October 4. Firefighters may, of course, get called away for an emergency instead.





Open House tours of the Preschool are offered each month for prospective parents. October's tours will be on the 5th & 20th at 9:30am. Please invite any friends to join us who are interested in the preschool.

Curriculum Corner—Fostering Independence

Learn easy way to help your child practice being independent

Apart from making our students feel loved and safe, one of our biggest jobs is to assist in preparing them for the bigger world outside of these doors. To be able to navigate elementary school (aka big kid school) or a restaurant, for example, children need to be independent. How do they develop this independence? By being given opportunities to practice independence.

How do we develop independence here at school?

1. **By asking children to walk up and down the stairs rather than being carried.**
2. **By participating in drop off.**
3. **By assigning them jobs in the classrooms which fosters a sense of capability and independence.**
4. **By teaching them how to manage self-help skills like putting away their backpack or bag, washing hands, opening and closing snack boxes and containers, putting on their jackets, going to the bathroom, and so many more.**
5. **By giving them (limited) choices. Doing so allows them to feel capable and confident in their abilities.**
6. **By encouraging them to answer questions in circle time or speak to their peers.**

(You can't order your own meal at a restaurant if you don't feel comfortable speaking to others.)

You can assist us in fostering independence by modifying these practices to use at home. Children doing jobs around the home or practicing self help skills, for example, will take longer to complete those tasks than you or I would because they are not yet proficient in these tasks. When you combine this lack of proficiency with a child's natural lack of urgency, you may find that allowing children to do things for themselves requires a modicum of patience on your part too. However, the benefits in the long term, will be worth this momentary frustration.

October is Good Manners Month

October marks the beginning of our intentional virtues curriculum. The goal with this curriculum is to teach your child a different virtue each month. The first virtue, or in this case, cluster of virtues, is that of good manners. Teachers, as always, will role model having good manners to the children and will ask them to practice these virtues themselves. Like any skills, the more children practice, the better they will be at those skills and the more likely they will become lifelong habits. Teachers use multiple approaches to help instill these virtues such as reading books that feature the virtue in practice, role playing activities and simply noting to the entire class when one of its members is exercising that virtue.



ASQ Developmental Screening—Please complete by December 18

The Maryland State Department of Education requires all children up to kindergarten entry attending early childhood educational programs to have a developmental screening conducted. Developmental screening is used to celebrate a child's achievement as well as refer them for support and services when there is an area of concern. Developmental screenings, along with regular physical exams, hearing tests and vision tests, are important ways to monitor a child's growth and development. A child's development can be measured by how a child learns, speaks, moves, behaves, and relates. Skills such as smiling, waving and talking are developmental milestones. Results from developmental screenings indicate which children would benefit from a full evaluation and assessment. Children who receive early intervention services generally do better in the long term than those identified later.

Based upon their age at the time that school began, children will be required to have up to 2 screenings per school year. Children birth- 36 months at the time that school began will be required to have 2 screenings while children 37 months and older will only be required to have one screening per school year. The first screening for all children must be completed within 100 days of the beginning of the school year which means no later than December 18, 2022. For those children required to have a second screening it must be completed by June 1, 2023. Parents should consider this process as part of the required documentation for children to attend our or any early childhood program in the state.

Maryland has approved five different screening tools which may be used. Of these tools CCUMC Preschool has chosen the Ages and Stages Questionnaire. Parents will go to [Ages and Stages site unique to CCUMC](https://www.asqonline.com/family/aad64b), (<https://www.asqonline.com/family/aad64b>), to enter their child's information and to complete the questionnaire which does not take long to administer. Please ask your child to perform the skills tested to ensure accurate results. This may be done on your home computer or any mobile device. Once you have submitted your answers to the questionnaire, it will be scored automatically. The results of the screening will be sent to the Preschool office.

Upon completion of the screening, your child's teacher will meet with you to discuss the findings if there are concerns and to provide a referral to another agency for further evaluation if necessary. These developmental screenings do not take the place of the observations and assessments performed by your child's teacher but are a supplement to them. If, after completing the screening you do NOT hear from your child's teacher, then you know that the screening indicated no concerns.

The testing site link provided above is active now and can also be found on the [preschool's webpage](#). Parents are encouraged to complete this questionnaire as soon as possible keeping in mind that all parents must complete the first screening prior to December 18th. Please contact [me](#) should you have any questions.