



# CCUMC Preschool Parent Newsletter

February 2023

## Substitutes Needed

The Preschool needs more substitute teachers. Parents who have completed the paperwork necessary to co-op only have to fill in a few more documents to be eligible to serve as a substitute teacher. Or perhaps you have a caregiver, neighbor, friend, or parent who has free time now and then who would be a great candidate. Let Lee know if you are interested in learning more.

## Summer Camp

Summer camp enrollment opens in the [parent portal](#) on February 15 at 8am. This year we will be offering 2 weeks of summer camp (June 12-16 and June 19-23) for all children currently enrolled (except our Hummingbirds). The camp will run each day from 9am-1pm with a cost of \$310/week. The preschool provides snack each day for camp and parents pack a lunch.

- Week 1 (June 12-16)
  - Pre-K Young Explorers Marty Delgado & Claudia Tassara
  - Pre-K Art Camp Jane Cheremeteff & Kathy Pirtle co-teachers
  - 3's Camila Ruano & Maria Spina
  - 2's Myriam Bonzi & Madeleine Kaneh
  - 2's Glory Gamboa & Cynthia Ferrell
- Week 2 (June 19-23)
  - Pre-K Spanish Claudia Tassara & Marty Delgado
  - 3's Camila Ruano & Cynthia Ferrell
  - 2's Glory Gamboa & Vanessa Ortega

## Save the Date

The CCUMC Auction is back!!! Get your babysitters NOW for Saturday, March 25 for what will be a very fun evening of food, fun and raising money for our lovely preschool. A big thanks to Sunni & Tim Warren for hosting the event at their home and to the Auction Committee, chaired by Amy Klug, for planning and carrying out this event. TICKETS GO ON SALE FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>!!

## Financial Aid

[Applications for financial aid](#) for the 2023-2024 school year are due by February 14. The applications are processed through SSS and the results presented to and voted upon by the Advisory Council in a confidential manner. Please contact [Lauren Bailey](#) if you have questions.

Reminder: Tuition Deposits for 2023-2024 school year are due no later than February 1.



## Parking Lot Safety

We ask that anyone walking to school to please USE THE SIDEWALKS as much as possible. We are concerned for everyone's safety, adults and children alike as we see people walking through the center of the parking lot. If you are walking from the neighborhood consider following the sidewalk along Shepherd all the way to the side of the school building so that you can remain safely on the sidewalk rather than crossing through the parking lot. If the child you are accompanying is walking, PLEASE be sure to hold his/her hand. Please speak to your child's caregiver about this as well. Thank you for your help in keeping everyone safe.

## February Book Corner

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

[\*Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring\*](#) by Kenard Pak. The author/illustrator is from Baltimore and has written this book as part of a series which focuses on the transition from one season to another. The illustrations are beautiful if somewhat spare.

*Very Good Hats* by Emma Straub (Author), Blanca Gomez (Illustrator). There is no YouTube link for this one yet because it was just released earlier this month. This book encourages children to look at everyday objects creatively. The author shows how those everyday objects into hats. One can imagine a child being inspired to create hats out of the things in their own home. This is a fun read.

[\*Somebody Loves You Mr. Hatch\*](#) by Eileen Spinelli (Author) and Paul Yalowich (Illustrator). I've recommended this one before because it is one of my favorites. Who doesn't love a story about how someone discovers love by loving others? Try not to cry a little as you read the sweet ending to this book. It is the perfect read for Valentine's Day or any other day.

## Dates of Interest

- Feb 1 Tuition Deposits due for 2023-24
- Feb 2 **CAR LINE PICK UP**
- Feb 3 **CAR LINE PICK UP**
- Feb 6 **CAR LINE PICK UP**
- Feb 6 Registration lottery conducted
- Feb 10 I Love You Luncheon—pre-K
- Feb 15 Summer camp registration opens at 8am in the parent portal
- Feb 17 I Love You Luncheon (snow date)
- Feb 20 NO SCHOOL (Presidents' Day)
- Feb 21 Advisory Council meeting 6:30pm
- Feb 28 Staff meeting 6:30pm



Open House tours of the Preschool are offered each month for prospective parents. February's tours will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Please invite any friends to join us who are interested in the preschool.

## Curriculum Corner

### Sensory Bin

Messy play, any play experience which engages any or all of the senses (including balance and movement), is the bedrock of all learning for children ages 2-5 years. Because of the stage of brain development for children in these early years, [the preoperational stage](#), children are unable to mentally manipulate information. Instead, all their information comes through their senses. This is why messy play becomes so important. It is through repeated experiences of messy play, directly interacting with objects offering a wide range of sensory experiences, that children come to know their world.

One of the most common ways in which children experience messy play in the preschool is by utilizing a sensory bin. These long, deep tables allow children to manipulate different substances in a controlled way. You might notice that the contents of the sensory bin in your child's classroom change often and may even change with the theme under study.

Using the sensory bin offers teachers another means of extending or reinforcing the learning that is already underway. Last year when my class was studying flowers and plants, we filled the sensory bin with potting soil, pots, gardening shovels and different kinds of seeds. The children enjoyed examining the different types of seeds, filling pots with potting soil and pretending to be gardeners. After a weekend we came back to school to find that the bean seeds in the sensory bin had sprouted leaving a forest of bean plants. The kids and I had a great time pulling the plants out of the soil gently to examine the roots, the stalk and the leaves. I have no doubt that the children remember that experience just as vividly as I do.

What are some of the skills that are sharpened using the sensory bin?

**Fine motor**—The sensory bin provides wonderful opportunities for developing hand strength and dexterity—note all of the grasping, pouring, and manipulation of objects—as well as hand/eye coordination. This is a great activity for helping to develop pre-writing skills.

**Socio-emotional**—Many children find using the sensory bin to be calming and focusing. It can be a little bit like using one of those zen gardens with the sand and rakes. There can be meditative quality to using the sensory bin even as it typically engenders a high level of engagement. Additionally, children learn to cooperate with others as they look for something together, work together to fill a pot with soil, for example, or engage in imaginative play together utilizing the items in the bin.

**Language**—Using the sensory bin helps to encourage conversation between those using the bin as they engage in extended imaginary play or as they make hypotheses about the items in the bin and how they might be used. Children often ask and/or answer questions related to the items in the bin. New vocabulary words which applies to the items in the bin will be reinforced as the students discuss what they are doing.

**Cognitive**—Because the sensory bin is open-ended play, it encourages creativity. Creativity is, of course, the foundation for innovation and discovery. Messy sensory play encourage scientific thinking. Children observe, make hypotheses, and learn about scientific concepts like gravity, cause and effect, changes in physical properties, classification, sorting, etc. Sensory bins are like little laboratories.

After reading this I'm sure that all of you cannot wait to start your own sensory bin at home. Some of you may have reservations about starting messy play at home. I understand that no one needs something else to clean up or be concerned about, but when done with thought and preparation, it won't make a mess in your house,

will have a big positive impact on your child's development.

Use a shallow, wide plastic container with a lid to start your own. The easiest type of sensory bin to begin with is either a nature bin or a "soup" bin. For the nature bin go on a walk around the block and have your child collect different leaves, rocks, acorns, or anything that interests him/her. Place them in the bin with a magnifying glass. The child can sort the items, look at the changes, if any, in the items over time, and can talk about the different textures and shapes h/she is feeling and seeing. To let your child make "soup", pull out some items from the kitchen pantry that you no longer need or are outdated. Consider some dried pasta or beans in different shapes, old spices, flour, etc. Allow your child to mix the items with a wooden spoon or whisk and pretend that it is soup (or another food). If you have a child size pot or pan, include that in the bin. I can remember doing this at my grandmother's house when I was a little girl. She had a child size cast iron skillet for me and allowed me to make my own creations. I loved smelling the different spices and "cooking" just like her.



## February Outings by Lauren Bailey

February is the shortest month all year but with little ones underfoot it can feel twice as long! To keep your family from going stir crazy why not get out and try one of the area's family friendly activities. We've compiled a list below of some of the best this month:

### [Maple Sugaring Walk](#) - February 2-23

Hike with a naturalist at Brookside Gardens to their maple grove and learn how maple sap is collected and made into maple syrup.

### [Aquarium at Imagination Stage](#) - through February 12

Enjoy this interactive performance by *My First Imagination Stage* (a series developed for children ages 1-5). The production is 45 minutes featuring a gentle fantasy world where fish soar through the air, lemons light up the sky and sheep go parading by

[Kofi's African Village at Discovery Theater](#) - February 28-March 1 Artist and drummer Kofi Dennis brings the vibrant life and music of a West African village to the stage through music, storytelling and dance. Using authentic instruments, Kofi brings the audience to their feet with the interactive exploration of the high-energy African culture.

### [Beauvoir School Playground](#) - year round

The play structure on the school grounds is a unique space made of natural materials to encourage adventurous play. It includes climbing towers with suspended rope bridges, monkey bars, swings, and a zip line. The playground is best for elementary school-aged kids, although there is a small area called the "Little Village," appropriate for 3 to 5 year olds.

### [Wonderplace at the National Museum of American History](#)

An interactive space with hands on activities and exhibits for our youngest historians (ages 6 and under).

