



PRESCHOOL NEWS



ST STEPHEN PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

APRIL 2018



DATES TO REMEMBER

ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN for
Summer School and Fall 2018

Summer School Deposit deadline is May 1st

- April 11th & 12th** **Doughnuts with Dads**
- April 16th-20th** **NAEYC Week of the Young Child
& Preschool Book Fair**
- April 25th** **Parent/Director Coffee Chat**

Dear Parents,

This month we will celebrate “Week of the Young Child” an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of celebrating this week is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and recognize exceptional early childhood programs that meet those needs.

Music Monday-sing, dance, celebrate and learn

Tasty Tuesday – eating healthy & fitness

Work Together Wednesday –work together, build together, learn together

Artsy Thursday- think, problem solve, and create open-ended original artwork.

Family Friday – sharing family stories and applauding families as children's first teachers

In April we will also explore animal life and continue taking care of our garden. Eric Carle is our author of the month and our artist is Andy Warhol. The yoga pose is Crocodile. Beethoven is our composer of the month.

Love,

Ms. Tracey, Ms. Vickie, Ms. Christine, Ms. Jeanie, Ms. Maria, Ms. Betsie, Ms. Ana, Ms. Selene

**Our 1st Parent/Director CoffeeChat
Will be held on Wed. April 25 @ 9:00 am**



THANK YOU TO OUR FAMILIES!

Our See’s Candies fundraiser was a success thanks to you, our wonderful preschool families. We raised \$438.00 for improvements to our Play Yard. Congratulations to Henry Garcia and family in room 3, who earned a FREE week of Kids Klub for their amazing efforts. We hope you enjoy all your chocolate treats. Thank you for contributing to the success of our preschool!



SUMMER PROGRAM

Did you know that on June 12th St. Stephen Preschool transforms into a fun-filled Summer Program?

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 9:00am – 12:30pm for 4 weeks, we will experience life “down by the sea”, “outer space and back”, “under the big top”, and more... and of course lots of water play! Please stop by the office to enroll your child. The children love all of the new exciting themes of summer!

St. Stephen Launches New Website!

*We are very excited to announce the launch of our new and improved St. Stephen Website. In addition to all the great information about our preschool, you will also be able to access all of our forms **and** our monthly newsletter and calendar. No more searching your child’s cubby or backpack or digging through email!!*

Please take a peek at the New Look of our website at www.ststephenpresbyterianpreschool.com

**Our topic will be:
What is school readiness and how do we get there?**

Fall PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION



Heads Up!!

REPTILE FAMILY VISIT

On May 3rd and 4th the Reptile Family will be visiting our preschool. We will take plenty of pictures to share with our families, so you may see the experience!

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Preschool Blog – Article

Explore the Great Outdoors with Your Child

By Donna Satterlee, Grace Cormons, Matt Cormons
Children are natural explorers. Set some basic boundaries, and let the child discover. The learning will come. Children use all of their senses to explore. They look and listen to observe what is happening around them, touch what they can reach, smell the fresh scents of nature, and occasionally taste when given permission. They run, jump, dig, and climb as they discover new places.

For a child, everything is new—even the tiniest things are interesting and exciting. In today’s entertainment-driven world, exploring the outdoors is an opportunity for children to actively engage in learning. Here are a few steps you can take to guide children’s exploration of the great outdoors.

Explore safely. Join your children in the fun if they want you to and keep an eye on them. Before you begin, dress appropriately and teach your child the basic safety rules of the outdoors. Simplicity is often the key to establishing safety rules, and there is usually no need to restrict children. They rarely do something that makes them uncomfortable, unless someone is urging them on or daring them.

We are currently taking registrations for the 2018-2019 school year. Enrollment packets are available in the Preschool Office or are downloadable from our new website on the Admissions Page. **Please keep in mind that in order to attend St. Stephen’s you must register each year.** Stop in the Preschool Office if you have any questions.

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Let children choose what to explore. Let children explore and see what they do on their own without offering suggestions. Do they run? Build? Climb? Even an activity as simple as digging leads to exploration. Children learn how to dig, the way soil feels, the angle of the slope before loose dirt slides back down, and the difference between dry and wet soil.

Ask open-ended questions. As children explore on their own, remain involved. Ask about their discoveries. Ask open-ended questions they can understand and answer with their observations. “What did you find? Oh, a bug? What does it look like? How does it move?” You do not have to know all the answers to children’s questions. Discuss what you see—the shape of leaves, the color of the soil, the movement of the grasses. The more your child observes, the more the world around him will make sense. Discovering how to learn through observation is important. Your child doesn’t have to know the names of all the plants and animals he finds. He will learn through his observations. You can even suggest he make up descriptive names of his own.

Touch, lift, look under. Children need to touch the natural world to more fully understand it. In some cases, gently touching an object with one finger may be helpful. For example, gently nudge a

frog or a grasshopper to help a child learn how animals move. When possible, though, examine an object from all sides. Looking carefully at the underside of a log and then carefully replacing it, for example, helps children understand that creatures live under the log and that not disturbing the creatures' habitat is important.

Guide children to draw conclusions from the observations they've made. The best learning occurs when children come to conclusions for themselves. It would be easy to draw on your own knowledge to say, "It's fall now. See, the leaves are red. Remember that they used to be green?" Instead, try asking questions or describing what you see, feel, hear, and smell. "Do you remember what color the leaves were last time we took this walk? What do you see now?" This modeling will help your child learn to use her own senses when exploring. Remembering and sharing helps a child learn, and shared memories bring cohesiveness as a family.

Some Cautions

Although we want children to explore at will, there are certain precautions that you will need to take. Teach children to:

- *Be aware of the environment and the creatures that live there.*
- *Always watch where they put their hands and feet. If they left shoes outside, make sure they empty their shoes before putting them back on.*
- *Use clear cups and look before they drink. No one wants to accidentally drink an insect!*
- *Be wary of brown recluse spiders (also known as violin, or fiddleback, spiders), black widow spiders, scorpions, and poisonous snakes.*
- *Be cautious when lifting boards or rocks to find animals and insects. Also be careful to observe what is living there without disturbing their environment.*
- *Recognize poison ivy, poison sumac, and poison oak. If you or your child comes into contact with any of these plants, scrub the exposed area with dish detergent or another strong soap.*

Also prepare yourself and your child to encounter insects and stains.

- *Wear old clothes you don't mind getting dirty.*
- *Wear light-colored clothing to keep insects at bay. Some insects are attracted to dark colors.*
- *Wear a scarf or hat when walking through the woods.*

<http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/music-math-more/explore-great-outdoors-your-child>



SPRING/SUMMER SUGGESTIONS

With spring here and summer just around the corner, warmer temperatures can't be far behind. Learning takes place outdoors as well as indoors. Water and sand experiences give children sensory pleasure and aid in key developmental areas. Here are a few suggestions that will help your child participate fully in these play experiences:

- **Don't forget to put sunscreen on your child before school.**
- **Dress your child in clothes that they don't have to worry about getting messy.**
- **Dress your child in layers. As the day gets warmer, your child can take off the top layer in order to be more comfortable.**
- **For your child's safety, send him/her to school in socks and rubber-soled shoes.**
- **Keep a change of clothes handy in your car!**



CLASSROOM NEWS



Bumble Bees News

Spring is here! It's such a fun, busy time. Leaves are growing on trees, flowers are blooming all around us, and we are always fascinated by our creepy, crawly friends – the bugs and insects.

We've been exploring a variety of sensory activities, such as rainbow water beads, soil, cornstarch, and shaving cream. We have also been singing the spring songs and practicing the bunny finger play (ask your child to show you). Below is the spring song we have been singing.

When we return from Easter Vacation the Monarch Butterfly larva will be here and we will watch their life cycle as well as that of the silk worm. Our classroom activities will include insect fun through books, songs, art and planting projects.

Love, Ms. Vickie & Ms. Christine

Spring Song
Tune: The Farmer in the Dell

The sun is shining bright
The sun is shining bright,
Oh how I love the warmth,
The sun is shining bright

The rain is falling down,
The rain is falling down,
Oh how I love the sound,
The rain is falling down

The flowers start to bloom,
The flowers start to bloom,
Oh how I love the sight,
The flowers start to bloom

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Dragon Flies

March was a busy and exciting month. Thank you, for adjusting your schedules for conference Friday. We enjoyed spending time with you, discussing your child's

progress and catching up on family current events.

We are so happy to be "hopping" into spring. We will learn about life cycles with hatching silkworm eggs and painted lady butterflies. We will explore other insects and plants through activities, stories and art. Our author of the month is Eric Carle and through his literacy works like "The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Grouchy Lady Bug, The Very Busy Spider and The Tiny Seed" we will learn about nature. We will celebrate Earth Day by talking about taking care of our amazing planet, recycling, water and resource conservation, replanting our school garden, and learning how to keep our plants healthy & beautiful! Happy Spring!!

Love Ms. Maria & Miss Jeanie



Monarchs News

March was a joyful month and April has arrived with its wonders of nature. We have seen a lot of growth in our classroom for these past 6 months. We have enjoyed seeing the children's progress in all the developmental areas. We want to thank all the families for their active participation during our Easter parties and the See's Candy fundraiser.

We are looking forward to start planting our vegetable garden this April and we will learn about respect for the environment and good eating habits. We will be getting our butterfly larvae and be able to observe its life cycle, we will have the reptile exhibit and Doughnuts with Dads.

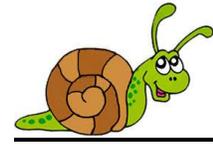
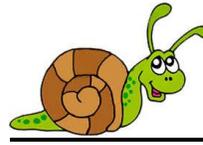
We will continue offering a fun environment for your children to learn a range of concepts and skills that contribute to their emotional, social, physical and cognitive development.

Love, Miss Betsie & Miss Ana



Snail Outdoor Classroom News

Our garden is growing! Your children continue



to take care of a variety of plants and water them daily. (Thank you again and again for all of your donations.) We will start butterfly habitats in our classrooms and release ladybug larvae on the playground. We will look forward to them morphing into grown-up ladybugs.

Earth Day is April 22nd. We will discuss how we can help protect the earth and create an art project using recycled materials.

Love, Ms. Selene



