



Holy Spirit Early Childhood Learning Center

September 2018 Newsletter

Blessing: Our hands we fold, our heads we bow,
For food and drink, we thank you now. Amen

We would like to WELCOME you to our family of the Holy Spirit Early Childhood Learning Center. Our goal is to see that your child receives the best care that we can provide in a warm, loving environment. We hope to establish a secure and comfortable feeling between staff, yourself, and your child. There are many aspects to providing this care. The most important of which, is to have open communication between Parents and the Center. If there are any changes in routine in the family, these changes may affect your child. Being aware of the changes would greatly benefit the staff to effectively work with your child. If you have any questions or concerns about our Center or its operations, or how your child is adjusting to the Center, please do not

hesitate to speak with your child's Teacher or the Director (not the assistant). My office hours are Monday through Friday 9:00AM-3:00PM. The Learning Center's phone # is 410-795-2287 or my cell # is 410-591-2280. If you get the answering machine, we are otherwise engaged. Please leave a message and we will return your call.

We also have Email. Our address is: hslc.preschool@comcast.net. Our website is www.hslceldersburgmd.org.

From the Pastor:

CHANGES ALL AROUND!

Along with the new Pre-School Building (HOORAY!) there is another change that affects the family of Holy Spirit Pre School...

Since the closing of the school year Pastor Robin has left Holy Spirit Lutheran Church to assume a new ministry. She is the Assistant to the Bishop for the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA. Her territory is western Maryland and covers 90+ churches. We wish her God's richest blessing and every good wish in this challenging ministry. Very much a recognition of her gifts!

I have been appointed by the Bishop and accepted by Holy Spirit's Council to be the Interim Pastor. I come from a long line of pastors (my great, great, great, grandfather and my Son), a family of educators (my wife and parents), and have just celebrated my 41st Anniversary of my Ordination. I started at Holy Spirit on July 5th.

I am very impressed with the Pre-School, its staff and Director Jennie Jones. The School has a sterling reputation in the Community. The new building should only continue to enhance the experience your family will have at the Pre-School! I have every confidence that the young person(s) you have entrusted to us will grow and prosper in their time here!

I look forward to meeting your family and please let me know if there is any way I can serve you in the future!

Welcome to the Staff

I would like to take a moment to introduce the staff to you. I am Jennie Jones the Director. Treena Hammond is the Assistant Director.

2 year old classes:

Teacher for MW and TTH-Vicky Matthews

Assistant for MW and TTH-Leah Rosati

3 year old classes:

Teacher for MW and TTH-Mary Moravec

Assistant for MW and TTH-Nancy Thompson

3 Day Pre-K MWF:

Teacher for morning and afternoon-Treena Hammond

Assistant for morning Morgan Javins

Assistant for afternoon Vicky Matthews

2 Day Pre-K TTH:

Teacher for TTH-Treena Hammond

Assistant for TTH-Morgan Javins

5 Day Pre-K:

Teacher for morning Amy Simon

Assistant for morning Melissa Durst

Teacher for afternoon Kathleen Thomas

Assistant for afternoon Becky Wandishin

We look forward with anticipation to a great new year!

If you have submitted all your paper work, we thank you. If your paper work has not been received, in its entirety, please see the

Director. It is absolutely vital all paper work is completed and is submitted promptly.

I would like to restate our health and sick policy as stated in our handbook on page 6. **PLEASE READ Children attending school must be well.** We will be promoting healthy habits and enforcing our policy.

We like to think of our handbook as a valuable source of information. During these busy times, it is hard to remember all the details included in the handbook. You may want to keep it handy and glance through it periodically as a refresher. We are a team. Your help is imperative for a successful school experience.

We have a NEW POLICY for this year with birthdays. **You will not be able to provide snack in the classroom of any kind** although you are welcome to provide napkins, plates and cups for the class. You also may provide a non-food goody bag to be sent home with each child in the class.

We will be talking about a different character trait each month. We will talk about the importance of character trait lessons. This will help children deal with situations that they

experience in life with the self-control, respect, honesty and the responsibility to make the right choices. Our first trait we will talk about will be RESPECT. The definition of respect includes how you treat others and how you feel about someone else and yourself. We will talk about how respect means showing others that you care for them by treating others (meaning their peers and authority) kindly and not saying mean and hurtful things. As parents we need to remember to model for children to reinforce these lessons.

In regards to totes, we request each child have a tote bag or back pack. **Totes or back packs should be bought to school daily.** It is a lesson in responsibility. We expect the children to be responsible for their totes or back packs to and from school. In the four year old class and the Pre-K class the students pack their own totes. If it is too small to get everything into the tote, it defeats the purpose. Please refrain from adding any adornments, such as key rings etc. to the totes as they create distractions. As with all personal things, please clearly label. We offer cinch totes for sale at a cost of \$12.00. Please see the

director if you are interested in purchasing one.

During our school year we will offer fundraisers. We are able to keep the cost of tuition at a minimum and purchase new equipment with the help of successful fundraisers. We realize that everyone is busy and so we try to select fundraisers that are easy and useful, however, **if at any time you would prefer not to participate in fundraisers and would rather make a monetary donation we would gratefully accept any amount you feel is appropriate.**

You also can sign up for Martins A+ School Rewards Program by logging on to www.MARTINSAplus.com. Please be sure to designate Holy Spirit Learning Center using ID # 01779.

Another ongoing opportunity to help your school is by ordering books from Scholastic Book Clubs. We receive points for every book you order and in return we get free books from the company. This can now be done online by going to www.Scholastic.com and using our class activation code: LXD4C

Events coming SOON:

On September 28 we will all as the whole school take a field trip to The Catoctin Zoo in Thurmont MD. We will meet there at 10:00 to go into the Zoo for a fun day. (Please Pray for NO Rain). Permission slip is coming home soon.

Preschool Sunday: We would like for the Families of the Holy Spirit Early Childhood learning Center to join the Congregation for service on Sunday, September 30 at 9:30 for recognition of the children, staff and families. Following the service we will have a new building dedication and a pot luck lunch. Please plan to attend.

September Color is yellow. The 3's have color days on Thursdays and the Pre-K's will have color days on Fridays. We encourage the children to look for our monthly color on a daily basis. You may want to use shoelaces, jewelry, and clothing to help your child participate.

September Theme is "off to school". We hope to help the children learn the names of their classmates, feel at home in their new environment, and help them develop skills necessary for success in school.

Parent Reminder: No child should be left in a car during drop off or pick up. Please make a plan to have another family watch your child in your car or walk your student into the building.

Dismissal Time and Drop Off Time

The policy for dropping off your child; you will now need to sign them in every day. This is the Maryland State Department of Education's policy. Please help us to follow their guidelines. The 2's and 3's will enter and pick up from the front doors and the pre-k classes will enter and pick up from the back door to help with the congestion on the ramp. Any children coming for just the afternoon will enter from the front door.

Please remember, as stated in the handbook on page 4, at dismissal the adult that comes into the building to pick up your child must be listed on your child's emergency card or have written permission from you to sign your child out. Everyone must show photo ID, even if you have been to the Center before. Please bear with us the first few weeks as we get to know your faces and remind anyone new that is picking up your child to bring

their photo ID. Thanks, for your cooperation in this very important safety measure! We also have new late pick up policy be read on page 4 of your handbook.

A Standing Invitation: If you do not have a church family, we would like to invite you to attend our Sunday services and/or Sunday school.

"Each Child is a unique person and a powerful learner capable of great achievements. I truly marvel at my students' capacity for learning, accomplishment, and growth."

Michele Forman (American National Teacher of the Year 2001)