

September 18, 2023

Hello PreK 4/5s parents,
Greetings from Preschool!

It is hard to believe that we are beginning our fourth week of school together. Time flies when you are learning, growing, playing, creating, and having fun. The children are getting more comfortable with the classroom, daily routine, new friends, and teachers. Here is a little peek of our themes this month.

God Made Me/Marvelous Me!

The past two weeks have been an amazing time to learn all about how much God loves us! The children examined their fingerprints, the color of their eyes, their height and more. We read the story Quick as a Cricket and You are very Special, as well as other delightful books about ourselves. We learned several special chants/poems, discussed likes and differences, played a name game, and looked in the mirror to see how special God made us. The children were interviewed on a few things about themselves, made a face and name project. The artwork is proudly hanging in the classroom. Hopefully you have been hearing all about our exciting activities at home.

Fabulous Friends Week

In celebration of our friendship theme this week-- the children will be participating in activities that help foster new friendships with classmates. The children will listen to a few stories, play a game, learn how to be a good friend and more. On Monday, the class will create a BIG collaborative art project together using blue paint and triangle shapes. This beautiful piece of art will hang on our classroom wall all year long. On Tuesday, the children will participate in a painting with a pal activity. On Wednesday, there will be opportunities to create a bracelet for a friend. Thursday brings our very first visit to the Good Shepherd atrium. We will end the week with Friendship Friday. A note was sent home last week in the orange folder explaining Friendship Friday. I am excited to have your child celebrate their new friendships in school.

Hello Weather

We will end the month of September with an opportunity to learn more about the weather. We will forecast the weather of the day, watch the sky, feel the wind on our skin and much more. Weather can be very fascinating to all of us. A few of our special stories during the week will include Storm is Coming by Heather Tekavec, Looks Like Spilt Milk by Charles Green Shaw and Raindrop Plop by Wendy Cheyette. In conjunction with our books, the children will be creating a cloud swish painting, a weather wheel, and a rain stick. Be sure to ask your child later this month about the BIG parachute activity as they will be pretending it is storming, windy, raining and act out more weather fun.

Letter of the Week:

I will be introducing the letter of the week curriculum the last week of September. Our letter focus begins with the letter H which ties in perfectly with our theme—Hello Weather. Our focus will concentrate on the sound, as well as the formation and name of each letter.

To help support learning the letters, sounds and formation of the letters, the Zoo-phonics program is used with the children. Feel free to look up: *Zoo-phonics* online to learn all the animals. I have already been teaching the children the letter names, animal names and sounds—so once a letter is introduced, the animal will be somewhat familiar to the class.

A typical week may look like this:

******The letter of the week is introduced to the children. We learn the sound, shape, and name of the letter at afternoon meeting time throughout the week.

******The children will work in small groups with me at the writing table to practice writing the specific letter on an alphabet page.

******An oral language activity is part of our alphabet page. It is wonderful to listen to the creative answers the children have for this activity.

******As the week progresses, the children will be able to draw and create objects, people or places of things that begin with the letter of the week.

******All the children's alphabet work will be assembled in a booklet and sent home at the end of the school year.

******During the week, the children will each have an opportunity to pick out one item from our letter bag to show the class. The letter bag will be filled with objects/photos that start with the letter of the week, as well as items that do not start with the letter of the week. It will be fun to figure out if the objects go along with the letter/sound of the week.

******I will have the letter of the week and zoo animal on the monthly calendar.

******As we continue through the alphabet the children become very excited about all of their work and accomplishments.



******Be sure to support your child as we journey through the alphabet together.

Groves in Preschool:

Alongside the zoo-phonics program, the children will be exposed to Groves Curriculum which is used in grades K-3 in our school. The earliest years of education are very important for children to be exposed to activities relating to the sounds in our language. In an age-appropriate way, early literacy activities will assist the children in having a solid foundation before Kindergarten. Rhyming, initial sound exploring, and alphabet knowledge are some of the daily activities your child will build upon throughout the year.

Faith Focus Sharing Day:

Please watch for a letter explaining our Faith Focus Sharing Day beginning in October.

Afternoon Arrival:

Thank you for helping your child enter the building independently. Now that the children are in a good routine, the Preschool doors will open at 11:55 am instead of 11:50 am. Ms. Virginia will continue to wait for the children at the door.

**Reminder for Snack Days:**

Please send 2/4 food groups with your child's snack. Individual sized packages are NOT necessary this year. You may send snack in bulk packages. Be sure to send any plastic utensils if needed for the snack. There is no need to send napkins or a beverage. Thank you.

Half Day Program Hours:

Lunch Bunch: 11:00-12:00 pm. Please be at the Preschool doors at 10:55-11:00. A staff member will be waiting specifically for the PreK4/5s to arrive at 10:55 am to bring them to the lunchroom.

PreK4/5s: Doors open at 11:55 am. Class begins at 12:00 noon.
Class ends at 3:00 pm.

Thank you for being prompt at both drop off and pick up times of our day. Thank you for being aware of the 10-minute gap between our dismissal and K-8. It is most appreciated.

Photos and Videos:

The Preschool Staff and School Administration request all families to refrain from taking any videos or photos of the PreK 4/5 or Lunch Bunch children while they are playing outside. It is out of respect for our children and their families to be aware of others and their privacy. Thank you for understanding.

Sturdy Shoes:

Please be sure your little one wears shoes that have closed heels and toes. It is hard to resist the cute sandals and crocs, especially when it is warm outside, but our policy is to have sturdy shoes at school. Thank you.

Communication via email:

Please keep your email, phone number and address current with us if it changes at any time during the school year. You may add additional email contacts if you desire—just let me know.

I will be sending newsletters and other information to you via email. Be sure to read the Friday newsletter from the main school office, too. ****IF you do not yet receive the weekly newsletter from the main school office, please let me know. ****

School Website:

St. Joseph's School website is another place to look for PreK-8th grade information. Our school website is very user friendly. The newsletters will be added to the school website, too.

Attendance Line:

If your child will be late to school or absent for the day, please call the Attendance line which goes directly to the main school office. You are welcome to email me, as well. The Attendance line is checked often throughout the day. **Attendance Line: 651-457-3031.**

Thank you for a fabulous start to the school year. Your support in all we do means so much. Contact me if you have any questions. 😊

Peg Dierberger

pedierberger@stjosephwsp.org

Website: stjosephwsp.org

Main Office #: 651-457-8550

