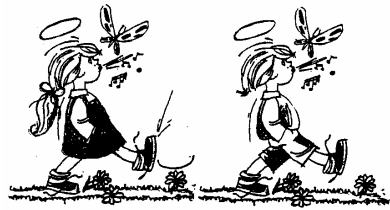


## Looking Ahead...

Here is a look at the first four months of our calendar:

September 2 and 3	Cookies and Milk Open House with Parent Orientation
September 8 and 9	First days of school
September 18	NO SCHOOL
September 22, 23, and 24	"Get To Know You" Coffees
October 6 and 7	Children's Chapel
October 7 and 8	Curriculum Night
October 12	NO SCHOOL
October 29 and 30	Halloween Parade and Parties
November 3 and 4	Children's Chapel
November 10	Conferences – NO SCHOOL
November 11	NO SCHOOL
November 25, 26, and 27	Thanksgiving Break, NO SCHOOL
December 2	Re-registration begins
December 13 and 14	<i>Little Blessings Shares the Christmas Story</i>
December 15 and 16	Children's Chapel
December 17 and 18	Pajama Days
December 21 ~ January 3	Christmas Break, NO SCHOOL

Each monthly newsletter (September—May) will provide a complete calendar including the monthly themes, Godly Play stories, and special events.



Preschool office hours during the month of August will be 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

## Blessings News

August 2009

(630) 904-9898 [www.littleblessings.org](http://www.littleblessings.org)



**From the Director...** The first days of preschool are quickly approaching! We are excited about every opportunity the year brings to learn and grow together, develop new friendships, and make new discoveries about how much God loves us and cares for us. There is important, joyous, work to be done, and we are happy that it is almost time to begin!

The preschool office has been busy all summer long, with camps, summer preschool, and registration work. On August 24 our focus shifts back to all 14 classrooms as the teachers return, and we begin a week of room preparation, curriculum planning, and training seminars. The first task for our teachers is to complete the Cookies and Milk postcards. These are cards that will invite Little Blessings students and their parents to visit us on September 2 or 3. On this postcard, you will learn the names of your child's teachers, their room number, and the specific time of your Open House. Meeting the teachers, playing with the toys, and just taking time to explore the room are great ways to help ease some of the questions and concerns that children feel



prior to the first day of school. During Cookies and Milk, parents will be asked to fill out a short emergency card for classroom use (bring telephone numbers!), and pick up the Parent Handbook and a drop-off map. To help ease parental concerns, we offer Parent Orientation in the evening of Cookies and Milk Open House. Watch your mailbox for a bright yellow Cookies and Milk postcard. These should begin to arrive around August 26, so please call the preschool office if you have not received your card by September 1.

...Ms. Stephanie

See inside this newsletter for specific dates and times for these events!



### ***Making Goodbyes Easier...***

The first few days of school can be challenging for child and parent, especially if that child happens to be experiencing separation anxiety. This is very common among young children, and can be very upsetting for parents as they strive to do what is best. The American Academy of Pediatrics offers strategies to manage separation anxiety in an article titled, *Making Goodbyes Easier*:

- Make sure that your child is well-rested and be sure to take time for a healthy breakfast or lunch.
- Be calm and consistent. Establish a goodbye ritual that is brief and includes a “pleasant, loving, and firm goodbye”. Be reassuring and explain when you will be back in terms your child understands, such as “right before lunch.”
- After you say goodbye, leave briskly, and resist the temptation to return if there are tears.
- Return when you have promised to. This will help your child develop confidence that he or she can make it through the time apart.

It is difficult to leave a crying child, so call the preschool office 20 to 30 minutes after you leave to check on how things are going. We will do our best to give you an exact picture of what your child is doing and feeling.

Separation anxiety might disappear quickly, or it may slowly fade away. When children begin to make friends, and bond with their teachers, their focus shifts from whom they are leaving, to what lies ahead!

### ***How are your child's fine motor skills?***

My Little Hands is a class that is designed to help children develop the skills needed for handwriting. Handwriting is a complex skill that requires development of our sensory, motor, and visual perceptual systems. Proper letter formation will be taught using fun, interactive techniques. The class is taught by Ms. Jennifer, an Occupational Therapist and trained Handwriting Without Tears instructor. This class will begin in mid September.

Questions? Contact Jennifer at (313) 268-1179



### **Registration Options...**

Openings still exist in many of our great enrichment classes. We offer Book Club, Art Works!, Health and Fitness, Spanish, and Science & Math. These classes combined with Lunch Bunch will provide a full day preschool/Kindergarten experience for your child!

### **Physical Forms!**

Please remember to return your child's physical form. DCFS requires physical forms to be on file by the first day of preschool.



### **Cookies and Milk Open House Schedule!**

Every class has a specific time to attend “Cookies and Milk.” This is an informal time to meet your child's new teachers, and see the classroom. As a special treat to finish off the hour, cookies and milk will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Parent Orientation (adults only time) will also be held in the Fellowship Hall.

**Wednesday, September 2** **9:00 am-10:00 am:** PDO Monday, Spanish Explorers  
**10:30 am-11:30 am:** PDO Tuesday, 4AM, 3AM  
**12:30 pm-1:30 pm:** PDO Thursday, Kindergarten, Health & Fitness (M), Art Works! (W), 4PM, 3PM, Kind. Science & Math, PM Preschool Book Club  
Parent Orientation **7:00 pm-8:00 pm:** 4AM, 4PM, 2AM, 2PM, ALL PDO

**Thursday, September 3** **10:30 am-11:30 am:** PDO Wednesday, 2AM, 5AM, AM Kindergarten Book Club, AM Preschool Book Club, Preschool Science & Math (T)  
**12:30 pm-1:30 pm:** PDO Friday, 2PM, Art Works! (TH,F) Health & Fitness (T,TH), Preschool Science & Math (TH), PM Kindergarten Book Club  
Parent Orientation **7:00 pm-8:00 pm:** 3AM, 3PM, 5AM, Kindergarten

### **MOPS (Mother's of Preschoolers)**

MOPS is a national organization designed to encourage, support, and nurture moms. Their goal is to help women with preschoolers be the best moms that they can be. Develop new friendships, listen to great speakers, and participate in activities designed to help you draw closer to God, are just some of the benefits of joining MOPS. Please contact Maria Dresnin at [mdresnin@att.net](mailto:mdresnin@att.net)