



September 2009



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Insects The color red | 1 Don't forget... September tuition due! | 2 Cookies and Milk Open House | 3 Cookies and Milk Open House | 4 Cookies and Milk Open House | 5 Godly Play Stories: | |
| 6 Family & Friends | 7 Labor Day | 8 First days of school | 9 First days of school | 10 First days of school | 11 Jesus and the Children | |
| The letters F, M, S | 13 Circles | 14 Circles | 15 Circles | 16 Circles | 17 Circles | 18 Follow Me |
| 20 preschool Routines | 21 Apples | 22 "Get to Know You" Coffees 4 day 5 day | 23 "Get to Know You" Coffees 3 day | 24 "Get to Know You" Coffees 2 day | 25 Creation | |
| 27 All About Me! | 28 All About Me! | 29 All About Me! | 30 All About Me! | | | The Garden of Eden |



Blessings News September 2009

(630) 904-9898 www.littleblessings.org



From the Director..... The first days of school have arrived! During Cookies and Milk, teachers enjoyed meeting all of their new students and families, about 500 cookies were dunked into gallons of milk, and the classrooms were investigated. Hopefully everyone had a chance to have their questions answered during our Parent Orientation evenings, and now it is time to begin!

How do we start? There are so many goals that the teachers want to accomplish throughout the year. One very important step for each teacher is to begin the process of creating a "classroom community" for her new group of learners. Research shows us that children learn better when they feel that they are part of a group. A strong sense of belonging to a group is also comforting to a young child who may be missing home and familiar surroundings. Behavior problems are minimized when children are able to consider the needs and feelings of others.

Close friendships, willingness to share, treating others with respect and truthfulness, and caring for one another, are all attributes that teachers help their children cultivate. Specific activities are helpful in this ongoing, year-long process of creating a classroom community. One day a class might create friendship bracelets, and as they work discuss ways to show others they are friends. To promote the idea of sharing with new friends, teachers may choose to serve Friendship Mix, where each child contributes one type of food to the mix. As the children enjoy the snack they discuss what they would do if another child joined the group. What could we do to make sure there is enough for everyone? To lay the foundation for respect in the classroom, a teacher might begin by explaining that when we respect others we do not hurt them or damage something important to them. Examples can be shared such as not knocking down someone else's block tower, or not taking a toy from someone before they have finished. Another way a class can express respect is to make a mural that includes pictures of children, teachers, families, and people of other cultures, and then talk about ways we are the same and ways we are different.



When a child's perspective is broadened from their home, to classroom, to their community, and to other cultures, they will come to see that all cultures share basic moral concepts. "Through that process, children will begin to develop global awareness and responsibility...and from that seed of understanding, they can work toward a peace that will protect and rebuild the earth we all share." *Early Childhood Today, April 2000*

We are looking forward to a great year!

...Ms. Stephanie



Meet the other parents in your child's class

Drop off your "Little Blessing" and join us in the Fellowship Hall for our "Get to Know You" coffee. This event, sponsored by the Little Blessings Advisory Board, is a great way to meet other parents, learn a bit about your child's teaching team, and pick up a "Friends Phone List" to be used for arranging play dates. This is one more way that we can build classroom communities.

Siblings are welcome; stay as long as you like!

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| September 22 | 4 and 5 day classes | 9:00 am and 12:30 pm |
| September 23 | 3 day classes | 9:00 am and 12:30 pm |
| September 24 | 2 day classes | 9:00 am and 12:30 pm |

Welcome back, Little Blessings Advisory Board!

The Little Blessings Advisory Board is comprised of 11 volunteers who work throughout the year to make Little Blessings a warm and inviting place for children, parents *and* teachers. The Advisory Board provides ideas to enhance the day to day business of the preschool, and you will see them at special events such as the Coffees, our fall Book Fair, the Christmas Pageants, Open Registration in January, etc.

Thank you Board Members: Suzanne Storoe (Board Chair) Chris Bodmer, Maria Dresnin, Pastor Katie Gallagher, Gloria Henderson, Chris Horvat, Katharine Kuester, Sheila Liapis, Bonnie McNeil, Kathy Sassa, and Aili Wachtel.



What Are We Doing This Month in Godly Play?

"Godly Play teaches children the art of using religious language - parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action - helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives."

<http://godlyplay.org/>

Godly Play is the religious curriculum used at Little Blessings. Every week our teachers put on their storytelling hats, and present a Godly Play story to the children. Stories are told using small wooden figures to help the events come to life in the mind of the child. Afterwards, there is a "wondering time" when children can share their thoughts and reactions to what they have just heard. Next, they are given time to work with the wooden pieces, and tell the story to one another. The weekly Godly Play stories are listed on the far right side of the September calendar.

2009/2010 Enrichment Classes

~Preschool~

| | |
|------------------|--|
| <i>Monday</i> | Health & Fitness PM Book Club PM |
| <i>Tuesday</i> | Science & Math PM Health & Fitness PM |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | Art Works! PM Spanish Explorers PM Science & Math PM |
| <i>Thursday</i> | Science & Math AM and PM Art Works! PM Health & Fitness PM |
| <i>Friday</i> | Art Works! PM Book Club AM and PM |

~Kindergarten~

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| <i>Tuesday</i> | Science & Math AM |
| <i>Friday</i> | Book Club AM and PM |

Openings are still available! These classes can be combined with Lunch Bunch for a full day schedule.

Watch our Calendar!



You will find a monthly calendar on the back of each newsletter. Check these calendars to learn about important upcoming events and holidays. Godly Play stories appear on the right, and the themes for each month appear on the left side of the calendar.

- September 18 NO SCHOOL
- October 6 and 7 Children's Chapel
- October 12 NO SCHOOL
- October 29 and 30 Halloween parties

Peace Quilt Raffle

During the month of October as we learn about peace, every classroom decorates quilt squares that will be sewn into "peace quilts." Each May, at our End of the Year Celebration, the peace quilts are raffled and proceeds are donated to an organization devoted to helping children. Last May, **\$1,180.00** was raised to benefit the Jing Cai Migrant School in Beijing, China!



Music Notes...

Children love to sing and move to music! Many important skills are learned through musical expression. Our music teacher, Ms. Lisa, visits each class one time each week for singing, dancing, playing rhythm instruments, and storytelling.



Do you want more music in your child's life? Alleluia! has two children's choirs, the Junior Cherub Choir (ages 4—First Grade) and the Faith Choir (Second—Fifth Grades). *Newcomers are welcome at any point in the year!* **Music 'N Me** incorporates Singing, Movement, Instruments, Listening, and Enjoyment (SMILE!) for newborns to 9 year olds. Private music lessons are also offered (keyboard, guitar, etc.).

Please contact Michele at 630-904-3311 x230 for more information on choir, Music 'N Me, and private lessons.