



* WELCOME TO WARD'S CHAPEL PRESCHOOL *

CALENDAR

Sept. 3	School Opens
20	Online Book Orders Due
25	Parent/Staff Board Mtg. 7:00 p.m.
24	FIELD TRIP – Apple Orchard All 3s, 9:00-11:30
27	Kids to Kids School Supplies End

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

07	Madelyn B.	3
07	Jack B.	3
09	Natalie C.	3
13	Theo M.	3
14	Savannah G.	4
23	Emmanuel K.	4
24	Olivia B.	4

WELCOME FROM THE STAFF

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year. We are looking forward to the new year with excitement and anticipation. We expect there will be some separation anxiety. The teachers will deal with this on an individual basis. From past experience, we have learned that the sooner the parent leaves, the sooner the child calms down. Also, once the child is familiar with the routine, he/she becomes much more comfortable. If you are uneasy about leaving your child, please call us when you get home (410-922-6595). We will help you both to work through the separation.

SEPTEMBER GRACES

Our hands we fold, our heads we bow.
For food and drink we thank you now. Amen.
(The two's will use this one all year)

Johnny Appleseed

Oh, the Lord's been good to me, and so I thank the Lord, for giving me the things I need, the sun and the rain and the apple seed. Oh, the Lord's been good to me. Amen.

REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE

- All forms, both newly completed or updated, are due immediately. This includes all medical forms and forms on the right side of the folder. When your child receives a shot, please get an updated record from your doctor.
- Activity fees for 3's (\$210.00) and 4's (\$300.00) are due by October 15. There is a tear-off page in your tuition coupon booklet.
- Please make all checks payable to **Ward's Chapel Preschool**. Tuition payments can be cash, check or Zelle (scan the QR code in your orientation folder).
- Please make sure ALL children playing on the playground before or after school hours are supervised at all times and follow the same rules as during Preschool. Also, if the grass is being mowed, you are asked to vacate the playground for obvious safety reasons.
- *Please – No parking on the Handicapped Lot, without Handicapped tags* (Ward's Chapel Road side). Thanks for your cooperation.
- Police and Child Protective Services will be notified if children are left in cars unattended.

KIDS TO KIDS

Throughout the school year, our students participate in several community outreach programs sponsored by the Preschool Parent/Staff Board. By donating various items, the children learn to share their blessings with those less fortunate. This year's first opportunity for our kids to help other kids in need will begin the week of September 3 and continue through September 27. We will be donating school supplies to Baltimore County schools and the Church Food Pantry. Your children may contribute to the class box and put a sticker on the book bag chart. A more detailed flyer will follow.

CONGRATULATIONS...

To the Salyers Family on the birth of Jocelyn, born June 14. Jaxson in MTW 3s is her big brother.

PARENT / STAFF BOARD

Our Parent/Teacher Board meets several times during the year to discuss issues, fund raisers, and outreach projects. They will also be supporting the teachers and staff in their endeavors. There are staff members and parent representatives from each class serving on the board. Our first meeting is Wed., Sept. 25, at 7:00. Parents who are serving this year are:

M/T 2s Lu Brudis, Kelly Litz
Wed 2's Lu Brudis
MTW 3's Heather Gotsch, Kelly Grosskopf
ThF 3's Kristin Freedman
4's AM Sarah Bollard, Giulia Lynch

Staff Representatives: Donna Gill, and Bridget Wetzell, Karen Jaeger and Sarah Sproul
Your class representatives welcome your input.

FUNDRAISING FOR 2024-2025

The Parent/Staff Board will be planning two "fun" fundraisers this year; Super Bowl Sub Sale in February and the Prize Palooza in March/April. Details on these activities will follow later.

We feel as busy parents you would prefer not to be selling and buying things that you really don't want. In lieu of having numerous fundraisers during the year, the school's primary source of fundraising is through donations that can be made two times during the year; October and February. You will receive a letter with details in those months.

VALUES EDUCATION

Each month in the classroom, we will be stressing a value to be practiced. For September, the value is **Cooperation**. The dictionary definition of cooperation is "to act, work, or associate with others for a mutual benefit."

COOPERATION

Cooperation is a skill that means the child is becoming less egocentric, so that she gives something of herself and becomes less concerned about herself and more about the welfare of the group. Guidance and support are necessary as children balance the task of developing a strong sense of self with learning to become a member of the group. Reinforcement, lessening competition and planning group activities all work to foster the behaviors associated with cooperation.

What is "Developmentally Appropriate Practice"?

You probably have noticed that our classroom has a lot of bustle and noise, that children are up doing things, talking, playing, and exploring. Such a classroom environment differs from the old grade-school images of a teacher doing a lot of talking at a blackboard while children sit and listen quietly at their desks.

Research and experience tell us that to be effective with young children, teaching practices need to be "developmentally appropriate." What this means is simply that educators need to think first about what young children are like and then create an environment and experiences that are in tune with children's characteristics.

Early childhood, after all, is a time of life quite different from adulthood, and even from the later school years. Children 3-6 learn far better through direct interactive experiences than through just listening to someone talk. They learn extraordinary amounts through play and exploration. And the younger children are, the more what they learn needs to be relevant and interesting on the day they learn it, not just in the context of some future learning.

Based on such knowledge about what children of this age are like, we design our program to fit them. It works a lot better than trying to redesign children! A developmentally appropriate program like ours is age-appropriate. But that's not all. To make the program a good place for every child, we gear our classroom environment and activities to this community and the families involved. We're eager to learn as much as we can about each child's family, cultural background, past experience, and current circumstances. With this knowledge we work to create a program that fits the children and the families we serve.

From: *Family-Friendly Communications for Early Childhood Programs*, by Deborah Diffily and Kathy Morrison, eds.

