



Good Shepherd Preschool

Home + School Connection

A Monthly Newsletter for Families

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Oct. 2014

Dates to Remember



Chapels:

Tues., Oct. 7 at 11:30 (Classes 2G & 2P) and 12:45 (Classes 3, 6, & 8)
Wed., Oct. 8 at 9:45 (Classes 4, 5, 7, & 9)
Tues., Oct. 28 at 11:30 (Classes 2G & 2P) and 12:45 (Classes 3, 6, & 8)
Wed., Oct. 29 at 9:45 (Classes 4, 5, 7, & 9)

Fall Festival:

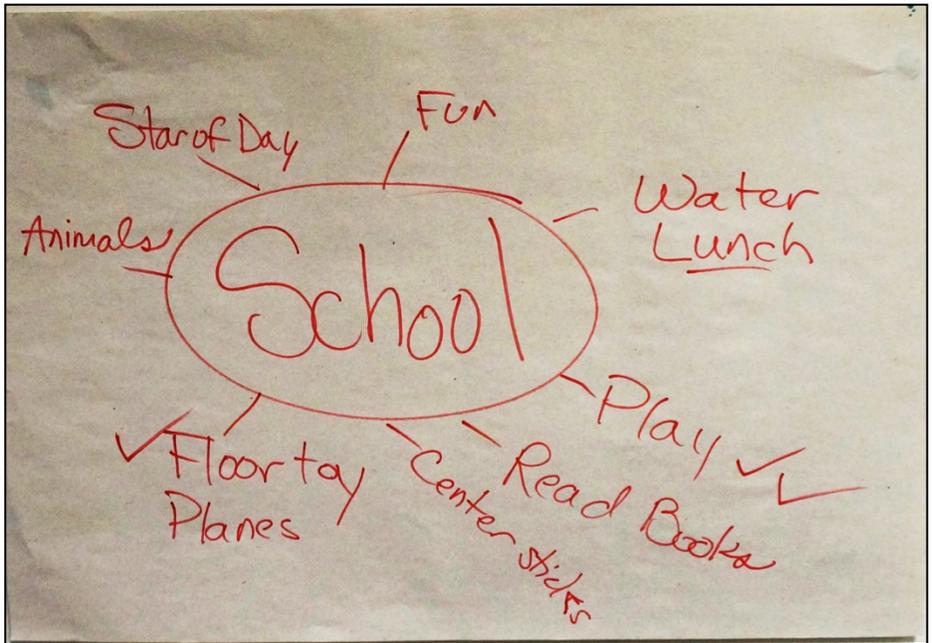
Thurs., Oct. 23 at 11:15 (Classes 2G & 2P) and 12:45 (Classes 3, 6, & 8)
Fri., Oct. 24 at 9:45 (Classes 5 & 7) and 12:45 (Classes 4 & 9)

Staff Meeting:

Wed., Oct. 22
Classes 5 & 7 end at 12
Class 8 and LPE do not meet

GSLP Closed:

Fri., Oct. 17
Fri., Oct. 31



School Knowledge: Kids shared what they knew about school for an idea web.

Inside this Issue



- 2 Muppet Family Movie Night; Fall Festival; Halloween Event; New Book Recommendations
- 3 Safety Tips; Winter Gear Drive; Parenting Classes, Musical for Pre-K at Imagination Stage
- 4 Fall Conferences FAQ; No-Bake Pumpkin Pie Recipe; Easy-to-Find Learning Supplies
- 5 Apple Pumpkin Days; Child Find Information
- 6 October Songs and Fingerplays

Monthly Must-Reads



See Mrs. Girimonte's class's artwork based on September's chapel lesson on p. 3. Also on p. 3, read about Halloween safety tips for your little trick or treaters. Check p. 2 and p. 5 to learn how Good Shepherd will be celebrating the fall season.

A mission of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (goserve.net).



Healthy Foods Make Healthy Kids

Good Shepherd Preschool is proud to present its first parent workshop of the year, **Healthy Eating for Young Children**, on Wednesday, October 29 at 9:40 AM in Room 204/206.

Two of GSLP's experienced assistant teachers, Leslie Shelton and Janet Kerivan, will lead this discussion on early childhood nutrition. Come learn about adapting the government's MyPlate guidelines for to help young kids make healthy choices. Mrs. Kerivan and Mrs. Shelton will also go over the basics for packing a healthy lunch for your child to eat here at Good Shepherd.

Younger siblings and children who do not have class during the workshop are welcome to attend as well. We will provide toys and books for any young children in attendance. In addition, we always strive to find a way to incorporate these kids into the presentation as our special helpers!

We hope to see you there! In the meantime, here's a few tips from choosemyplate.gov to start the conversation on healthy nutrition:

"Your child picks up all of your attitudes and behaviors – including your eating habits! Preschoolers love to copy what their parents do. They are likely to mimic your table manners, your likes and dislikes, your willingness to try new foods, and your physical activities.

"Regularly scheduled meal and snack times help your preschooler learn structure for eating. Your child is more likely to eat healthy meals and try new foods if snacks are not offered too close to mealtime."



Preschool Family Movie Night!

Join us on Friday, October 10, for this FREE event!
See *Muppets Most Wanted* (with puppets and other pretend toys available!) or *Million Dollar Arm*.

6 PM – Pizza dinner in the Lobby (bring a side/dessert)

6:30 PM – Movies in Shepherd's Hall and Sanctuary

RSVP to gspschool@outlook.com!

Book Nook!

Check out these classroom favorites:

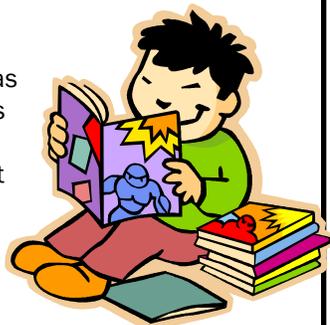
Maria Had a Little Llama/María tenía una llamita: This variation on the classic song "Mary Had a Little Lamb" moves the tale to Peru, where Maria's llama follows her to school. The book has text in both English and Spanish.

My Cold Plum Lemon Pie Bluesy Mood: This poetic story features a little boy who describes his feelings in terms of colors: from a sunny yellow mood while eating corn pudding and curry chicken with the family to a stormy gray feeling when his older brothers shoo him away.

I Had a Hippopotamus: In this fun story, a creative little boy imagines himself giving all sorts of zoo animals to relatives who might find them helpful. He gifts a kangaroo with a pocket that can hold utensils to his cooking grandma, a coyote who can howl along with his guitar-strumming uncle, and more.

Max Found Two Sticks: A breeze shakes two sticks down to Max as he sits on his stoop, and he uses them to tap out the rhythms he hears in his neighborhood. Great for introducing musical concepts!

Happy fall reading!



Good to Know!

Insider Information for GSLP Families

Thank You for Back to School Night Success!

Thank you to everyone who attended Back to School Night! Parents saw pictures from the first days of school and learned about our MSDE-approved programs, the MCPS and STEAM Curriculums in Pre-K and Creative Curriculum in Early Pre-K. Teachers shared goals and daily schedules and answered parents' questions. Parents also enjoyed seeing children's special art projects created for the occasion.



Come Sing and Craft Together at Fall Festival

GSLP will celebrate the season with Fall Festivals on October 23 and 24. Students come to school at the regular times. Family and friends are invited to join students for a half-hour program of music and parent-assisted crafts, followed by a yummy treat. Check your class calendar for specific times. Please put these dates on your calendars and bring your camera! The children always look for familiar faces in the crowd as they perform.



Trunk or Treat Halloween Event on Oct. 26

The Good Shepherd preschool and church community are celebrating Halloween this year with a weekend family event: Trunk or Treat! Volunteers will deck out their car trunks with themed decorations and hand out candy to trick or treaters. We'll also have child-friendly activities to keep the fun going after the candy's been collected. Get your costumes ready and come out to the school parking lot on Oct. 26 from 3 to 6 PM. Younger and elementary-age siblings are invited, too!



Important Note: GSLP does not celebrate Halloween in class. *Students should not wear costumes to school.* Any child coming to school in costume on Oct. 29 or 30 will be required to change into their emergency clothes.



GSLP Spirit Shirt Sale Starting Soon

Order forms for logo T-shirts and sweatshirts will come home in tote bags soon. If you have a question about size or style, come check out samples in the Preschool office.

October Is Safety Month!

Keep Kids Safe in the Parking Lot and on Halloween

Parking Lot Safety: Young children are constantly coming and going in the GSLP parking lot. Here's how you can help protect them:

1. Drive slowly and carefully when entering and exiting the parking lot. Young children can dart out unexpectedly from between cars.
2. Be sure to hold the hands of all children in your care when walking in the parking lot. It's easier for drivers to see adults than small kids.
3. *Never leave kids in the car when coming into school!* Get to know the other parents in your child's class and add them to your authorized pickup list. If an extra hand is unavailable, call the office if you need someone to watch a sick or sleeping child in your vehicle.
4. Never let a child stand outside the car while you buckle or unbuckle another. Have kids wait inside the car while you handle safety seats.
5. Pay close attention to children when chatting in front of the school. Kids can quickly wander into traffic while a care provider is distracted.

Halloween Safety: Many children love dressing up Halloween, but keep in mind that some young children may find this whole evening a bit overwhelming. Here are some simple safety rules to remember:

1. Take young children out to trick-or-treat early. The scarier costumes tend to come out later in the evening.
2. Stick with visiting family, friends, and neighbors. Make the experience fun but short – all that excitement can be tiring!
3. Use make-up instead of a mask as masks limit a child's visibility.
4. Be sure costumes do not drag. Cut off the legs or trim down skirts.
5. Have the child carry a flashlight. Find a fun Halloween-themed one!
6. Stress to children that they should not eat any candy or other food items until a responsible adult has safety-checked the treats.
7. Trick or treat at a family-friendly event such as Good Shepherd's Trunk or Treat on Oct. 26 from 3 to 6 PM. See you there!

A Boy Comes Home: September's chapel lesson focused on Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son. The children learned about a boy who didn't like that his daddy was always telling him what to do and so went away. When the boy's money ran out and his job left him hungry and dirty, he decided to go home to ask God and his daddy for forgiveness. To the boy's surprise, his daddy ran to hug him and threw a party for his return. Mrs. Girimonte and Mrs. Mengedoh's class kept the learning going through this chapel-themed craft project, decorated doors with signs that said "Welcome Home."



Community Corner

Judy Center Seeks Boots & Coats

With the weather turning colder, families will soon pull boots and coats out of storage. Some of those cold-weather items may be too small now for fast-growing children. Those outgrown items can find a good home with a local child through Good Shepherd's partner, the Gaithersburg Judy Center.

Please bring in any gently used warm winter boots and coats. GSLP will collect the items and deliver them to the Judy Center in time to keep kids warm through the winter.

Classes on Parenting Preschoolers

The Parent Encouragement Program's fall class slate for parents of young children includes classes such as Parenting Preschoolers, Teaching Self-Regulation Through Emotion Coaching, and Parenting with Intention: A Path to Clarity in Your Goals & Values. Visit PEPparent.org for more info.

Night Fairy Works Stage Magic

The pre-K-friendly musical *The Night Fairy* is now showing at Imagination Stage in Bethesda. Flora, a Night Fairy, must learn to survive among the daylight animals after her wings are damaged by a bat. Encourage children's growth in Intellectual Risk Taking by enjoying this story together. Tickets start at \$10. Visit imaginationstage.org for more info.



Red, Yellow, Brown, and Orange, Too!: Mrs. Forcey and Mrs. Ganz's three class decorated a tree with apples and autumn leaves.

Easily Find Learning Supplies at Home

While there is an abundance of educational toys and supplies available for purchase from specialty retailers, families can use many items found around the house or at dollar stores to spark learning at home:

Buttons: Have a drawer full of extra buttons that came attached to new shirts or fell off old ones? Buttons make a great substitute for the colorful counters your child uses at school. Bring out a pile and work on matching “twin” buttons; sorting by color, shape, or size; and counting.

Tweezers: Tweezers can help your children build strength in their hands, necessary for cutting with scissors and gripping a pencil. Try filling an empty bottle with cotton balls and having your child use tweezers to pull the balls out, or provide some dollar-store pony beads and have your child use tweezers to move them onto the small suction cups on the bottom of a nonslip tub mat or soap dish.

Streamers: Easily found in the party supplies section at the dollar store, streamers are great for art projects, easy snipping practice with scissors, and color identification. You can also teach positional words with them by playing Simon Says: “Simon says wave your streamer over your head,” “under your arm” or “behind your back.”

Newspapers, Magazines, and Circulars: Go on a “letter hunt” through the paper. Provide scissors so children can cut out the letters they find and build hand strength as well as literacy skills! Children will also start to “read” environmental print in ads. Incorporate art by making a collage of letters and pictures of things that start with those letters.

Make a Delicious No-Bake Pumpkin Pie!

- 1 box vanilla instant pudding mix
- 2 c. milk
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 2 tbsp. canned pumpkin
- 8 vanilla wafers

Mix pudding mix, milk, pumpkin pie spice, and pumpkin. Put out 8 small cups. Place a vanilla wafer at the bottom of each cup. Divide the pudding mix among the 8 cups.



Conference FAQ

When are fall conferences?

Fall parent conferences run from October 20 to Nov. 7. Check your child's class calendar and conference sign-up sheet for exact times.

What will we discuss?

Teachers will discuss your child's social and emotional development and your child's adjustment to school. Teachers have been observing children since the first day of school and may have suggestions for at-home activities.

When will teachers discuss academic progress?

Mid-winter conferences will focus on children's progress across all curriculum domains. Teachers will distribute progress reports and provide photos and representative work samples to review. Teachers will also recommend placement for the next school year.

Why is it so important to have conferences so early in the year?

Fall conferences help open the lines of communication. These conferences provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to exchange information about children's activities, personalities, and needs. Establishing an ongoing exchange of information can make a significant difference in the progress a child makes during the school year.

How do I sign up for a time?

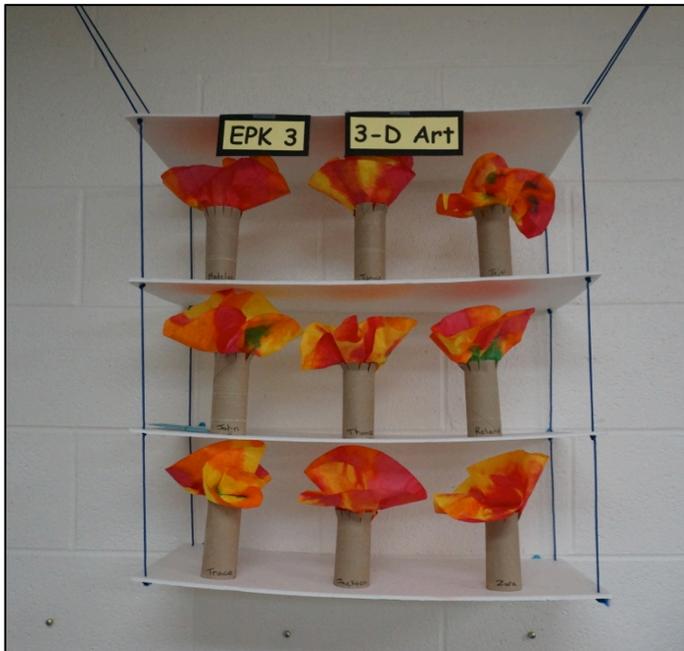
Teachers first provided conference sign-up sheets at Back to School Night. Currently, sign-up sheets are posted on class bulletin boards near daily notes.

What if all the conference times fall during my work day?

Parents are expected to make time to attend a conference during the available conference hours. The posted times are the only times conferences will be held.

What will my child do during conferences?

While teachers conference with parents, assistant teachers will lead classes with the help of a trained substitute teacher. Very small children may attend with you.



3-D Art: Mrs. Cunningham and Mrs. Landry's three class created three-dimensional art for their classroom's shelves. First, they engaged in process art by dyeing coffee filters in warm fall colors. Then, these filters were attached to toilet paper tubes to create a craft that can stand on its own.

Celebrating Apple Pumpkin Days

GSLP students welcome fall by enjoying two iconic seasonal fruits: apples and pumpkins!

Classes participate in a variety of apple- and pumpkin-related activities during the second week of October. Many classes will enjoy special cooking projects (see one recipe often used at this time of the year on page 4) and may dress in fall colors.

Children will learn that apples come from trees and pumpkins grow on vines. For kids — many of whom have never acquired pumpkins or apples from any place but a grocery store — this can be big news!

Students will get to select a pumpkin to decorate from our playground pumpkin patch. Each class will cut open a pumpkin and pull out its seeds. Classes may then do further activities, such as planting the seeds or examining parts with hand lenses.

If you carve a pumpkin at home, help your child extend their learning by roasting the seeds, using the seeds in a collage, or saving them to plant in the spring. For an interesting science activity, find a place outdoors where the pumpkin can safely rot. If you leave it alone, you will have your own little pumpkin farm in the spring. Or, fill the opened pumpkin (with some seeds still inside) with dirt and watch it sprout!

Child Find Helps Children Receive Early Intervention

Early intervention for children who have special learning needs is extremely important in providing children with the best chance for a positive future and successful school career. The county has long recognized this need and has created a free county screening program to help parents identify young children who can benefit from some extra help.

Child Find is a department of the Montgomery County Public Schools. Its purpose is to screen and identify children with developmental delays that may affect their performance when they enter kindergarten. Once identified, children receive free corrective services from the county. The county also provides a similar screening program called Infants and Toddlers for children under 2 years 10 month old.

Our staff cannot diagnose learning delays in children but will inform parents if their child appears to struggle in particular areas. If staff members feel that a screening would be beneficial, they will arrange a parent conference. There,

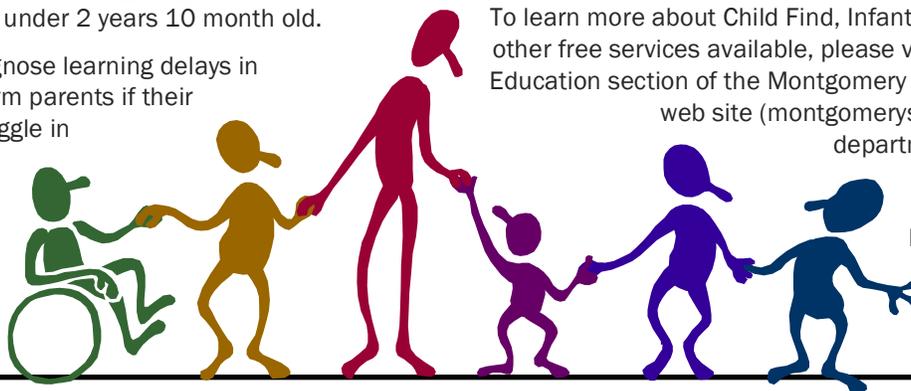
they will provide parents with specific information regarding areas of concern.

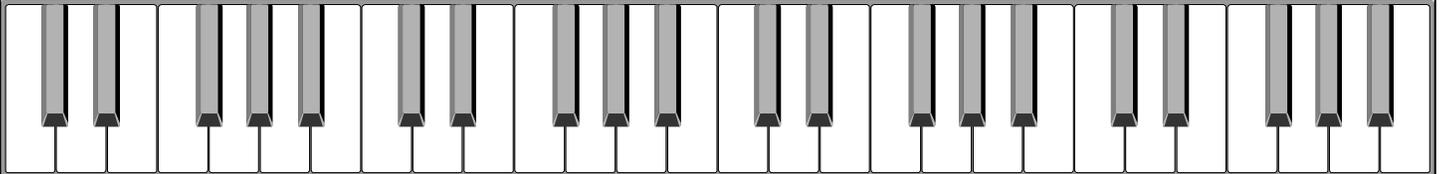
If a screening is recommended, we strongly suggest that you call Child Find intake line at 301-947-6080 as soon as possible to arrange an appointment. It can take up to two months to get a screening appointment.

Child Find usually only takes children with significant delays, and there are many children who would benefit from services but do not meet the requirements established by Child Find. Your pediatrician can recommend private occupational and speech therapists, and treatment is sometimes covered by insurance.

To learn more about Child Find, Infants and Toddlers, and other free services available, please visit the Special Education section of the Montgomery County Public Schools web site (montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/specialed/

[parents/services/](http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/specialed/parents/services/)) or call 301-230-5966 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. to speak with a Child Find Specialist.





October Songs and Fingerplays for Parents

One Little Scarecrow

One little scarecrow hopping up and down,
Hopping up and down, hopping up and down,
One little scarecrow hopping up and down,
For this is Harvest time!

vs. 2: Two little autumn leaves floating through the air

vs. 3: Three little pumpkins walking in a row

vs. 4: Four little gray squirrels chasing up the tree

vs. 5: Five little children jumping in the leaves

Gray Squirrel

Gray squirrel, gray squirrel, swish your bushy tail,
Gray squirrel, gray squirrel, swish your bushy tail,
Wrinkle up your funny nose, crack a nut between your toes,
Gray squirrel, gray squirrel, swish your bushy tail.

The Floppy, Floppy Scarecrow

The floppy, floppy scarecrow
Guards his field all day.
He waves his floppy, floppy arms (*elbows, knees, etc.*)
To scare the crows away.

Color Song

Red is the color of a valentine,
Purple is the color of grapes on a vine,
Green is the color of green string beans,
Blue is the color of my * blue jeans,
Yellow is the color of the sun in the sky.
Orange is the color of mom's pumpkin pie,
Brown is the color of a chocolate cake,
White is the color of a *snowflake.

We Love

We love ** because God first loved us (2x)
We love ** we love **
We love ** because God first * loved * us **

Love One Another

Love one another, love one another,
Love one another Jesus said.
vs. 2: Help one another
vs. 3: Care for each other

My Hands and Feet

My hands and feet can serve the Lord, (3x)
All of me can serve the Lord.
My mouth and ears can serve the Lord, (3x)
All of me can serve the Lord.

Oh, When the Leaves Fall Off the Trees

Sung to the tune: When the Saints Go Marching In

Oh, when the leaves fall off the trees,
Oh, when the leaves fall off the trees,
We know that it must be autumn,
When the leaves fall off the trees.

vs. 2: Red, yellow, brown,

Red, yellow, brown,

Red, yellow, brown and orange, too,

We know that it must be autumn,

When we see those colors true.

I'm a Little Acorn Round

I'm a little acorn round,
Sitting on the cold, cold ground
Everybody stomps on me,
That is why I'm cracked, you see,
I'm a nut! ** I'm a nut! ** I'm a nut! **

We Are a Family

Chorus: We are a family, God's family,
We are a family, we are one,
We are a family, God's family,
We are a family, we are one.

Verse: Hey mother, hey father,
Part of the family,
Hey, teacher, hey, pastor,
You're part, too!
Hey, friend, and hey, neighbor,
Part of the family,
Hey, everybody means me and you!

Autumn Leaves

Falling, falling, autumn leaves are falling
Falling, falling, falling to the ground.
Whirling, whirling, autumn leaves are whirling,
Whirling, whirling, whirling to the ground.

Did You Ever See A Pumpkin?

Did you ever see a pumpkin, a pumpkin, a pumpkin,
Did you ever see a pumpkin with no face at all?
With no eyes and no nose and no mouth and no teeth?
Did you ever see a pumpkin with no face at all?
vs. 2: So I made a jack-o'-lantern, jack-o'-lantern,
jack-o'-lantern,
So I made a jack-o'-lantern with a big smiling face,
With big eyes and big nose and big mouth and big teeth,
So I made a jack-o'-lantern with a big smiling face.

