



Good Shepherd Preschool

Home + School Connection

A Monthly Newsletter for Families

16420 S. Westland Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20877 | 301-963-1955 | gspreschool@outlook.com | gslp-gaithersburg.org

Apr. 2015

Dates to Remember



Chapels:

Tues., Apr. 21 at 11:30 (Classes 2G & 2P) and 12:45 (Classes 3, 6, & 8)

Wed., Apr. 22 at 9:45 (Classes 4, 5, 7, & 9)

GSLP Spirit Week!: Apr. 20 to Apr. 26

Summer Reading Drive: We will collect picture book donations for the Judy Center all week!

Wear BLUE to Celebrate GSLP: Thurs., Apr. 23 and Fri., Apr. 24

GSLP at GSLC Day: Sun., Apr. 26 at 9 or 11:30 AM

Come see a GSLP slideshow and the children singing GSLP chapel songs!

Reptiles Alive:

Wed., Apr. 29 at 9:45 (Classes 4, 5, & 7)

Thurs., Apr. 30 at 11:15 (Classes 2G, 2P, & 9) and 12:45 (Classes 3, 6, & 8)

Movie Night: Fri., Apr. 17



Let's Go Fly a Kite: Mrs. Girimonte's STEAM Pre-K is investigating flight in April. They dripped liquid watercolors onto kite shapes and used straws to create "wind" that would blow the paint around the canvas.

Inside this Issue



- 2 Movie Night; Book Nook; VBS; Spring Clothing; Young Families Group; Sisters in Grace
- 3 GSLP Scholarship Fund; Foster Kids' Creativity
- 4 Technology FAQ; Playground Rules; Egg Salad
- 5 Springtime Activities; Reptiles Alive
- 6 April Songs and Fingerplays

Keep Up with GSLP News



-  Follow GSLP on Facebook: [facebook.com/gslp.gaithersburg](https://www.facebook.com/gslp.gaithersburg)
-  Follow GSLP on Twitter: [@GSLP_Gburg](https://twitter.com/GSLP_Gburg)
-  Subscribe to our GSLP News blog: feeds.feedburner.com/gslp-news

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



It's Springtime Again at Good Shepherd!

During April, Good Shepherd students will have many opportunities to celebrate spring. In the classroom, students will learn about plants and animals, from their varieties to their life cycles. The preschool keeps an extensive collection of books on these topics in its school library. Our classroom curriculum integrates music, art, and science activities throughout the month based on nature themes.

During the next few weeks, students will plant a variety of seeds and care for their own plants. Students will move the vegetable plants started inside in March into their new home in the second garden box as April progresses. The bulbs we planted in our playground garden box in the fall are waking up after the long winter, too. With teacher guidance, students will learn what it takes to make a plant grow and thrive.

When studying insects and animals, classes will focus on butterflies, birds, reptiles, and frogs. Each class will have its own butterfly habitat stocked with live caterpillars. The students will observe as the caterpillars as they grow, enter their chrysalises, and finally emerge as butterflies.

Now that warm weather has finally arrived, take the opportunity to enjoy the beauties of springtime with your children. Take walks around your neighborhood and talk with your child about the signs of the season. Look for baby animals and for birds returning from the south. Dig up some bulbs to show your children how some plants grow. Try to provide your child an opportunity to plant some seeds, such as flowers in a garden or herbs for cooking in a window pot.



Join us on Friday, April 17, for this FREE event!

See *Penguins of Madagascar* (PG) or *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* (PG) and play with animal and dollhouse toys.

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

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

Please let us know if you are coming!

rsvp@goserve.net or gspreschool@outlook.com

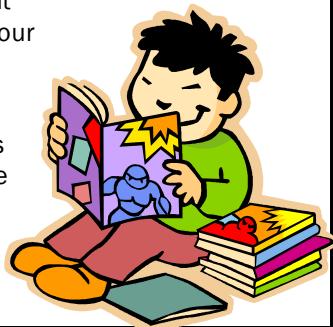
Book Nook!

The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear: The title almost says it all! This fun book features a little mouse picking a red ripe strawberry while listening to the narrator warn him of the dangers he faces from a big hungry bear who just so happens to love strawberries. Kids and parents will laugh as the mouse tries to come up with ways to protect his strawberry. The end is a treat! A great book for reading aloud.

Lola Plants a Garden: Fans of *Lola at the Library* will enjoy this follow-up with Lola, inspired by a favorite nursery rhyme, planting a garden full of flowers like she found in her library books.

And Then It's Spring: This book tells the story of a boy who plants seeds at the beginning of spring and waits through sunny and rainy days hoping that all that brown turns green. He imagines what could be holding his garden back, but in the end, time is all it needs. A good book to read to your own impatient gardeners.

Little Puppy and the Big Green Monster: Parents may enjoy this story about a reluctant playmate won over by a small puppy's determination to have fun as much as their children.



Good to Know!

Insider Information for GSLP Families

Spring Has Sprung! Some Clothing Tips

Warm weather is here! Please continue to dress your child appropriately for the weather. A light jacket or sweatshirt is often necessary for morning hours, but a short-sleeved shirt worn underneath allows the child to remove the outer layer as the day becomes warmer. **Please do not send your child to school in sandals, flip-flops, crocs, or any open-toed shoes.** Such footwear can be dangerous for children when running and climbing on the playground.



Register Now for Vacation Bible School

Good Shepherd Church will host **Vacation Bible School** from August 3 to 7, from 9 AM to 12 PM each day. VBS is an exciting program of games, crafts, music, and Bible stories. The theme is "Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power."

Children who enroll in VBS are grouped by age. The youngest children must have turned three by March 31, 2015, and must be potty trained. The oldest children attending will have just completed fifth grade. The church always strives to place preschool students together when creating VBS groups.

Additional information can be found on the blue registration form recently sent home in your child's tote bag. We hope to see you there!



Young Families Group Meets May 3

The GSLC Young Families Group will meet for their monthly potluck and discussion on Sunday, May 3, at 4 PM in Shepherd's Hall. Newcomers are always welcome! Get to know other parents of young children interested in raising faith-filled families.



Sisters in Grace Meet Thursday Mornings

Interested in joining fellow women in discussions on faith while your children are in class? GSLC's Sisters in Grace meet Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 AM in Room 200. Childcare is available for children not in class. Newcomers are always welcome! Contact leaders Nancy Danielson (nfdanielson@msn.com) and Carolyn Sowinski (sowinski@stlconline.org) for more information.

Express Yourself! ✎

Foster Your Preschooler's Creativity at Home

By Karen Munzer, GSLP Teacher

Research has shown that children learn best when given the opportunity to explore and discover with open-ended activities. It's all about the process, not the final result.

Art provides the opportunity to experiment with various media and promotes creativity. What color do I get when I mix red and yellow paint? How does clay feel? What happens when I add water to clay? Can play dough be molded into different shapes? What happens when I place a leaf under a sheet of paper and rub a crayon across it? It's all about play. Children are naturally curious and they learn through play.

Art activities are an important part of developing fine- and gross-motor skills. Kneading clay uses the small muscles in the hands as well as the large muscles in the shoulders and back. Using crayons, markers, paintbrushes and scissors all develop fine-motor skills.

Consider giving your child the space, time, and yes, the opportunity to make a mess at home. Set up a place in your home where you can give your child art materials in many forms to play with and explore. Cover a table with a plastic tablecloth, provide an easel, and let the space be their own.

A good idea is to store supplies in plastic bins. Label them with their contents. Encourage your child to take personal care of their supplies by explaining how they should be stored: caps stay on glue sticks and markers, and paintbrushes are clean before being put away.

Don't throw scraps away! Hang on to that empty paper towel roll or empty yogurt container. Scraps of fabric, leftover buttons or other craft supplies make a great collage box. Put stacks of leftover printer paper, construction paper, magazines and print ads in a paper bin.

Article continues on page 4...

Family Storytime

Wednesday, April 15

9:30–10:30 AM

Rm. 204/206

Come join us for playtime, songs, and puppets! Parents (or grandparents) and children age 1 to 4 can come together to enjoy this family event.



Sticks and Tones: Mrs. Cunningham gave her Early Pre-K 3 class a huge tree branch and some paint, and then she let them loose! The only rules were to share paint and not splatter friends. The kids chose the colors and patterns themselves to create this art.

Community Corner

Scholarship Fund Helps Children

Head Start and public pre-K at Montgomery County Public schools provide low-income families who can't afford a private preschool such as GSLP with the opportunity to develop skills necessary for kindergarten success. Montgomery County Head Start has limited spaces for children from very low-income families. MCPS's public pre-K program is available to children who turn four by September 1 and whose families meet specific income criteria similar to that required for free and reduced-price lunches.

While county programs help many children, other families' income is just a bit too high to qualify. For these families, a quality private preschool education is simply not affordable. Children from these families often start kindergarten without experience in a group setting and without the skill set taught in preschool. As such, they arrive at school already behind. Maryland's Ready at Five (readyatfive.org) data that children who attend private preschool programs such as GSLP score very highly on assessments of kindergarten readiness.

Good Shepherd's scholarship fund helps a few of these children, but we would like to do more. Need-based scholarships are provided for Pre-Kindergarten and Early Pre-K 3 classes. If you would like to help build our ability to reach these missed students, please consider a tax-deductible donation to our fund. Information is available in the office.



April Showers: Mrs. Parrales's EPK 2 class made handprint rain.

Fostering Creativity: Continued from p. 3

A good place to start is to give your child an idea. Suggest their favorite subjects, it may be cars or birds, superheroes or princesses; but let the process be their own. They may ask for supplies to help complete their vision. Be open to their ideas and let them explore.

The castle may not stand up the first time, but this encourages critical thinking. What can I do to reinforce this castle? Snap some pictures of the process, add captions and make a book. They will look at it over and over again. What a sense of accomplishment!

Here are some ideas for supplies you may want to have available beside the usual: craft sticks, feathers, string, yarn, sandpaper, foil scraps, wrapping paper, rolling pin, buttons, cookie cutters, silk flowers and leaves, straws, and small pieces of sponge.

Supply some background music and give your child plenty of time. Most importantly, have fun!

Reminder: Please Respect the GSLP Playground Rules

GSLP is happy to welcome families to use our playground after school, on weekends, and over the summer. It's a great place for kids to have fun together and parents to get to know each other! However, we ask that families please respect our playground rules while visiting. First, whenever a class comes outside for its playground time, families must promptly exit the playground. Second, never allow children to play alone; caretakers *must* be on the playground with the children, not in cars. In addition, we ask that children stay off the roofs of the playground structures and that you close the sandboxes before leaving. Thank you for keeping the playground safe!

Kid-Friendly Egg Salad

Have leftover Easter eggs? Kids can make some yummy egg salad (almost) all by themselves! It's all in the tools.

Peeled hard-cooked eggs

Mayonnaise

Salt

Place peeled hard-cooked eggs in a large bowl. Add a spoonful of mayonnaise and a hefty pinch of salt. Smash everything up using a **potato masher** and serve on bread or lettuce.



Technology FAQ

Children can both learn about technology and learn from technology.

What technology does my child have access to at GSLP?

As a state-accredited school, GSLP incorporates technology into every classroom. Each classroom has a tablet computer, and teachers also have access to desktop and laptop computers to enhance lessons.

How often does my child have access to the class computer?

Computers are available to children on occasion during free play centers time. Teachers determine based on age and curriculum needs how often it is appropriate to provide iPads to children.

What software and sites are available for my kids at school?

GSLP desktop computers have educational software for young children purchased through sources such as Lakeshore Learning, Crayola, and Scholastic. The iPads have software from the iTunes App Store created by a variety of developers, including PBS. Programs encourage creativity, read stories to children, or reinforce basic skills such as letter recognition and counting. GSLP computers also have limited Internet access so that children can play teacher-selected games.

How much screen time should my child have each day?

With the proliferation of tablets and smartphones, this question is no longer easy to answer. Parents must balance the fact that screens are an increasingly prevalent part of life, providing access to everything from games and videos to books and art canvases, with children's need for hands-on play, social interaction, and exercise.

How should I select programs?

When choosing computer, phone, or tablet apps for young children, look for programs that encourage problem solving and creative thinking whenever possible.



Taking on Adult Roles: Mrs. Munzer's Pre-K became published authors and illustrators after reading *Library Mouse*. Mrs. Allen's Pre-K studied the work of artists such as Chihuly and Van Gogh.



Reptiles Alive Brings Snakes and More

On April 29 and 30, Reptiles Alive will come to GSLP for our second “in-house field trip” of the year. Reptiles Alive provides live animal shows led by wildlife educators with experience working with both animals and young children.

The program features real, live reptiles and amphibians, such as snakes, turtles, and frogs, without glass or bars blocking the audience’s view. Most of the animals come to the organization as rescues, having been abandoned as pets. Reptiles Alive strives to teach children about these special animals and their importance.

This event is fascinating for the children, and we warmly invite family members to attend as well. If your students have younger siblings at home, please bring them in for the show!

Visit www.reptilesalive.com for more info on the program. Check out the Teacher’s Page (www.reptilesalive.com/teachers/teachers.htm) if you’d like to get a head start on learning about our reptilian friends! There’s also a kids page (www.reptilesalive.com/kids/reptile_rangers/reptile_rangers.htm) with facts, coloring sheets, and puzzles for curious little ones.

Springtime Events and Destinations for Young Children

Now that our long winter is finally drawing to a close, it's time to start planning some activities to shake off that cabin fever! Check out some of these local venues that offer fun for families with young children:

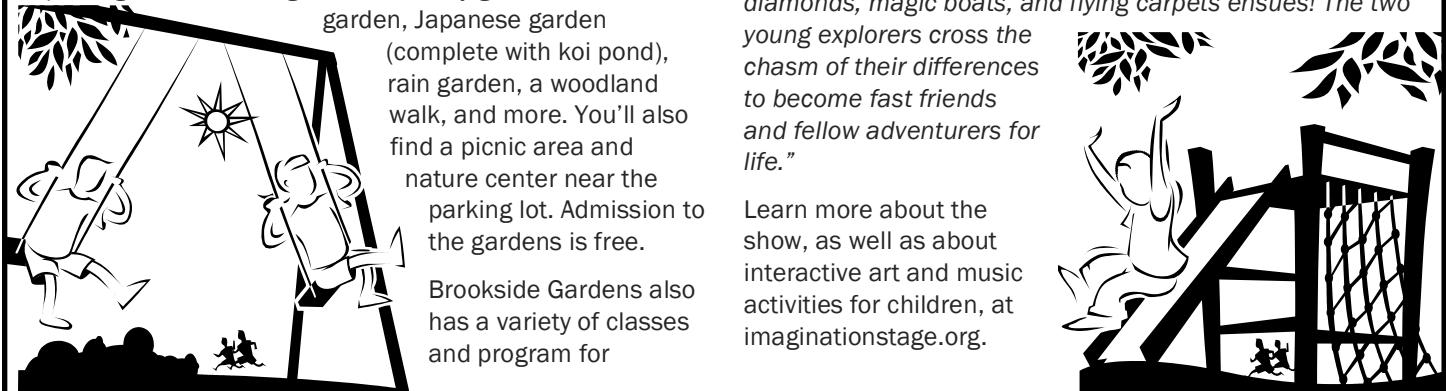
Wheaton Regional Park, Georgia Ave. Entrance: Entering Wheaton Regional Park off Georgia Avenue — just south of Randolph Road — you will find a large picnic area with lots of play equipment, a miniature train, and a working carousel. Pack a picnic and enjoy this free public park.

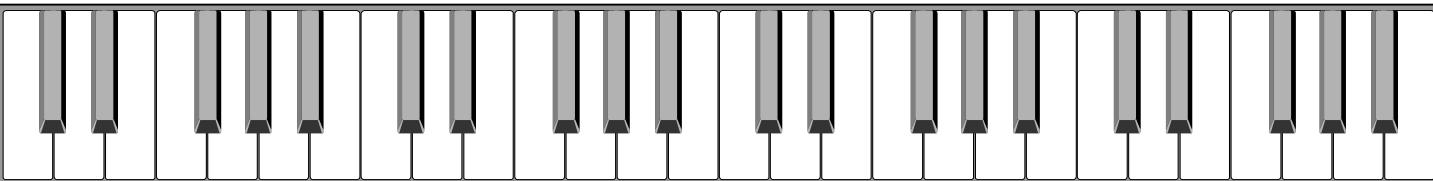
Brookside Gardens: Spring is a wonderful time to visit Brookside Gardens. This 50-acre public garden includes an aquatic garden, azalea garden, butterfly garden, children’s garden, Japanese garden (complete with koi pond), rain garden, a woodland walk, and more. You’ll also find a picnic area and nature center near the parking lot. Admission to the gardens is free. Brookside Gardens also has a variety of classes and program for

preschool-age children. Information on both the park and child-friendly programs can be found at: www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/

Imagination Stage: Bring pre-K children to see Imagination Stage’s newest production, *Sinbad: The Untold Tale*, running April 8 through May 29. From the website: “*Sinbad the Sailor has retired from his notorious adventures. He tries to keep his feisty daughter Ittifaq safe from the sorceress Jan Shah. But when a mysterious cloud descends upon Baghdad putting all of the adults to sleep, proud Ittifaq must enlist the help of Sinbad the Porter, a street orphan whom she despises. A quest full of humor, genies, sword fights, diamonds, magic boats, and flying carpets ensues! The two young explorers cross the chasm of their differences to become fast friends and fellow adventurers for life.*”

Learn more about the show, as well as about interactive art and music activities for children, at imaginationstage.org.





April Songs and Fingerplays for Parents

Oats, Peas, Beans, and Barley

Chorus: Oats, peas, beans, and barley grow
Oats, peas, beans, and barley grow,
Do you or I or anyone know
How oats, peas, beans, and barley grow?

First the farmer sows the seed.
Then he stands and takes his ease:
Stamps his foot and claps his hand,
And turns around to view the land.
(repeat chorus)

Flowers Blooming

(Call and response song – the leader sings each line, and then the kids sing it back.)

Flowers blooming,
Robins sing,
Weather's getting warmer,
Must be spring!
April showers,
Grass turns green,
Weather's getting warmer,
Must be spring!

Amigos de Cristo

Amigos de Cristo, we're friends of the Lord,
Amigos de Cristo, we're friends of the Lord,
For we've been forgiven and we've been restored,
Amigos de Cristo, we're friends of the Lord.

King of Kings

King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Glory, alleluia!
King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Glory, alleluia!
Jesus, Prince of Peace, Glory, alleluia!
Jesus, Prince of Peace, Glory, alleluia!

This Little Light

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (repeat 2x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!
vs. 2: Hide it under a basket? No!
I'm gonna let it shine!
vs. 3: Don't let anyone blow it out,
I'm gonna let it shine!
vs. 4: Repeat vs. 1

Sweetly Sings the Donkey

Sweetly sings the donkey
At the break of day.
If you do not feed him;
This is what he'll say.
Hee Haw! Hee Haw!
Hee Haw! Hee Haw! Hee Haw!

Here's a Little Alligator

Here's a little alligator sitting on a log,
In a little pond, he sees a little frog.
Down goes the alligator, 'round goes the log,
Splash! Goes the water and away swims the frog!

I'm Going to Kentucky

I'm going to Kentucky,
I'm going to the fair,
To see a señorita
With roses in her hair,
Oh, shake it, baby, shake it,
Shake it all you can,
Shake it like a milkshake
And drink it if you can,
Glug, glug, glug,
Oh, rumble to the bottom,
Now rumble to the top
Then turn around and turn around,
And turn until you stop!

Five Little Frogs

Five green and speckled frogs,
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating some most delicious bugs – yum, yum!
One jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool,
Then there were four green speckled frogs – glub, glub!
(Repeat with four frogs, then three, two, one, and no green speckled frogs.)

Little Butterfly

Hello, little butterfly, flying free!
Hello, little butterfly, come see me.
And now, little butterfly, fly away!
Goodbye, little butterfly, goodbye!

