

Home + School Connection

Vol. 25, Issue 4: February 2016

Teach Math to Young Learners

Looking to sharpen your child's math skills? Educational Program Director Colleen Fischer will lead a numerically inclined family workshop this month that would be logical for you to attend: Math in Early Childhood.

She will discuss ways to build your young child's math skills at home and what schools expect new kindergarteners to know about math. Come see demos of fun learning games and toys and learn about resources for building your own math learning toolbox. Children may attend with caregivers. Join us on Monday, February 29, 9:40-10:40 AM, in Room 200.



A mission of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - goserve.net



The Bear Went Onto the Bulletin Board! Mrs. Ganz's Early Pre-K 2 class dressed up their teddy bears to celebrate January's Teddy Bear Days.

Personal & Social Skills for Success

Academic accomplishments such as learning ABC's and 123's are just a small part of kindergarten readiness. In fact, it's far more important for incoming kindergarteners to sharpen their personal and social skills, which are the foundation for school success. Students must handle all personal and social tasks while also learning the academic curriculum. Thus, social-emotional development is very important in assessing whether a child is kindergarten ready or would benefit from another year of pre-K.

Kindergarteners are expected to:

- work independently and follow directions
- stay in their own space
- know when to ask for help and when to figure things out on their own
- handle going to special classes such as music and art with someone other than the classroom teacher
- take care of all personal needs such as using the toilet and dressing in outerwear
- load their own backpacks
- feed themselves lunch in a relatively short amount of time
- make new friends
- work through difficulties with other children
- deal with the "pecking order" on the playground, and more.





News You Can Use!

Insider Info for GSLP Families

Secure a Spot in Next Year's Class!

Priority registration for church members and current and alumni families end on **Tuesday, Feb. 9**. Families will learn their child's placement for next year by Wednesday, Feb. 17. Payment of one month's tuition is due by Friday, Feb. 26, in order to reserve your spot.

If you have not yet returned your registration form, please do so soon as spaces in many classes fill quickly.

Valentine's Day Tips & Guidelines

Classes will enjoy Valentine's Day parties on Feb. 11 and 12. Check class calendars and bulletin boards for information about times, volunteer opportunities, and supply requests.

Each student should bring a small card for each member of the class plus themselves. Follow these guidelines:

- Classes 2, 3, 5, and 9: 12 cards
- Classes 4 and 8: 14 cards
- Classes 6 and 7: 16 cards

Buy a box of cards meant for handing out to classmates at dollar or discount stores or check out our card-crafting tips on page 4. Have your child sign their name to each card. Please do not address the cards to members of the class.

While it is OK to attach a small candy or novelty item to cards, please do not contribute large goodie bags. Please also ensure that any candy is nut and peanut free. Valentines will be sealed in bags and sent home for parents to inspect. Teachers will *not* be inspecting items.

Join Us for Character Breakfast!

It's time for another fun weekend family event! Bring the family to Good Shepherd Preschool on Sat., Feb. 20 from 9-10 AM in Shepherd's Hall for a Character Breakfast!

Good Shepherd Preschool and GSLC Youth are working together to offer this fun event featuring your child's favorite characters from storybooks and movies. Bring all the siblings along to enjoy a fruit and waffle bar, play, and make crafts, all while interacting and taking photos with volunteers dressed up as fairy tale friends and superheroes. We encourage kids to come in costume as well!

If you will attend, please let us know by Jan. 21 at rsvp@goserve.net or gspreschool@outlook.com. We ask that attendees consider a free-will donation of \$5-10 per person to help with the costs of the event and to support GSLC Youth activities in thanks for their efforts.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We hope to see you there!



Square in the Eye. Math and art unite! Mrs. Stockton's Early Pre-K 2 created teddy bear faces by using different shapes to create the bear's features.



Safety Drills FAQ

Why does GSLP do safety drills?

Safety drills help the students understand the safety routines necessary in an emergency. With practice, children learn to stay together, stay organized, and get out the door faster.

What drills does GSLP do?

Students have monthly fire drills, plus relocation and storm drills.

What happens during a fire drill?

Students and teachers quickly exit the building and walk to the far end of the parking lot. Teachers carry out students' medication and emergency info.

What is a relocation drill?

Relocation drills teach students to follow teachers next door to Epworth United Methodist if we must evacuate the building. In a real emergency, parents would pick up children from Epworth or our alternate site, Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church.

What happens in a storm drill?

Students move to the far end of the hallway and sit by the walls, away from doors and windows.

How does GSLP keep aware of weather emergencies?

GSLP has an alert radio in the office to keep staff aware of any weather emergencies.

What are some other precautions GSLP takes to keep kids safe?

Staff members are trained in first aid and CPR. GSLP also maintains food and water supplies should students need to be sheltered.

Make Valentines for Fun & Practice

Valentine's Day provides a great at-home learning opportunity for preschool students. Children can work on many skills while creating homemade Valentine cards with you, whether you collaborate on an elaborate Pinterest-inspired craft or just let your child loose on construction paper and doilies.

Cutting: Children need lots of practice with scissors to master cutting smoothly and on a line. Teach your child to fold paper in half, draw half a heart with the fold at the middle, and then cut along the line to create easy heart-shaped cards. (You'll get embedded lessons in shapes and symmetry as a bonus!) Alternatively, pull out extra red or foil wrapping paper from Christmas and let your child cut it into small pieces. Glue these pieces on your cards to create a shiny collage. You can also pick up paper punches or a pair of crazy cutting scissors to give your Valentines decorative edges.

Painting: Have your child paint several pieces of paper with swirls of holiday colors such as red and pink. Use foam brushes to coat stampers in bright colors, and then stamp the front of each card. Cut out heart- or flower-shaped cards from the dried paintings. Painting builds hand strength, art skills, and creativity. It can also be a sensory experience should if you fingerpaint or a science experiment if you provide primary colors for your child to mix.

Glitter, Stickers, Pipe Cleaners, and More: Provide a variety of materials for your child to explore. Let them flex their creative muscles by trying out ways to combine them and let them sharpen their problem-solving skills by figuring out the best way to turn two heart-shaped doilies into a butterfly.

Writing: Don't forget the most important part! Guide your child in writing their name on each masterpiece. It's good practice both for proficient name writers and for beginning scribblers.



Will You Be My Valentine? Mrs. Parrales's Pre-K decorated this colorful heart with the painted handprints of all the children in the class.



Let It Snow! Mrs. Girimonte's Pre-K cut out unique snowflakes.

Ash Wednesday Services at GSLC

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is February 10. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will offer several opportunities to receive ashes, including during morning drop-off.

7:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Ashes and Coffee to Go

Our pastors will be distributing Ashes and Coffee from our parking lot on the morning of Ash Wednesday. Please email Pastor Dave (pastordave@goserve.net) with any questions.

6:00 PM: Family Pizza Dinner

We like to make it easy for families to participate in the 6:45 worship service. Join us in Shepherd's Hall for dinner. Please email rsvp@goserve.net if you plan to join us. Invite a friend!

6:45 PM: Child-Friendly Ash Wednesday Service

This short service is an annual favorite! It features a children's message and the Imposition of Ashes. (Note: Ashes can be given on the forehead or the hand.)

7:30 PM: Traditional Ash Wednesday Service

Join us for a traditional Ash Wednesday service that includes the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.



information, visit www.goserve.net/pages/page.asp?page_id=230370.

We hope to see you at "Cave Quest" this summer!

Sweet Treat: Valentine Tortilla Roll-Ups

Medium-size tortillas
Strawberry cream cheese
Strawberry jam

Spread a tortilla with strawberry cream cheese. Top with a layer of strawberry jam. Carefully roll the tortilla up like a sushi roll. Cut into one-inch pieces to make festive-looking pinwheels for a fun Valentine's Day snack.





Shine! Mrs. Cunningham's class's bears.

Family Storytime

Once a month, Educational Program Director Colleen Fischer leads Family Storytime, a fun and free opportunity to come play with your child here at GSLP and enjoy songs and a story together. It's also a great opportunity to meet other parents! This month's Family Storytime will be Wednesday, February 17. We would love to see you there!



Book Nook



The Day it Rained Hearts, by Felicia Bond: Cornelia Augusta catches a variety of hearts during one special day of precipitation. She uses them to make valentines unique to each of her friends. A great book to read before you start crafting your own valentines!

The Biggest Valentine Ever, by Steven Kroll: This book features two friends who realize after fighting over creating a card that the way to make the best, biggest valentine ever is to work together.

Bear Hugs, by Karma Wilson: This book is full of "romantically ridiculous animal rhymes" to giggle over with your little valentines.

A Picture Book of George Washington, by David Adler: Celebrate Washington's Birthday and introduce your own budding historian to our nation's first president with this picture book bursting with biographical information.

I am Abraham Lincoln, by Brad Meltzer: Teach your kids the story of our sixteenth president with this picture book biography that focuses on Lincoln's sense of fairness - a trait kids can relate to!

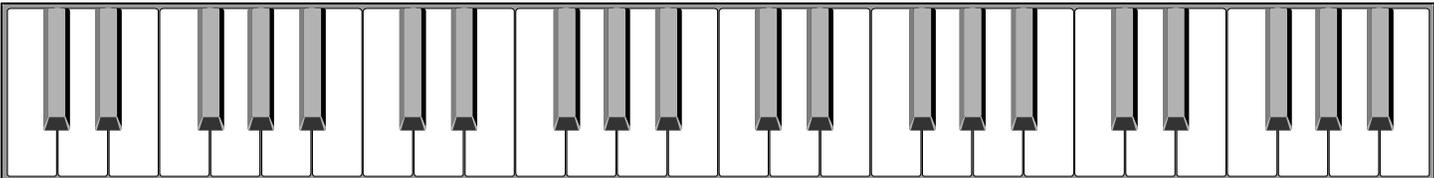
Scholarships Help Children in Our Community Succeed

Head Start and public pre-kindergarten from 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. However, 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) Kindergarten Readiness Assessment data shows that children who attend private preschool programs such as GSLP score highly compared to other programs on these school readiness measures. Part of our mission at this school is to reach out to the surrounding community and offer families in need the chance to enroll their children in a high-quality early education program that promotes school 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-Kindergarten 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. Thank you for your generosity to the local community!



February Songs and Finger Plays

Will You Be My Valentine?

Will you be my valentine, valentine,
valentine?
Will you be my valentine? I love you!
Yes, I'll be your valentine, valentine,
valentine,
Yes, I'll be your valentine, I love you!

Red Heart Says I Love You

Red heart says I love you,
Red heart says I love you,
Red heart says I love you,
Blue heart says I love you too!
vs. 2: Blue heart says.....
(Continue with all the colors and end
with)
All the colors say we love you, too!

Skidamarink

Skidamarink a dinky dink
Skidamarink a doo
I love you!
(repeat)
I love you in the morning,
And in the afternoon,
I love you in the evening
And underneath the moon,
Oh, skidamarink a dinky dink
Skidamarink a doo,
I love you - too
Boo - boopy do - yeah!

I Love You Little

I love you little,
I love you lots!
My love for you would fill ten pots
Fifteen buckets, sixteen cans,
Three teacups and four dishpans!

Mail Myself to You

I'm gonna wrap myself in paper,
I'm gonna daub myself with glue
Stick some stamps the top of my head
- LICK!
I'm gonna mail myself to you.
vs. 2: Take off all that wrapping paper,
Take that stamp right off of my head -
RIP!
Fill me up with ice cream sodies -
GLUG, GLUG, GLUG
And put me in my nice warm bed.

His Love For Me

His love is higher than the mountains,
Deeper than the sea,
Wider than the heavens
Jesus' precious love for me,
How wonderful, how can it be?
How wonderful, His love for me!

My God is So Great

My God is so great, so strong and so
mighty,
There's nothing my God cannot do!
(repeat)
The mountains are His, the rivers are
His,
The stars are His handiwork, too.
My God is so great, so strong and so
mighty,
There's nothing my God cannot do -
for you!

Rig-a Jig Jig

(Join hands with partner.)
As I was walking down the street,
(pump hands and march in place)
Down the street, down the street,
A friend of mine I chanced to meet,
Hi ho, hi ho, hi ho. (swing arms side to
side)
A rig a jig jig and away we go,
(see saw hands back and forth with
partner)
Away we go, away we go, (swing arms
side to side)
A rig a jig jig and away we go,
(see saw hands back and forth with
partner)
Hi ho, hi ho, hi ho! (swing arms side to
side)

Miss Mary Mack

Miss Mary Mack, Mack, Mack
All dressed in black, black, black,
With silver buttons, buttons, buttons,
All down her back, back, back,
She asked her mother, mother, mother,
mother,
For fifty cents, cents, cents,
To see the elephants, elephants,
elephants
Jump the fence, fence, fence,
They jumped so high, high, high,
They touched the sky, sky, sky
And they never came back, back, back
Until the fourth of July, ly, ly,
And they never came back, back,
back,
Until the fourth of July, ly, ly.

