

Home + School Connection

*Vol. 25, Issue 5: March 2016*

## Easter Egg Hunt

Time to break out those Easter baskets and join us here at Good Shepherd on Sat., March 19, for an Easter Egg Hunt!

The fun starts at 2:30 PM with a program of Easter stories and dancing with the Easter bunny in the church sanctuary. We'll then set off together for an egg hunt (with a special area set aside just for little ones).

We'll then hop on over to an Easter carnival, with a moon bounce, games, and crafts. And don't miss your chance for a photo with the Easter bunny!

Students are busy creating springtime art to display at the event, too! Send us an email ([rsvp@goserve.net](mailto:rsvp@goserve.net)) to let us know we'll see you there!



A mission of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - [goserve.net](http://goserve.net)



Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss! Mrs. West's class created these cats in hats to celebrate the beloved children's book author.

## Science Fun: DO Try This at Home!

**Pop Pop Pop Like Popcorn:** Look at popcorn kernels with your child. Have them note what they look, smell, and feel like. Then, pop the kernels using a hot-air popper. Wow! What was once small and hard is now soft and fluffy. (Popcorn can be a choking hazard in young children, especially those under four, so consider using your results as an art project rather than a snack.)

**Volcano Eggs:** Make a paste of baking soda, water, and food dye to paint on your hard-cooked Easter eggs and then drop them into a cup of vinegar. You'll end up with beautiful, multi-hued eggs once the bubbles subside.

**Bubble Towers:** Since we can't see air, we need to use other kinds of evidence to "see" it. Fill the sink or a tub with water and a few squirts of dish soap and then let your child beat air in with a whisk or manual egg beater to create piles of bubbles.

**Dough!:** Play dough is super simple to make at home, and making it shows how powders and liquids can change into a soft, moldable mass. For a basic batch of dough, mix 4 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 4 tbsp oil, 1 and 1/2 cup water, and some food coloring if desired. The kids love kneading the dough together, and it will keep for a while in a plastic bag or container for later play. You can also make sculptures and leave them out to dry rock-hard. Check [prekinders.com/play-dough-recipes/](http://prekinders.com/play-dough-recipes/) for more recipes.





# News You Can Use!

*Insider Info for GSLP Families*

## Stay Safe on the Playground

As the weather turns warmer, please take the opportunity to enjoy the GSLP playground either before or after school. The children enjoy the extra time on the playground, and parents find it a great place to meet new friends and make play dates for their children.

Please adhere to the playground rules found in the Parent Handbook. Remember: Never let your child play on the playground if you, or an adult you designate, is not physically present. **Do not sit in a car and observe your child.**

Also, do not allow children to run on the sidewalk or to play in the grassy area alongside the driveway. Unfortunately, drivers are not always watching for young children.

## Register for Vacation Bible School

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will host Vacation Bible School from August 1 to 5, from 9 AM to 12 PM each day. VBS is an exciting program of games, crafts, music, and Bible stories. This year's theme is "Cave Quest: Following Jesus, the Light of the World."

VBS kids are grouped by age. The youngest children must have turned three by March 1 and must be potty trained. The oldest children attending will have just completed fifth grade. GSLP students are placed together when creating VBS groups.

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



Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool

## Healthy Lunches for Strong Kids

During the month of March, Morning Pre-K classes will study how making good food choices helps children's bodies grow strong. Students will discuss how their school lunches reflect this theme. Please remember that all lunches should include a protein (such as cheese or sunflower seed butter), carbohydrates (such as whole-grain bread or noodles), and fresh fruits and vegetables. Please limit candy and cookies to special treats.

## Easter Services at Good Shepherd

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church invites you to join us in celebrating Easter this year. Here is the schedule of services for Holy Week and Easter:

- ❖ Maundy Thursday (March 24): 12 and 7:30 PM
- ❖ Good Friday (March 25):
  - ◆ Walnut Hill Community Service: 12 PM
  - ◆ Tenebrae Service: 7:30 PM
- ❖ Easter Vigil (March 26): 7:30 PM
- ❖ Easter Sunday (March 27):
  - ◆ Festival Worship: 8 and 9:45 AM
  - ◆ Contemporary Worship: 11:30 AM

**Art Gallery.** Mrs. Cunningham's class posts their independent artwork on a special wall in their classroom so that they can share it with the group.



## Kindergarten FAQ

### What is orientation?

Kindergarten orientations provide opportunities for incoming kindergarteners to visit the local school, meet teachers, and get an idea of the fun that awaits them. Parents will learn about enrolling their children.

### When is orientation?

Kindergarten orientations are held during April and May at your local elementary school. Call the local school or check [montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/enroll/orientation.aspx](http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/enroll/orientation.aspx).

### Who should attend orientation?

Children who will turn five by Sept. 1, 2016, along with their parents, should attend. Families seeking early entrance for children born Sept. 2-Oct. 15 should also attend.

### How do I keep my child out of kindergarten another year?

By law, all kids who turn five by Sept. 1 are required to attend kindergarten. If a child will not attend, the parent or guardian must complete a waiver at their local school. We recommend checking the box marked immaturity. Keep your copy on file to bring with you when you enroll your child the next year.

### How do I seek early entrance?

Visit [montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/earlychildhood/early-entrance.aspx](http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/earlychildhood/early-entrance.aspx). Children applying for early entrance will be screened at orientation. *There are no screenings for children whose birthdays fall after Oct. 15.*

Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool

## Build Skills, Creativity with Tech

Teachers have discovered many creative ways to put our iPad tablets to use in GSLP's classrooms, including making class movies, showing short video clips that illustrate concepts, and taking kids on photo scavenger hunts. We've also found a few good apps and toys that help reinforce kids' skills:

**Osmo:** Osmo ([playosmo.com](http://playosmo.com), \$99) is an iPad accessory that adds a hands-on element to tablet play. To use it, pop the iPad in the stand, slide the reflector over the front-facing camera, and launch one of the free Osmo apps: Tangram has kids use real tangrams to match the picture on the screen (and uses the camera to check their progress). Words teaches letter-sound associations by having kids use letter tiles to spell out what the picture on the screen shows. Numbers teaches counting, addition, and subtraction using dot and numeral tiles. Newton encourages kids to think creatively to draw or use found objects to guide virtual balls into slots. Masterpiece lets kids practice drawing and writing their names. Osmo is recommended for kids ages 5-13, but we find that most GSLP Pre-K and several Early Pre-K 3 students are proficient with it thanks to its hands-on style.

### Drawing Pad, GarageBand, Camera, and other creative apps:

Apps that encourage creative thinking, rather than passive interactions, are the best use of limited screen time for kids. Drawing Pad provides a variety of virtual artistic tools kids can use to scribble. It works with either fingers or a stylus. GarageBand lets kids try a variety of virtual instruments and record their own songs.

**The Monster at the End of This Book and Another Monster at the End of This Book:** Engage your young readers-in-training with these interactive books. Grover and Elmo help kids out by reading the text, pointing to or highlighting each word as its read aloud, and the animations will have kids giggling.



**Luck Blowing Our Way.** Mrs. Forcey's class constructed windsocks in springtime green to catch the classroom breezes.



**Pipe Cleaner Dreams.** Mrs. Parrales's class built sculptures.

## GSLP Celebrates Easter in March

During March, GSLP students will be busy preparing for Easter. Students will create Easter baskets and decorate craft eggs, creating a keepsake to treasure for years to come. Be sure to check tote bags for these delicate art projects.

All classes will be having Easter parties between March 14 and 21. Teachers will post sign-up sheets requesting donations of Easter-themed materials on classroom bulletin boards.

Each class will have an Easter egg hunt during which students will search for plastic eggs filled with small, non-food items.

**Teachers will need parent volunteers to purchase and fill many plastic eggs.** The students love to hunt for the eggs!

Family members are encouraged to attend our **Easter Family Chapels** on Tues., March 22 (11:30 for Classes 2 and 3; 12:45 for Classes 6, 8, and 9) and Wed., March 23 (9:45 for Classes 4, 5, and 7). Children will sing seasonal songs and hear about the great hope and love God gives us through Easter. GSLP will offer a family and friends reception in the church lobby before and after each chapel.

## Community Activities

Looking for some fun indoor activity to get the wiggles out while we wait for spring to fully take root here in Montgomery County? Hill's Gymnastics in Gaithersburg offers Open Gym Clinics Monday-Friday, 12:15-1:15 PM and Sunday, 5:30-7:00 PM. Parents or other trusted adults must directly supervise all children under 7 while they play. Sessions cost \$8 during the week and \$13 on Sundays. For more info, visit [hillsgymnastics.com](http://hillsgymnastics.com).

Children can explore William Paca's 18th-century garden throughout the spring as part of Mr. Paca's Backyard Preschool Program in Historic Annapolis, about an hour's drive from Gaithersburg. Paca was one of Maryland's signers of the Declaration of Independence and our state's third governor. The program takes place on the grounds of his Georgian mansion. Program staff use stories to draw children into the theme of the day and then engage kids in art, crafts, and exploration. The program operates every second and fourth Tuesday, March through June and September through December, and costs \$7 (\$5 for HA members and volunteers). Visit [annapolis.org/historic/for-kids](http://annapolis.org/historic/for-kids) for more information.

## Simple Sunflower Butter Cookies

1 c. sunflower seed butter (or peanut butter)  
1 c. granulated sugar

1 large egg  
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix the sunflower seed butter, sugar, egg, and vanilla until smooth. Drop spoonfuls of dough onto parchment-lined baking sheets. Bake at 325 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes.





**Not a Box.** Mrs. Girimonte's class boat.

## Speech Screenings

Debbie Betts, a licensed and certified speech and language pathologist, is volunteering her time to provide speech and language screenings for GSLP students. Early intervention can correct problems in these areas before they seriously impact school performance. Permission slips for the March screenings are available in the office.



*Parts; More Parts; Even More Parts* by Tedd Arnold: These books, which will appeal especially to any kid who relishes all things gross, teach kids about body parts and functions and help explain certain nonliteral phrases such as "scream your lungs out."

*Rolling Along with Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, by Cindy Meyers: This twist on the traditional Goldilocks tale places Baby Bear in a wheelchair, opening a discussion of different mobility.

*It's Spring!*, by Linda Glaser: This picture book describes spring from a child's point of view and suggests nature study projects.

*Wake Up, It's Spring!*, by Lisa Campbell Ernst: The sun kicks off the chain of awakenings in nature that ends with everyone dancing for joy because it's finally spring!

*Chaat and Sweets; Yum Yum Dim Sum; Hola! Jalapeño; and other books in the "World Snacks" series*, by Amy Wilson Sanger: These fun board books introduce children to foods from cultures around the globe with colorful collage illustrations.

## Discover the Abundant Resources on the MCPS Website

The Montgomery County Public Schools website ([montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org)) offers a tremendous amount of information about early childhood programs and resources. Read on for tips on how to find helpful resources and information.

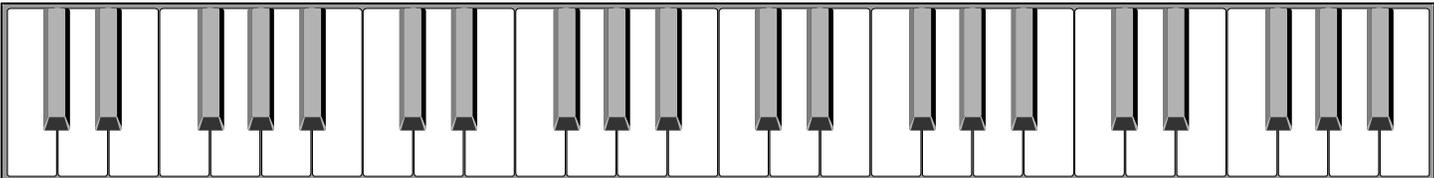
For early childhood resources, make your first stop the MCPS Early Childhood Programs and Services page at [montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/dtecps/earlychildhood/](http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/dtecps/earlychildhood/) (or type "Early Childhood" in the search box at the top of the home page and click "Early Childhood Programs and Services" under Recommended Links). On this page, you will be directed to information on the county's pre-kindergarten and Head Start programs, kindergarten enrollment, curriculum, early entrance guidelines, and the Gaithersburg Judy Center.

Scroll down to the "Useful Links" area to find links to a number of other important resources,

including Child Find, the LOCATE child-care referral resource, and the Community Resource Guide for Preschool Children and their Families. This booklet contains information about the agencies that can be contacted to solve problems or resolve issues.

Also available under "Useful Links" is a link to the Ready at Five initiative ([www.readyatfive.org](http://www.readyatfive.org)). Explore Ready at Five to find fun activities to do with children to encourage school readiness. Also check out Maryland Healthy Beginnings ([www.marylandhealthybeginnings.org](http://www.marylandhealthybeginnings.org)), a site devoted to information on typical development and activities that promote development in children from birth to age three.

Another great online resource is the new MSDE Early Childhood website, now available at [earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org). These sites together provide families with many resources for raising healthy, well-educated children.



# March Songs and Finger Plays

## **We Are Little Airplanes**

We are little airplanes flying, flying,  
We are little airplanes, zoom, zoom,  
zoom.  
We are flying low, we are flying high,  
We are little airplanes flying in the sky.

## **Engine Number Nine**

Engine, engine, number nine,  
Running on Chicago line,  
Running east and running west,  
Running through the cuckoo's nest.  
Engine one, engine two, engine three,  
Engine four, engine five, engine six,  
Engine seven, engine eight,  
Oh, engine, engine number nine  
Running on Chicago line,  
Running east and running west,  
Running through the cuckoo's nest.  
Engine one, engine two, engine three,  
Engine four, engine five, engine six,  
Engine seven, engine eight,  
Engine nine! (whoo-whoo!)

## **Down by the Station**

Down by the station, early in the  
morning,  
See the little pufferbellies all in a row,  
See the station master turn the little  
handle,  
Puff, puff, toot, toot, off they go!

## **I Want Someone to Buy Me a Pony**

I want someone to buy me a pony,  
Jig jog jig jog jig a jog gee  
Not too fat and not too bony,  
Jig jog jig jog jig a jog jee  
For I want to go for a ride  
Far out in the countryside  
With a jig jog jig jog jig jog  
jig jog jig jog jig a jog gee!

## **Dropped My Eyebrow**

Dropped my eyebrow, pick it up, pick  
it up,  
Dropped my eyebrow, pick it up, pick  
it up,  
Dropped my eyebrow, pick it up, pick  
it up  
And put it back on my face.

## **Chop Chop**

(Pretend you are making soup and  
chop up a variety of vegetables.)  
Chop, chop, chippity chop,  
You cut off the bottom, you cut off the  
top  
And what you've got left, you put in  
the pot,  
Chop, chop, chippity chop.

## **I Ate a Banana**

I ate a banana and the banana said,  
"Ouch! You're hurting me, biting on  
my head!"  
Why don't you eat a grape instead?"  
So I ate a grape and the grape said...  
(Repeat the pattern for lots of different  
fruits and vegetables, and then  
conclude with:)  
"Why don't you eat your lunch  
instead?"

## **Peace Like a River**

I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.  
vs. 2 - I've got joy like a fountain...  
vs. 3 - I've got love like an ocean...

## **She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain**

She'll be coming around the mountain  
when she comes. (Toot, toot! - pull  
whistle)  
vs. 2 - She'll be driving six white  
horses when she comes (Whoa back! -  
pull on reins)  
vs. 3 - Oh, we'll all go out to greet her  
when she comes (Hi there! - wave)  
vs. 4 - And we'll all have chicken and  
dumplings when she comes (Yum,  
yum! - rub stomach)  
vs. 5 - Oh, she'll wear her red pajamas  
when she comes (Scratch, scratch -  
scratch sides)  
vs. 6 - Oh, she'll have to sleep with  
grandma when she comes (Snoring  
sound - sleep on hands)

## **King of Kings**

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

## **This Little Light of Mine**

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

