



Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool

Home + School Connection Preschool Newsletter

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Looking Toward a New School Year

Families of students enrolled for this fall will receive a letter in July describing the opening days of school. If you do not receive this letter by August 1, please call (301-963-1955) or email (office@gslp-gaithersburg.org) the preschool office. If your address changes during the summer, please email the preschool with your updated contact information so that we can send the letter to the correct address.

Your summer letter will include an invitation to attend a gathering with your child's teachers and classmates at the GSLP playground. These gatherings are an opportunity for parents and children to meet one another and begin building relationships that will continue throughout the year. Gatherings will happen the week of September 2.

The next big event to kick off the school year will be classroom visits on September 11. Parents and students visit classrooms together to introduce the kids to where they will spend the year. Your child's first school day will be a mini-day, an hour-long session during which parents will stick around for GSLP's yearly parent orientation. Next, Early Pre-K students will have shortened sessions to gradually start the year, while Pre-K students will start full sessions.

A preliminary yearly calendar and a detailed September 2019 calendar are available on the GSLP website. Just go to gslp-gaithersburg.org and choose "School Calendar" under the "Current Families" menu.

A second tuition payment is due August 1. If you will be away during that time, please send in the tuition ahead of time. If tuition is not received by August 1, the office staff will assume that you wish to withdraw your child from school. The preschool office will be open on August 1 from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM for parents who wish to drop-off their tuition and paper forms.

Help GSLP Plan for the Future

All families received a questionnaire in tote bags this month that asks for feedback on your experiences this year. Please tell us about any areas of concern and let us know what has worked particularly well for you.

The staff uses this information to make changes to the program, to plan for next year and to better meet the needs of an ever-changing community. Many of preschool parents have shared some great ideas over the years!

Lose your survey? Additional copies are available in the Preschool Office.



GSLP is a mission of
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
www.goserve.net



Progress Reports Go Home Last Day

Teachers will provide you with student progress reports at the end of the last day of school. Teachers will only hand these reports to the children's parents or legal guardians; otherwise, they will be mailed to the child's home address.

Progress reports are based on Healthy Beginnings (Early Pre-K 2 classes) or Early Learning Assessment (Early Pre-K 3 and Pre-K classes) indicators. These summaries address objectives that the children have been working on all year.

Parents will receive a written report as well as work samples that illustrate children's growth over the year. Progress reports also provide recommendations for areas parents and students can review this summer.

We encourage parents of kindergarten-bound children to share these reports with their children's kindergarten teachers. These reports can provide teachers with valuable information about a child's preschool experience.

Fun Fact: April showers have brought us May flowers! The state flower of Maryland is the Black-Eyed Susan, which comes from the same family as the flowers GSLP students plant in spring—sunflowers!

Resource Roundup

Parent Volunteers

The Good Shepherd Pre-school staff sends a special thank you to the parents who volunteered throughout the school year: library helpers, office assistants, chapel costumers, classroom volunteers, families who sent in special supplies, and everyone who supported the Fall Festival Food Drive, Creativity Bag Tree, and Teacher Appreciation Book Drive. Your help makes our school great!

In addition, we thank all our families for sharing their precious children with us. GSLP has been blessed by your children's presence. We hope you all have a wonderful summer!

Saying Farewell to Another Year

Classes will celebrate the end of a wonderful year of love, learning, and laughter with their annual Closing Programs on Thursday, May 30, and Friday, May 31.

Students will sing a selection of their favorite songs from music class before enjoying a slideshow that tells the story of our school year. The program takes parents inside the daily routines of the classes and shows the great variety of activities in which the children participate. The children love to see themselves on the big screen. They usually offer their own commentary, too!

We invite parents to bring out their cameras for the performance portion of the program. We ask that family members who wish to take photos or videos please stand behind the seated audience members so that all parents can see their children clearly.

The slideshow portion of the Closing Program is available for purchase on the class photo disc (see p. 4). Discs will include both the slideshow itself and the photo files used.

After each program, there will be an opportunity for class and individual pictures. Teachers will take the children back to their classes after the program, and dismissal will be at regular times.

Teachers will be putting new wall displays outside their classrooms for the last weeks of school as well. Please take time to walk down the hallway and note the work of our budding artists.



Enjoy Summer Playtime at Parks

Summer is a great time to visit some of the many fantastic parks and playgrounds around the county.

Black Hill Regional Park: Black Hill Regional Park in Boyds features several preschooler-friendly playgrounds in a scenic wooded setting. Playgrounds are positioned near picnic shelters, so pack a lunch and make a day of it! There's plenty of other activities to fill your afternoon, including a dog park for licensed pets, scenic trails, and canoes and rowboats for rental. The park also offers a visitor center that features nature exhibits and serves as a jumping off point for hikes and boat tours of Little Seneca Lake. For more information, visit www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/black-hill-regional-park/.

Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park: This Rockville playground has a huge playground with distinct areas for very small children and older children. There's also an outdoor fitness area with a suggested exercise circuit parents and kids can try together. The park also features many athletic fields, a basketball game area, and picnic areas. You can also explore Mattie's Peace Garden, where you can learn about the child poet with whose memory the park honors. For more info, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Mattie-JT-Stepanek-Park-37.

GSLP Playground: That's right, our playground is open during the summer! Bring kids to the GSLP playground before school starts to get them used to having fun here and help ease the transition into the classroom.

Playgrounds provide kids with a great way to burn off excess energy, build their large muscles, and maintain health. Plus, kids learn social-emotional skills from playing with the other children there. Playgrounds are just a whole lot of fun!

End of Year FAQ

How will GSLP mark the end of the school year?

GSLP students will have a closing program to celebrate the year. Students will sing songs they have learned this year, and everyone will enjoy a photo slideshow showing the many things children learned and experienced.

How will GSLP help my child transition into next year?

All Early Pre-K 2 and 3 students will visit a class one level up to help them grasp the idea that they will be in a different class next year. Pre-K students will discuss their kindergarten orientations with the class during circle times, read books about kindergarten, and have visits with GSLP alumni kindergarteners.

Are there spring conferences?

GSLP only holds parent-teacher conferences during the fall and winter. Teachers will give parents students' portfolios and final progress reports for the year by the last day of school.

Does GSLP offer a camp?

GSLP is closed during the summer, but Good Shepherd Lutheran Church does offer Vacation Bible School during the first week of August. All preschool families are invited to participate! Stop in the office to pick up a registration form.

Try It At Home!

Puffy Paint Pictures

- Shaving cream
- Glue
- Tempera paint
- Construction paper
- Plastic or bamboo forks
- Sequins, googly eyes, craft gems, or other decorative items (optional)

Mix equal parts shaving cream and glue. Add paint to tint the desired shade (it will dry darker). Add a blob to your child's paper and let them spread it around with a fork (or their fingers!). Decorate with sequins or other small items by placing them gently on the foam. Items will sink in as the paint dries. (Please supervise kids at all times with puffy paint and avoid small decorative items with kids under 3.)

Salad Stamping

- Tempera paint
- Celery bunch ends, straight-cup bell pepper or onion tops
- Paper

Dip your veggie scraps in paint and stamp them on paper to create fun shapes. Celery bunch ends create roses, bell peppers can make shamrocks, and onions make fun concentric circle patterns that make good snail shells.

Community Resources

Libraries Offer Learning Resources

*By Colleen Fischer, GSLP
Educational Program Director*

Summer is a great time to explore the resources available at Montgomery County's public libraries.

Our local libraries do more than offer books for research or borrowing. They offer regular storytimes (montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/ace-babies/home) and STEM-inspired play events, such as "Build and Learn with Duplo" and "Creative Play." The library also offers periodic chances for kids who have started reading independently to come read aloud to therapy dogs.

Keep an eye on the library system's event calendar (host.evanced.info/montgomerycountymd/evanced/eventcalendar.asp) to also catch when special performers such as preschool favorite Reptiles Alive pay a visit to your local branch.

Several branches also have play rooms designed for young children, filled with toys and games. Check out these Discover Rooms at the Gaithersburg, Quince Orchard, and Germantown branches (montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/ace-babies/discoveryrooms).

Montgomery County Public Libraries recently expanded their collec-

tion to include Vox Books, a new kind of audiobook that doesn't require a CD or tape player to work. The audio is instead built right into the book via a panel attached to the cover. Your child can plug their headphones right into the book to listen to a variety of stories and informational texts. Listening to books read aloud is a great way to build literacy skills.

The library also offers unexpected items you can borrow, such as thermal cameras that can help you find electronic energy drains and drafty windows and doors around your home (montgomerycountymd.gov/library/services/thermal-cameras.html). You can also borrow "Go! Kits" filled with themed books, science tools, apps, and more to launch a learning project with your child (montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/ace-babies/littleexplorers).

Finally, now is a great time to sign up for the library system's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Your child receives a log with a shell to color in for each book you read together, and there are incentives available for completing a certain number of books (montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/kids/1000books).

Photo Disc Sale Helps Scholarships

Throughout the school year, staff members take pictures of class activities, special events, birthday or growing day celebrations, chapels, and more. At the end of the year, all of these special moments are used to create a slideshow of the year for our closing program. However, the photos you see on the last day are only a small selection of the moments captured by teachers.

GSLP is offering discs with photos from your child's class and the closing program slideshow. The cost is \$10 for orders received by Tues., May 21, and \$15 for discs purchased later. Proceeds from the sales benefit the GSLP Scholarship Fund. Discs ordered in advance will be ready to take home the last week of school.

Book Nook

May Book Recommendations Bring on the Giggles

By Lori Forcey, GSLP Pre-Kindergarten Teacher

For our final Book Nook this year, we're celebrating the end of school with a focus on books that make reading fun and provide lots and lots of giggles.

The Book With No Pictures, by BJ Novak: Yes that's right, this story has no pictures. But for what it lacks in illustrations, it more than makes up for in hilarious prose that will leave kids howling. Read this one out loud, as the book stipulates that the narrator of the story has to say everything printed on the pages. What follows is a gobbledegook-laden parade of words that poke fun at the narrator over and over again. Just try to keep a straight face as you read this gem, which can be found at your local library.

When A Dragon Moves In, by Jodi Moore: When a dragon moves into the sandcastle a little boy has built on the beach, it causes A LOT of trouble. But mom, dad and sister don't see the dragon, so the blame falls on the boy. It's up to the reader to de-

cide if the dragon is really there... Find this fun one at your local library.

Monster's New Undies, by Samantha Berger: Monster needs new undies, and oh, the drama! He can't find just the right pair. What will he do? Heavy on silly rhymes and preschool-level humor, this one is particularly popular with new potty trainers. Find this silly title (with audio available!) in our Family Lending Library.

Bonus Books! For families looking for a story to help with the transition to kindergarten (or just between classrooms): *Pete the Cat: Rocking in My School Shoes* (Litwin; available in our Lending Library), *Countdown to Kindergarten* (McGhee), *i carry your heart with me* (Cummings), *What If...?* (Browne), *Anabelle Swift, Kindergartener* (Schwartz), *Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus* (Park; a chapter book!), *It's Back to School We Go!* (Jackson), and *The Twelve Days of Kindergarten* (Rose).

Keep Learning All Summer Long

Summer vacation is almost upon us! As always, you are your child's first teacher, and the activities you and your child engage in this summer will keep the learning going until fall.

The Great Outdoors: Take nature walks through shady wooded areas to teach kids about plants and wildlife while getting some healthy exercise to build those large muscles. Have a sports day or your own family Olympics, with a variety of events so everyone can win a gold medal!

The outdoors also provide opportunities for scientific investigation. Plant a vegetable garden to teach kids about what plants need to grow and about healthy nutrition. Or, mix 1/4 cup of dishwashing soap with 2 2/3 cups of water to create homemade bubbles. See how big you can make them!

Reading and Writing: Keep up with reading aloud this summer. Not only is a bedtime story soothing, it builds kids' own reading abilities. Read-alouds boost kids' familiarity with how fluent reading sounds, with pauses between meaningful phrases and changes in tone based on punctuation.

Another way to speed kids along the path to reading independently is to sing! Songs can help kids learn to hear the units of sound within words, including rhymes, initial letter sounds, and syllables. Try "Apples and Bananas," "Down By the Bay," or any of the songs you child learned at school.

Want to encourage little writers? Pick up some letter magnets for your fridge to let them practice spelling simple words, such as *cat* or *dog*. You can also provide plenty of blank paper for making illustrated sentences, notes to friends, and mini-books. Make an extra nice blank book by stapling or lacing together white paper with a bright construction paper cover.





May Songs and Finger Plays

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,
 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.

I'm Going to Kentucky

I'm going to Kentucky,
 I'm going to the fair,
 To see a senorita
 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!
(Try with shakers!)

Do You Know the Fishermen?

(Tune: "Do You Know the Muffin Man?")

Do you know the fishermen, the fishermen,
 the fishermen,
 Do you know the fishermen who cast
 nets in the water?
 We are all God's fishermen, God's fishermen,
 God's fishermen,
 We are all God's fishermen who cast
 nets in the water.

Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went out one day,
 Over the hills and far away,
 Mother Duck said, "Quack! Quack!
 Quack! Quack!"
 But only four little ducks came back.
 (count down for each verse until...)
 But none of the five little ducks came
 back.
 So Mother Duck went out one day,
 Over the hills and far away,
 Mother Duck said, "Quack! Quack!
 Quack! Quack!"
 And all of the five little ducks came
 back.

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!

The Name Game

Sara!
 Sara, Sara, bo Bara,
 Banana fanna fo Fara,
 Mee my mo Mara
 Sara!

We're Gonna Go, Go Tell About Jesus

We're gonna go, go tell about Jesus
 Go, go tell about Jesus,
 Go, go tell about Jesus
 Everywhere we go.
 vs. 2: We're gonna go, go sing about
 Jesus
 vs. 3: We're gonna go, go shout about
 Jesus
 vs. 4: We're gonna go, show how we
 love Jesus

You Gotta Sing

You gotta sing when your spirit says
 sing,
 You gotta sing when your spirit says
 sing,
 When your spirit says sing,
 you gotta sing right along,
 You gotta sing when your spirit says
 sing.
 vs. 2: ...You gotta shout right out loud
 vs. 3: ...You gotta wiggle like a worm
 vs. 4: ...You gotta shake like a snake
 vs. 5: ...You gotta dance right along
 You gotta stop when your spirit says
 stop.

Obwisana

(circle game from Ghana)
 Obwisana sa nana
 Obwisana sa
 Obwisana sa nana
 Obwisana sa.

Baby Beluga

Baby Beluga in the deep blue sea,
 Swim so wild and you swim so free.
 Heaven above, and the sea below,
 And a little white whale on the go.
 Baby Beluga, Baby Beluga,
 Is the water warm?
 Is your mama home,
 With you, so happy?
 Baby Beluga in the deep blue sea,
 Swim so wild and swim so free.
 Heaven above, and the sea below,
 And a little white whale on the go.
 You're just a little white whale on the
 go.

