



# Good Shepherd Preschool

Home ✦ School Connection

A Monthly Newsletter for Families

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May 2014

## Dates to Remember



### Chapels:

Tues., May 6, at 11:30 (Classes 2, 6C, & 6L) and 2:30 (Classes 3 and 8) and Wed., May 7, at 9:45 (Classes 4, 7A, 7P, & 9)

### Staff Meeting:

Wed., May 14 (Classes 7A & 7P end at 12; Classes 8 and LPE do not meet)

### Closing Programs

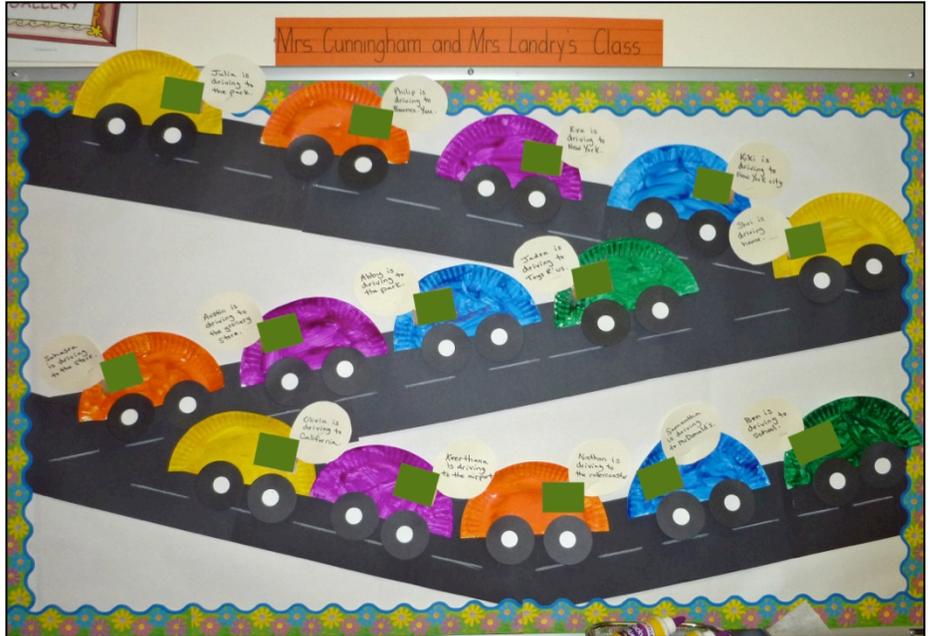
Thurs., May 22, at 9:45 (Classes 2, 6C, & 6L) and 2:30 (Classes 3 and 8) and Fri., May 23, at 9:45 (Classes 7A & 7P) and 1:00 (Classes 4 and 9)

### Lunch Plus Enrichment Make-Up Days:

May 5, 7, and 12

### Last Day GSLP is Open Before Summer Break:

Fri., May 23, from 9:30-1:30



**Take Me for a Ride:** Mrs. Cunningham's three's class is going places!

## Inside this Issue



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## Class of the Month



Mrs. Cunningham's and Mrs. Landry's 3's class discusses their favorite animals on **p. 4**. Enjoy photos of their cars on **p. 1**, sculptures on **p. 2**, glue paintings on **p. 3**, bird and flowers on **p. 4**, and shape collages on **p. 5**.

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



## Saying Goodbye to Another Year

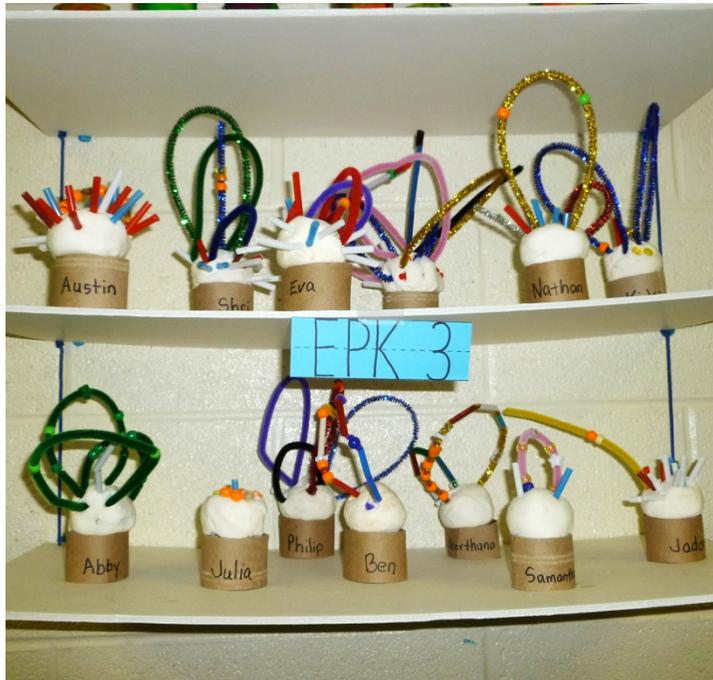
Classes will celebrate the end of a wonderful year of love, learning, and laughter with their annual Music and Art Programs on Thurs., May 22, and Fri., May 23 (see "Dates to Remember" for times).

During the program, GSLP students will sing a selection of their favorite songs from group music time. There will also be a 10-minute slideshow that will tell the story of our school year in pictures. It is always amazing to see how the children have grown over the course of the 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!

Video recording will only be allowed during the singing portion of the Music and Art program. The slideshow portion will be available for purchase on CD (see p. 3). Family members who wish to take photos or videos must stand behind the seated audience members so that all parents can see their children clearly.

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. Parents are invited to attend Parent Receptions either before or after the programs.

Teachers will be putting new wall displays outside their classrooms for the show. Please take time to walk down the hallway and note the work of our budding artists. The artwork will be sent home on the last day.



**3D Art:** Mrs. Cunningham's students threaded pony beads onto pipe cleaners and then them and some cut-up straws into balls of clay to make these sculptures.

## Book Nook!

Check out these seasonal classroom favorites:

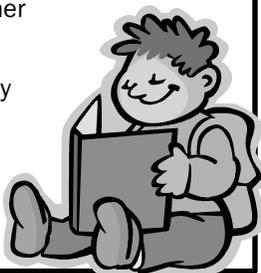
*Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten*, by Joseph Slate: This fun rhyming book tells the story of Miss Bindergarten and her 26 new students as they get ready for the first day of kindergarten.

*Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!*, by Nancy Carlson: Henry is very excited to start kindergarten! But once he finally arrives, he worries he's not so ready after all. Soon, Henry finds a friend and familiar toys, and he decides kindergarten may not be so bad after all.

*A Balloon for Isabel*, by Deborah Underwood: Everyone in Isabel's class will get a balloon at their class graduation except for the porcupines. Isabel comes up with a sweet solution to the problem of sharp spines so that everyone can have a special balloon for a special day.

*Clark the Shark*, by Bruce Hale: Clark's enthusiasm for life – and the rowdy way he shows it – can be a little overwhelming for his friends. His teacher helps him find a way to rein it in.

*Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*, by James Dean: Pete keeps grooving and singing his song as his shoes go from red to blue to brown to wet – because it's all good!



## Good to Know!

### Insider Information for GSLP Families

#### Help GS Preschool Plan for the Future!

We've attached a brief questionnaire to this month's newsletter 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!



#### Progress Reports Go Home on Your 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 summaries of the Creative Curriculum (Early Pre-Kindergarten classes) or the Early Childhood Observation Record (Pre-Kindergarten classes). 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.



#### Movie Night: *Smurfs 2* and *Now You See Me*

Movie and Pizza Night will feature recent releases *Smurfs 2* and *Now You See Me*. Bring along a side or dessert if you wish to join in the pizza dinner at 6 p.m. on June 6. The movies will start at 6:30. RSVP to [youth@goserve.net](mailto:youth@goserve.net).



#### Good Shepherd New Member Orientations

Good Shepherd Church invites those looking for a church home to join us for New Member Orientation on either Tues., May 27, or Thurs., June 5. RSVP to [pastordave@goserve.net](mailto:pastordave@goserve.net) or just drop in to learn about GSLC's mission and vision, ways to be involved, and what makes Good Shepherd Church an exciting place to be.

# Busy Hands, Busy Minds

## Keep Kids 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

Summer is a great time to get out in the fresh air. Take nature walks through shady wooded areas to teach kids about plants and wildlife while getting some healthy exercise to build those large muscles.

The outdoors also provide lots of opportunity 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!

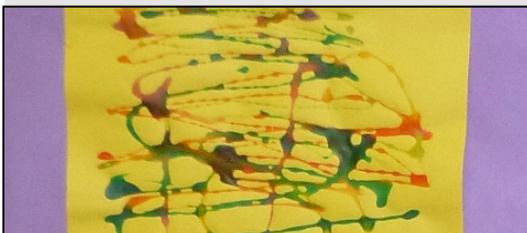
### Reading and Writing

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 together! 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.

**Drip, Drip, Drip:** Mrs. Cunningham's class used glue tinted with liquid watercolors to create this process-focused artwork. The children built their fine-motor skills by squeezing the colorful glue out of bottles onto their papers. The children found watching the glue drizzle out to form different shapes and patterns on their pages fascinating.



## Photo CD Sale Benefits 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 CDs with photos from your child's class and the closing program slideshow (minus music). Proceeds from CD sales benefit the GSLP scholarship fund. If you'd like a copy, please turn in your order form by Friday, May 16. Your CD will be ready to take home after your closing program.

## Thank You for Food Drive Success!

The Cans for Kids Healthy Snacks Food Drive was a great success! We filled three giant boxes for Nourish Now for Students, which provides food for hungry kids in Montgomery County schools. Your generosity was a perfect tribute to Mrs. Hurley and Mrs. Christian!

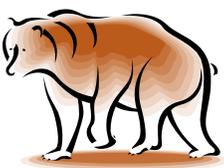




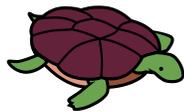
Question of the Month:

# What is your favorite animal?

Mrs. Cunningham's class saw some rescued animals, including owls and a snake, from a local sanctuary at GSLP's Scales and Tales in-school "field trip." They will be learning about insects in May as they watch their class caterpillars enter their chrysalises and later emerge as beautiful butterflies.



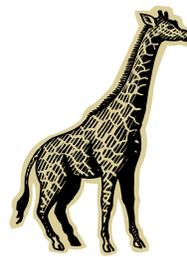
bear - Julia



turtle - Olivia



lion - Kiki



giraffe - Ben



zebra - Jadon



purple horsey - Eva



unicorn - Samantha



mouse - Nathan



deer - Keerthana



horsey - Austin



a dog and a cat - Abby



## Simple Stir-Together Cupcakes

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 1/2 c. flour     | 1 tbsp. vinegar |
| 1 c. sugar         | 5 tbsp. oil     |
| 1 tsp. baking soda | 1 tsp. vanilla  |
| 1/2 tsp. salt      | 1 c. water      |

For flavors: [www.gslp-gaithersburg.org/home-school-connection-newsletter/](http://www.gslp-gaithersburg.org/home-school-connection-newsletter/)

Whisk together the dry ingredients. Add the wet ingredients and stir until mixed (do not beat - it may still look a bit lumpy). Pour into greased, paper-lined muffin tins. Bake at 350 degrees for about 20 minutes. Makes 12.



# End of Year FAQ

## How will GSLP mark the end of the school year?

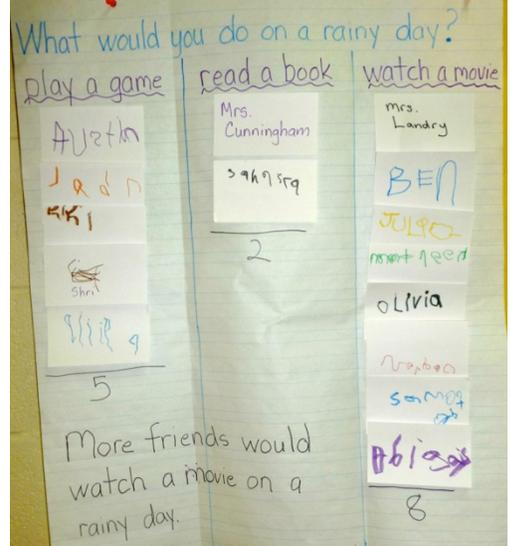
GSLP students will have a closing program to celebrate the year. Students will sing songs they have learned this year, and everyone will enjoy a photo slideshow showing the many things children learned and experienced.

## How will GSLP help my child transition into next year?

Our two-year-olds class will visit an Early Pre-K 3 classroom to help them grasp the idea that they will be in a different class next year. Three-year-old students will visit pre-K classrooms. Pre-K students will read books about kindergarten and have the chance to discuss their kindergarten orientations with the class during circle times.

## Will there be 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. Contact your teacher if you have concerns you wish to discuss.



**Rain, Rain, Go Away:** If April showers bring May flowers, we should be seeing a bounty of blossoms this year! Mrs. Cunningham's class talked about what they like to do on a rainy day. Eight friends liked watching movies, five preferred playing games, and two would opt to read a book.



**Getting in Shapes:** Mrs. Cunningham's class explored shapes through art. The children created one set of collages by cutting out triangles and then gluing on triangle-shaped scraps. For the second set, they used different circle-shaped stampers to add color to their green circles. It's math, art, and technology coming together in one project!

## Register Now for Vacation Bible School

Good Shepherd Church will host Vacation Bible School from August 4 to 8, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. each day. VBS is an exciting program of games, crafts, music, and Bible stories. The theme is "Weird Animals: Where Jesus' Love is One-of-a-Kind."

Children who enroll in VBS are grouped by age. The youngest children must have turned three by March 1, 2014, and must be potty trained. The oldest children attending will have completed fifth grade. The church always strives to place preschool students together when creating VBS groups.

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

## Gaithersburg Book Festival

Gaithersburg's annual book festival will be held at Gaithersburg City Hall on Sat., May 17, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Authors will entertain and inspire young readers at the Children's Village, and children's workshops will be held throughout the day. There's also great playground nearby for restless kids, too. Both the festival and parking are free. Find more information at [gaithersburgbookfestival.org](http://gaithersburgbookfestival.org).

## Looking Ahead to Fall 2014: Gatherings and More

Families of students enrolled for next fall will receive a letter in mid-August describing the opening days of school. If you do not receive this letter by Aug. 20, please call (301-963-1955) or email ([goodshepherdpreschool@outlook.com](mailto:goodshepherdpreschool@outlook.com)) the preschool office. If your address changes during the summer, please either email the preschool or leave a message on the preschool answering machine so that we can send the information to the correct address.

Your summer letter will include an invitation to attend a gathering with your child's teachers and classmates either at the GSLP playground or at a nearby local park. These gatherings are an opportunity for parents and children to meet one another and begin building relationships that will continue throughout the year. Class gatherings will happen the week before Labor Day.

The next big event to kick off the school year will be

classroom visits on Sept. 3. 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.

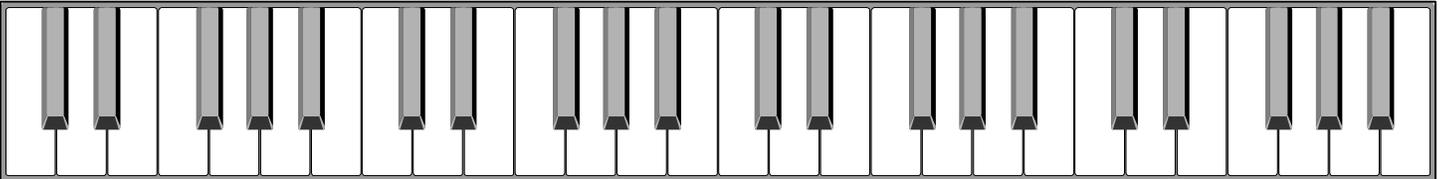
A preliminary calendar for the new school year will soon be available on the GSLP site. Just go to [gslp-gaithersburg.org](http://gslp-gaithersburg.org) and click "School Calendar" under Quick Links.

By now, all student's paperwork should have been returned to the GSLP office. A second tuition payment is due Aug. 1. If you will be away during that time, please send in the tuition ahead of time. **If tuition is not received by Aug. 1, the office staff will assume that you wish to withdraw your child from the preschool.** The preschool office will be open on Fri., Aug. 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. for parents who wish to drop-off their tuition.



The Good Shepherd Preschool staff sends a special thank you to the parents who volunteered throughout the school year: library helpers, office assistants, Thanksgiving Feast cooks, classroom volunteers, families who sent in special supplies, and everyone who supported the Thanksgiving Basket, Creativity Bag, and Cans for Kids collections.

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!



## May Songs and Fingerplays for Parents

### Little Arabella Miller

Little Arabella Miller had a fuzzy caterpillar,  
First it crawled upon her mother,  
Then upon her baby brother,  
They said, "Arabella Miller, take away that caterpillar!"

Little Arabella Miller had a fuzzy caterpillar.  
First it crawled upon her brother,  
Then upon her dear grandmother,  
She said, "Arabella Miller, how I love your caterpillar."

### Six Little Ducks

Six little ducks that I once knew,  
Fat ones, skinny ones and fair ones, too,  
But the one little duck with the feather on its back,  
He led the others with a quack, quack, quack.

*Chorus:* Quack, quack, quack,  
Quack, quack, quack.  
He led the others with a quack, quack, quack.

Down to the river they would go  
Wobble, wobble, wobble wobble,  
To and fro,  
But the one little duck with the feather on its back,  
He led the others with a quack, quack, quack. (repeat chorus)

Home from the river they would come,  
Wobble, wobble, wobble., wobble,  
Ho hum hum.  
But the one little duck with the feather on its back  
He led the others with a quack, quack, quack. (repeat chorus)

### Obwa, Si Mi Sa

(Tap stick or rock on floor to the beat.)  
Obwa si mi sa nana, obwa si mi sa  
Obwa si mi sa nana, obwa si mi sa

### This Is My Garden

(fingerplay chant)  
This is my garden; I'll rake it with care. (*rake hand*)  
These are the seeds I'll plant in there. (*place seeds*)  
The sun will shine; the rain will fall. (*shake hand*)  
The seeds will sprout and grow up tall. (*fingers rise*)

### Brush Your Teeth

When you wake up in the morning, it's quarter to one  
And you want to have a little fun  
You brush your teeth, ch ch ch ch, ch ch ch ch  
You brush your teeth, ch ch ch ch, ch ch ch ch

When you wake up in the morning, it's quarter to two  
And you want to find something to do  
You brush your teeth, ch ch ch ch, ch ch ch ch  
You brush your teeth, ch ch ch ch, ch ch ch ch

And when you wake up in the morning, it's quarter to three  
And your mind starts hummin' tweedle dee dee  
You brush your teeth, ch ch ch ch, ch ch ch ch  
You brush your teeth, ch ch ch ch, ch ch ch ch

When you wake up in the morning, it's quarter to four  
And you think you hear a knock on your door  
You brush your teeth, ch ch ch ch, ch ch ch ch  
You brush your teeth, ch ch ch ch, ch ch ch ch

When you wake up in the morning, it's quarter to five  
And you just can't wait to come alive  
You brush your teeth, ch ch ch ch, ch ch ch ch  
You brush your teeth, ch ch ch ch, ch ch ch ch  
You brush your teeth, ch ch ch ch, ch ch ch ch

### Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace,  
Go now in peace,  
May the love of God surround you,  
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.

