St. Clare's Christian Preschool News

May/June 2012

From The Director's Desk

Dear Parents and Families,

Can you believe that the school year is almost over? This year has gone by so quickly. The growth and positive change in the children is incredible. Some of them will be leaving us in the next couple months. We will be sorry to see them go, but at the same time, we know that we have done our job, preparing them to move on to the next step of their education.

One of the things that the children have been working on since they started here at the school is problem solving. We urge the children to think about ways of doing things and solving problems, whether is it how to get along with other children, putting together a building project or how to put a puzzle together. I've inserted a short article on page 3, giving you ideas on how you can also work with your child on this.

Thank you to those of you, your family and friends who donated to the Hop-a-Thon. We made a total of $3,238.25. These funds will go to support our Summer Special Events. A list of those activities is posted on page 4.

Teacher Appreciation Week is observed, nationally, May 6th through May 12th. Help show your child's teachers how much you value the time and effort they put into your child's development!

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers reading this! The classes are remembering you with various projects made with love and pride by your children. Please take these items seriously as a lot of effort goes into creating them.

Our next Preschool Board Meeting is Monday, May 21 (a week early because of Memorial Day). We will be choosing new members at that meeting, as half of the positions end their term each year. The Preschool Board is an advisory body, giving input and doing oversight for the school. Is this something that would interest you? If so, please contact me.

Our Pre-K classes are having an end of the year party on Friday, May 25. Notices and permission/sign-up slips will be sent out in the coming weeks. All Pre-K students are invited to come, as well as their parents. However, we are unable to have siblings attend.

In observance of Memorial Day, *we will be closed Monday, May 28th.* To help us prepare for our graduation ceremony, we will be closing at 3:00 on Friday, June 1st. The graduation ceremony will take place that evening at 7:00 in the church. *We will also be closed Friday, June 8th, a Teacher Work Day.*

The Pre-K children have been working on the songs that they will perform at the graduation ceremony. This is a very exciting time for them and the staff. The whole staff comes out for the graduation ceremony, as they all have contributed to the growth of the children. This is also a bittersweet time, as there are only a few days left for us to spend with many of the children.

Remember, if your child is leaving us, please complete and give me the purple *Withdrawal Request* form at least 2 weeks before the last day or as soon as you know.

The summer session starts Monday, June 11th. We'll have Bill's Pony Pictures in that day to help us kick it off.

It has been our pleasure and honor to spend this year, teaching and caring for your children. We wish them all success and joy in the future!

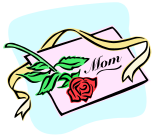
Blessings,

Ms. Meg

Important Dates!

- **May 6th through May 12th: Teacher Appreciation week**

- **Sunday, May 13th: Mother'sDay**



- **Monday, May 21st:**

  Preschool Board Meeting

  (Choosing new members)

- **Friday, May 25th: PreK/Graduation Picnic at the Sports Park**

- **Monday, May 28th: School Closed in Observance of Memorial Day**

- ***Friday, June 1st: School Closes at 3:00***

- **Friday, June 1st: Graduation at 7:00**

- **Thursday, June 7th: Last Day of School Year**

- ***Friday, June 8th: School Closed for Teacher Workday***

- **Monday, June 11th:**

  First Day of Summer Session

Happy Birthday to you!

Tommy is 3 on May 7th

Forrest is 5 on May 7th

Gianna is 5 on May 8th

Ms. Erma's birthday is May 9th

Tara is 3 on May 13th

Alexander is 4 on May 21st

Damien is 5 on May 25th

Kiran is 3 on May 26th

Gianna is 5 on May 26th

Kevin is 4 on May 27th

Ms. Gayli and Ms. Diane's birthdays are on May 29th

Emily L. is 5 on May 31st

Karishma is 4 on June 2th

Jagger is 5 on June 3rd

Caitlyn and Macey are 4 on June 6th

Ms. Phyllis birthday is June 6th

Kendall is 4 on June 10th

Staff Email Addresses

Email addresses for St. Clare's Christian Preschool staff. They are as follows:

Meg Bell: stclarepreschool@sbcglobal.net

Sue Orbell: stclareoffice@gmail.com

Panda Room: pandas@stclarespreschool.org

Bear Room: bears@stclarespreschool.org

Tiger Room: tigers@stclarespreschool.org

Frog Room: frogs@stclarespreschool.org

Turtle Room: turtles@stclarespreschool.org

Lamb Room: lambs@stclarespreschool.org

Please feel free to contact any of the staff by email when it isn't possible to communicate with us in person.

Help Your Child Become a Great Problem Solver

Everyone makes mistakes!

Grow your brain!

Practice makes better!

You can solve it!

Your child has been working hard to learn how to be a capable problem solver. Preschoolers who can solve their own problems feel confident and enjoy learning. They are willing to make mistakes and learn from them and keep trying until they succeed. You can help at home by taking advantage of opportunities to talk about solving problems. Here are some ways to start a conversation.

- Point out that it takes time to learn something new (like riding a bicycle). Explain that learning something new can take a while and that "practice makes better."
- Remind your child that problems and challenges are chances to "grow our brains." Say "You know how to do lots of things. You practiced until you got good at them." Or "Remember when you didn't know the letters in your name? Now you write them all in order! We can read your name!"
- Work with your child to think of three ways to solve a problem. Talk about each one and then have your child pick one to try out.
- Let your child know that you believe in him or her. Say "Do you think you can solve that problem on your own? I think you can. What do you want to do first?"
- Point out your own mistakes as part of life and learning. "Uh-oh, I spilled my soup. But everyone makes mistakes. Next time I won't put the mug where my elbow can bump it."

A message from your child's teacher _____

Monday: Waffles
Tuesday: Cereal
Wednesday: English Muffins

May Snack Menu

Thursday: Cereal
Friday: Breakfast Bars
Milk Served With Morning Snack

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Cheese Slices Crackers Water	2 Applesauce Grahams Water	3 Corn Dogs Veggies Water	4 Fruit Cocktail Cookies Water	5
6	7 Pretzels Raisins Water	8 Veggies Crackers Water	9 Tropical Fruit Crackers Water	10 Fish Sticks Carrots Water	11 Apple Slices Cheese Water	12
13	14 Chicken Nuggets Cucumbers Water	15 Pears Ritz Crackers Water	16 Cheese Nachos Fruit Water	17 Carrots Crackers Water	18 Pineapple Crackers Water	19
20	21 Trail Mix Fruit Water	22 Chicken Taquitos Fruit Water	23 Oranges Nilla Wafers Water	24 Quesadillas Corn Water	25 Peaches Animal Cookies Water	26
27	28 **SCHOOL CLOSED**	29 Salami & Cheese Crackers Water	30 Veggies Saltines Water	31 Bagel Bites Veggies Water		

Just a Friendly Reminder…

The weather is warming up so please check your child's spare clothing to make sure they are temperature appropriate and still large enough to fit. Also, please don't send your child to school wearing fllip-flops. Sandals must have a strap on the back so that they stay on. Even better, send them to school in closed shoes. This is for their safety and comfort.

Summer Special Events

1. Bill's Pony Pictures: Monday, June 11
2. Little Explorer's Petting Zoo: Tuesday, June 19
3. Bingo Schmingo: Monday, June 25
4. Steve Chaney: Monday, July 2
5. Sandi & Stevie: Monday, July 9
6. Little Explorer's Reptiles & Exotics: Wednesday, July 18
7. Leo the Magician: Tuesday, July 24
8. Church Vacation Bible School: Monday, July 30 through Friday, August 3
9. Puppet Art Theater: Tuesday, August 7
10. Tim Cain: Wednesday, August 15
11. Miss Sparkles Delight and a Jumpy Castle: Friday, August 24

Dear Parents and Families:

In May we will be learning that “Jesus Teaches Us!” Lessons will include: My Neighbor: Jesus Talks About Caring; Two Sisters: Jesus Visits Mary and Martha; Greedy Guy: Jesus Talks About Sharing and Lost and Found: Jesus Finds Lost People.

Our song for the month is: “Sing, Sing, Sing”

Thank you so much for your generous contributions to help the homeless at “Sacred Space” and also for your donations of food items for “Interfaith Sharing”.

Don’t forget to check out the Chapel Art Board. Each week it features the artistic endeavors of one class with respect to that week’s chapel lesson.

God Bless

Chaplain

Tracy Brown

Every now and again I drive to my local coffee shop and pick up a large Café Americano from my coffee guy. I know I’m in trouble when he says to me: Fr. Ron, when I talk to M.D.’s I talk about medical things. When I talk to lawyers, I about legal things. When I talk to you…he didn’t need to fill in the blank. “So what’s the news,” I asked. He said, today a customer came to the coffee shop and told me how his daughter who had a brain tumor found that only one thing gave her comfort, one thing gave her relief…it was a cup of my coffee! “Wow,” I said, “That’s awesome.” He said, “It gets better!” His voice is now cracking, tears filling up in his eyes: “The daughter has been dead for five years. And so, to mark the occasion, the family goes and visits her tomb at the graveside, and they always bring a cup of my coffee!” He stops for a moment and then gaining his composure, continues: “The father told me, that I may think that my life may not matter much, selling coffee, but to his family it means a lot!” Rolling back the tear in my own eye, I tell him: “Amen, brother, Amen!”

What difference does all this make? Simply this: You never know your worth to another person. God uses a guy who sells coffee to give hope and relief to a dying person and to a family...who knew? The same is true for the rest of us.

Think being a parent of a preschool child isn’t a big deal? Think again! Think being a faithful spouse doesn’t matter? Think again! Think investing in your children doesn’t matter? Think again! The impact you have touches not only the lives you see but those you don’t!

Yours for the reign of God,

Fr. Ron Culmer