

News From the Hill

A Newsletter for St. Peter's Preschool

Stacy Warkentine, Director

September 2016

Dear Parents,

Wow, did summer go fast or what? How did we get here? It's all a blur to me...

At St. Peter's we were busy making improvements to the preschool and the summer just flew by. Hopefully you will notice those little touches - the new lighting, the new rugs, the couch, the new paint, the new organizers, the new décor and the (soon to launch) new website. All of this was made possible through the help of our St. Peter's family. Our fundraising efforts, our new student referrals, our feedback, and our overall positive attitude have allowed all of this to be accomplished. I am so proud of all of our efforts to date and look forward to what more we can create together. Together with our children, together with our parents, together with our church and together with our community we can make St. Peter's preschool the best it can be!

Throughout the 2016-2017 school year I will be asking for your advice, your ideas, your involvement, and your help. I want you to feel comfortable asking the same of me. My door is always open and I want you to feel at ease coming to me for anything!

I am looking forward to an incredible year together this year!

Thank you for sharing your children with us!

Kindly,

Stacy Warkentine, Director

Important Dates Ahead	
Sept. 6, 6:30 p.m.	2-Day Parents' Night – Meet in Preschool gathering space
Sept. 6, 7:00 p.m.	Parents' Night – Parish Hall (historic church)
Sept. 7	3-day and Pre-K orientation – Mrs. Brown's and Mrs. Furin's letters to your children will tell you arrival time.
Sept. 8	2-day orientation – Miss Sarah's and Ms. Carroll's letters to your children will tell you arrival time.
Sept. 8, 9 a.m.	Pre-K begins!
Sept. 9, 9 a.m.	3-day class begins!
Sept. 13, 9 a.m.	2-day class begins!
Sept. 21, 1:00 p.m.	Soccer Shots Begins
Oct. 3	Lunch Bunch begins!
Oct 2, 4:00 p.m.	St. Peter's Church Blessing of the Animals - Friends are invited to bring their animals (or pictures of them) to the churchyard so we can give thanks for the responsibility and joy of their care. They also collect pet care items for local shelters.
Oct. 11	2-Day and Pre-K Picture Day
Oct 12	3-Day and Pre-K Picture Day
Oct 18 & 19	Hopathon!
Oct 20, 9:45 a.m.	Pre-K Field Trip – Sugartown Strawberries
Oct. 22, 6:00–8:00 pm	St. Peter's Church Family Hayride Sugartown Strawberries - more information to come

What bulletin board? What mailbox?
What?

There's a lot to know about preschool, and a lot to remember at the beginning of the school year! Whether you're new to St. Peter's, or have just forgotten some things over the summer, please, never hesitate to ask questions! We who "live" at the Preschool may forget to mention things because they're so familiar to us – but we do understand that everybody else has a life down the hill. Veteran parents, Teachers, and myself would love to help answer any questions you might have!



Tips for getting out the door...

Encouraging preschoolers to be independent is a lot of what we do here – but preschool independence is a hard-won goal! It is important that children arrive to preschool on time as it sets them up for positive behaviors as they get older and they don't feel like they have missed anything at school.

Paperwork revisited...

Thank you to the many of you who are all caught up on the tons of paper we sent you over the summer! It is so helpful to know so much about your children before school even begins. You will have received a few more papers at Parent's Night that need to be returned as well.

If you haven't yet completed everything, here's what we'll be looking for from you:

- Emergency Contact Form (pink)
- Child Health Assessment (green)
- Photography Waiver, if you wish
- Tuition Agreement, telling us what tuition payment schedule you'd like
- Child Information (blue) - We really need to have this form in-hand as the school year begins – it's got so much information that helps us help your child start school!
- Permission To Administer Antihistamine – only if you do give us permission, according to the guidelines on the form
- ...and a few other "optionals."

In the next couple of weeks, if I haven't received all of the above (except the Photo Waiver and Antihistamine forms, which are optional), I'll be putting a little reminder into your mailboxes.

A little advice from those who've been there:

- Give your child *appropriate* choices: the choice of one of two or three outfits to wear, the choice of one of two breakfast foods – and give those choices the night before!
- If you're not a bedtime-routine family, consider it; while you may suffer a little in the immediate term, the result is usually more peaceful nights and more perky mornings. Even just a brief "ritual" can give a child the heads-up that bedtime is here, and children at this age crave the knowledge of what comes next.
- Consistency is key! Follow through – even if it takes time, energy, and your mental pain

St. Peter's Preschool is an outreach ministry of St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley.

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