

CCEP Newsletter

Christ Church Episcopal Preschool

March 2011

Volume 5, Issue 7

Head of School

I've read several articles recently about the importance of play in our children's development. A few of our teachers attended a "Play Forum" at the University of Delaware and we've had a number of informal conversations among faculty members and parents about how important it is to allow time for unstructured play. Notice I did not say "find" time, but rather "allow" time. We're good at "finding" time. We squeeze every possible activity into the hours of each day, from lessons and sports to play-dates and museum trips. These are, of course, valuable activities for children, but not at the expense of child-directed, creative play. An article in the *News Journal* on March 1st addresses this issue and points out that this kind of play "helps kids develop their creativity, imagination, and social skills, not to mention physical strength." [D]

I grew up on a farm where I had the run of 120 acres and my only rule was to be home by dinner. When I had my own children, however, this world didn't exist for them. We lived in a neighborhood with streets and cars and I did not want them playing outside alone. I did learn, however, that being outside with them was good for all of us. I could sit on the front porch with the newspaper while they hit baseballs, do some gardening while they built forts, or chat with another mom in



the driveway while they played hide and seek with their neighborhood friends. I did not give up the gymnastics, scouts, piano lessons, etc., but I tried to allow "downtime" when they

could choose how to play and be free to negotiate relationships, use their imaginations, and get plenty of exercise.

A New York Times article on January 6th tells the story of a mom who learned to "embrace disorder." She designated her sun room as a play area where children could make a mess by cutting up magazines, painting, playing games, building with blocks, and dressing up creatively. [D] Messes make us slightly uncomfortable, but I think they are necessary to childhood. Do we dare allow this freedom? I suggest trying it for a time. With Lent just ahead of us, it is a good time to make a change. Use the next six weeks as a time to let your child be a child—even to get bored, if it comes to that.

Please share your experiences with other families and with our teachers. We can all learn from and encourage one another.

Jo Harney
Head of School

IMPORTANT MARCH DATES

MARCH 3, 2011

Morning w/ Mom
8:30am Classroom
9:00am in PH C

MARCH 7, 2011

Conscious
Discipline
w/ Jo Harney
CR @ 7:00 pm

MARCH 9, 2011

Parent Association
Mtg @ 8:45 am

Ash Wednesday
Children's Chapel
@ 11:00am
(No Ashes)

Ash Wednesday
Children's Chapel
@ 4:00pm
(Ashes)

MARCH 14, 2011

Women's
Dialogue
CR @ 7pm

MARCH 15, 2011

Board of Trustees
Mtg @ 7pm

MARCH 21-25, 2011

Spring Break A
NO SCHOOL
Holiday Camp
Only

MARCH 28—APRIL 1, 2011

Spring Break B
NO SCHOOL
Holiday Camp
Only

A Young Child's Lent



Let's teach our preschoolers about this season of preparation for Easter. You may think of Lent as a time for sacrifice, giving up something pleasurable as a form of self-discipline. Children are very concrete in their thinking and the idea of giving up candy, or desserts won't help them gain a better understanding of the practice of Christian faith.

Instead, help them by making positive choices that strengthen your family's Christian witness. Our children hear that Jesus loves them and the whole world. Choose a way for your family to act this out, perhaps by sending notes to people who need to hear they are loved or by caring for the earth by picking up trash where they find it. You might attend our Wednesday evening series, "Stewardship of Creation." Another way to think of Lent is as a time for devoted prayer and worship. If you don't have a custom of praying with your children, Lent is a good time to begin. If you need suggestions about family prayers, let me know. Wherever you attend church, make a plan to go each Sunday in Lent. This will be the best preparation for Easter both for our children and for us.

Ruth Lawson Kirk
CCCH Rector



Special Children's Chapel

Next **Wednesday, March 9, is Ash Wednesday** and our children will attend a special chapel service that day. This will include

prayers, songs, and a litany of penitence. It will not include the imposition of ashes. If you wish to receive ashes, I want to call your attention to the 4:00 service that is especially geared toward families with children. It will be held in the Children's Chapel and all are welcome to attend.



Drop-in Program



We are continuing to offer our 2-hour drop-in program on Tuesdays and Thursdays for Primary and Pre-K students only. Children who are registered in advance may stay until 2:30 on those days. This has been a fun experience for students and teachers alike as they have made musical instruments, done some cooking, and enjoyed other special activities. Please call Denise to register your child for any upcoming session. You must be registered by Monday of the week your child will attend. Fewer than four children will result in the session being canceled.



Our first annual CCEP Yearbook has the most adorable child in it... Yours!

The yearbook committee is working hard to ensure that the wonderful spirit of our school community is captured in this great keepsake. Every event is highlighted. More importantly, the first stages of your child's long educational experience is captured in this one phenomenal book. We are nearing the last stages to order your yearbook.

Order yours today!
\$29.95



Holiday Camp

If you plan for your child to attend Holiday Camp during our two week spring break March 21-April 1, please call Denise to register right away. We must have adequate staffing for these days and need to know in advance the number of children who will be attending. Drop-ins will not be possible for Holiday Camp.



Music Works

Music is not only fun for young children, but it is good for their development, too. Musical activities help develop many skills, such as vocal, physical, listening, social, and cognitive, to name a few. The preschool years before children enter kindergarten are critical for their musical development and CCEP provides a rich musical environment in which all children can grow. The children have music class twice a week, Chapel on Tuesdays, and School Sing on Thursdays.



All children have musical potential and even very young children are capable of developing critical thinking skills through musical ideas. They have many opportunities at CCEP to explore sound through



singing, moving, listening, and playing instruments. Since play is the primary vehicle for young children's growth, music classes include a child-centered approach with emphasis on fun and creativity. Classes include developmentally appropriate music experiences with a wide variety of activities to serve the needs of the individual children. Even in preschool, some children are able to match pitch, keep a steady beat through movement or playing an instrument, and perform the rhythms of a song or rhyme. At home, parents can reinforce the magic of music through singing songs, doing simple finger plays, moving to music, and listening to many styles of music.



Nadine DiLorenzo
Music Teacher

Library News



Thank you to all of the wonderful readers that have come and spent an hour with the upstairs children! They are thrilled to have you, as are the teachers. We had a special treat recently when one of our moms got creative and brought in props to go with her book choice!! The kids loved it and gave her big hugs after she was done reading! If you would like to try for this fringe benefit, we still have spots

open for readers. Grandparents are very welcome too! You can find the sign up sheet on the Parent's Association board across from Denise's office.



Also, have you checked out our library lately? The books are there for all of our children. All parents are welcome to check out a book to take home. When you fill out the card, place it behind the Parent's tab. Half of an Elephant by Gusti is a hit in our house!

Thank you!

Kendall Massett
CCEP Parent &
Volunteer Librarian

Christ Church Episcopal Preschool

A Ministry of
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Hundred

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Happy Birthday!

Kate O'Neal—March 15th

Kaitlin Keenan—March 25th

Jeffrey Jensen—March 31st



Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday
God Bless you,
Happy Birthday to you!


Note About Parenting Class

Our final parenting class is next Monday, March 7th.
We will be viewing the Conscious Discipline DVD on
"Positive Intent."

This will include a discussion of the attribution of
positive motives to the child's intent,
NOT accepting hurtful behavior.



APRIL 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 School Closed Holiday Camp Only	2
3	4	5	6 Financial Leadership Mtg	7	8	9
Service Project: Easter Collection for the Exceptional Care For Children						
10	11	12 BOT Mtg	13 Parent Assoc Mtg	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 School Closed Holiday Camp Only	22 Good Friday No School	23
24	25 Easter Monday No School	26	27	28	29 Spring Social & Auction	30