



# CCEP Newsletter

Christ Church Episcopal Preschool

October 2010

Volume 5, Issue 2

## One School's Episcopal Identity

### IMPORTANT OCTOBER DATES

OCTOBER 6, 2010

Speech Screening

OCTOBER 11, 2010

Columbus Day  
No School,  
Holiday Camp  
Only

OCTOBER 12, 2010

Board of Trustees  
Mtg—7:00 pm

OCTOBER 13, 2010

Parent Assoc  
Mtg—8:45 am  
Commons Rm

OCTOBER 21, 2010

Morning w/ Dad  
8:30 am

OCTOBER 29, 2010

Trunk 'n' Treat

Whenever I greet a prospective family visiting Christ Church Episcopal Preschool and give them a tour of our facility, I take them to the chapel and talk about the spiritual component of our school—our once per week chapel services, our grace before meals and snacks, and the leadership of our Rector and our Godly Play instructor. When classes are not in session, and the tour consists merely of a walk through the building, it is more difficult to help them understand how our Episcopal faith pervades all of our actions, words, and relationships. It is the people who teach and learn here that embody the spirit of faith and love that sets us apart from a secular school. One must see our school in action to understand our Episcopal identity. Here are some examples of the presence of the spirit in our daily routines.

We use the tenets of the *Conscious Discipline* classroom management program in all age groups. This system is based on guiding children with love, rather than fear. They learn to transform conflicts into cooperative learning opportunities that develop character. Throughout the school day, our children are strengthening social and emotional life skills. As I watch children play on the playground or engage with their peers in the classroom, I see them using their words to solve problems and receiving constant encouragement from their teachers.

We celebrate God as the center of our lives and we celebrate each student as a child of God. Every child's contribution to a classroom circle conversation is valued and each one learns to respect what others have to say. By practicing these actions daily, they become part of the ethos of our school.

Our Godly Play instructor, Lynne Jensen, encourages the children to find “God sightings” which they can share with their classmates and teachers. These are personal experiences in which children have witnessed God at work in the world. Through this kind of sharing, and through religious stories, children learn the language that allows them to express their innate knowledge and experience of God.

Music feeds our spiritual lives here, where children sing with their teachers, sing grace before meals, sing in twice-weekly music classes, in chapel, and in our “All-School Sing” on Thursdays. I witness the miracle of what music can do when crying 18-month old children suddenly become quiet and attentive when the adults in the room begin to sing. They join in with clapping and movement and a few words. We recognize music as a gift from God and celebrate it with joy. Our favorite song is “I Have the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart.”

Only about one-third of our students are identified as Episcopalian, but families of other denominations or religious traditions and those with no affiliation at all are welcomed and included in all aspects of our community life. The Episcopal identity of our school, which we recognize as the spirit at work among us, is what unifies us and teaches us compassion. While a walk through our building might give a visitor some hints about our spiritual life, it is only by observing and listening to children and adults at work that the true spirit and identity of Christ Church Episcopal Preschool is revealed.

Jo Harney  
Interim Head of School



## What Did You Do In School Today? A Behind the Scenes Tour of a Pre-K Day

Our schedule hanging outside our classroom gives you a glimpse of a typical day in Pre-K but there is so much more built in to our time together than is posted or that is apparent by what goes home in the school bags. The first step in building independence is to have each student carry their things and hang them in their cubbies. After signing in, it's calendar time. This is a quick one-on-one activity that teaches the children number sequencing, number formation, verbal skills and months of the year. During circle time, we have Letter Box where the children share things from home beginning with our letter of the week. This activity builds a home and school connection, reinforces learning and strengthens speaking in front of a group. After quick routine things such as calendar, weather, attendance, and pledge, it is Ticket Time. This is the time when the teachers explain our four centers of the day and use materials from those centers as "tickets" to start at a center. A student "teacher" is chosen, who randomly selects name cards, allowing children to choose a ticket. This activity teaches the children name recognition, patience, and responsibility. During Center Time, we provide the children with small group and individual activities. They learn how to manage their centers by working through all of them each day. Our Writing Table and Snack Centers are mostly self-directed. The children must wash their hands, count out their snack by reading our menu and pour their own drinks. Yes, we have spills but they are decreasing as

the number of school days increase. As the children finish their centers they are free to play until it's time to clean up for our special of the day. After our special or specials, it's recess time! The children love being outside together in our wonderful playground area. Story time is another favorite of the children, and the children know that lunch follows! After lunch we have Treasure Pack, the Pre-K version of show and tell. Each night, one child takes home the Treasure Pack and fills it with something that they want to share with the class. It could be a favorite stuffed animal, a new toy, or even a kitchen gadget. Clues are given to the class and then guesses are made. The children love to 'stump' the class with their treasure! Our Zippity Doo Dah song lets the children know that our Pre-K time is over and they either pack up to go home or get ready for our afternoon program.

There is a great deal of activity in our day. Remember that the children are wiped out from "performing" for four hours each day. Next time you want to say "What did you do in school today?" you might ask "What was the Story today?", "What were the centers?", "What was in the Treasure Pack?", or "What was in the Letter Box?". Your child will feel that you are more connected to his or her day.

*Marina Attix & Nancy Schluter  
Pre K Teachers*



### Library News

A huge thank you to everyone that donated books to our library through our Back to School Picnic! We have many wonderful new additions for our library! If you didn't get a chance and would like to donate a book, please email me, [kendallays@yahoo.com](mailto:kendallays@yahoo.com) for the links to the two wishlists.

Also, Library Volunteers are needed! We need volunteers to come in and read to our upper level students on Friday mornings! Email me if you have the time!

Thanks—

**Kendall Massett**

## MESSAGE BOARD

Does your child have younger siblings you would like to enroll at CCEP for the 2011-12 school year? Our admissions policy is to give priority to children with siblings in the school and it is time to identify those who wish to join us next year. Please pick up an application form from the school office, or call to have one mailed to you.



Parents, you are welcome to attend our chapel services each Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. If you visit, please sit in the balcony so your child will not see you! It is difficult for the younger ones to see a parent and yet understand that it isn't dismissal time yet. Chapel is a wonderful opportunity to hear the children sing, pray, and engage in a short lesson with our Rector. Children with birthdays receive a special blessing. Set some time aside to join us.



Do you love colorful, hand-made quilts? The Green Show quilting crew has been hard at work on a beautiful quilt to be raffled off at the Green Show. Our children are taking a special "field trip" to Parish Hall A on



Thursday to see the quilt and a quilting demonstration, to learn about quilts and their history, and in the case of the older children, to have a book about quilting read to them by quilter, Marion Godfrey. If you have quilts at home, you might want to show your child how it is made, what kind of pattern it has, and who made it.

Raffle tickets for this quilt are available from Denise in the school office. Single tickets are \$5 and 5 tickets are \$20. If you'd like to see the quilt, feel free to stop by the Parish Hall A for a preview.

## A Word from Our Parent Association

The school year is off to a great start once again! Hard to believe it's October and the heat wave has quickly turned to cooler days to enjoy the change of the season. The Parents' Association has been very busy helping make the start of the year filled with fun and time to come together to enjoy new families and old friends. We want to Thank Kendall Massett and her team for putting together a fantastic Bring-a-Book Back to School picnic. We enjoyed a great picnic style dinner and puppet show that made us forget about the rain outdoors.

We had another great turnout for our Parent Reception following Back to School Night! We appreciate everyone stopping in to mingle and welcome our new families. Thanks again for all of you that have signed up to be a part of our Parent Association events. There is still time to sign up! Please contact Cynthia Chubb if you are interested in chairing or volunteering for one of the winter or spring events.

The Parent Association hopes you will join us for our **first meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup>** immediately following drop off in the Commons Room on the Lower Level. Please stop by, even for a few moments. A reminder for our next sponsored event, **Morning with Dad on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>** – a great event where Dad or a special friend joins his/her child in the classroom for a fun morning activity, followed by a coffee reception in Parish Hall A with Jo Harney, Interim Head of School. Note, reception is for adults only; children will stay in their classrooms and continue their school day.



Do not forget to let Grandparents and or a special Friend know about their day on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. The Parents' association would like to send out an invitation, so please forward names and addresses to Denise Harris.

Jennifer Raiford  
Parent Association President

## Christ Church Episcopal Preschool

A Ministry of  
Christ Church Christiana  
Hundred

505 Buck Road  
P.O. Box 3510, Greenville  
Wilmington, DE 19807

(302) 472-0021  
Fax (302) 655-2259

[www.ccepde.org](http://www.ccepde.org)

### Happy Birthday!

**Evan Zakielarz—October 18th**

**Wren Steiner—October 22nd**

**Joshua Massett—October 28th**

**Phebe Morris—October 29th**



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

### Special Notice:

We are sorry for the confusion on the invoice received last week listed as a \$10 "event fee". This was meant to be part of a dues increase that was voted on and approved in June. Since the \$35 fee had already been billed on the June invoice, this \$10 fee will make up the difference. Thank you again for your support of the Parents' Association. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Jennifer Raiford

# NOVEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Grandparents & Special Friends Day	5	6
7	8 Women's Dialogue	9 BOT Mtg @ 7:00 pm	10 Parent Assoc Mtg, 8:45  Bishop Visit	11	12	13
14 Interfaith Potluck/ Service Event	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Holiday Early Dismissal	25  Happy Thanksgiving School Closed	26	27
28	29  Green Show—No School Holiday Camp Only	30				