

# CCEP Newsletter

Christ Church Episcopal Preschool

September 2011

Volume 6, Issue 1

## Stop, Pray and Breathe . . .

Some mornings begin at a leisurely pace with plenty of time for an extra cup of coffee, little traffic on the roads, and an opportunity to walk through the halls upon arrival, greeting teachers, parents, and students. On other days, we walk through the door and find both phone lines ringing, the voicemail lights blinking, teachers waiting on the doorstep with a problem that needs to be solved immediately, and the email box full of urgent messages requiring a reply. (On these days it's usually pouring rain, of course.)

Denise and I have had a few of the latter types lately as we gear up for the beginning of school. Delays in the carpet laying, some last minute emergency painting, and shipments of wrong furniture arriving—all have thrown us behind on our schedule for being ready for opening day. It's easy to become overwhelmed at such times and adopt a feeling of "woe is me."

Today began as one of those days with Denise having to put calls on hold while dealing with teachers' needs and answering my questions, several building-readiness issues arising, and the lobby piled full of boxes of new supplies. At one point Denise simply walked away from her desk and was gone for a few minutes. She returned with a bright smile and said "Good morning!" I was confused, as we'd already exchanged greetings and begun our work for the day. She said, "I'm starting over." She had dropped everything, gone to the chapel to pray, and returned with the intent of beginning the day anew. Asking God for calm strength and much patience, she wanted to re-start the day's activities with a different outlook.



What a great lesson to all of us: that it's never too late to start over—and that it helps to begin with prayer. When we are beset by a myriad of tasks that need our attention, how better to approach them than with a prayer for strength and patience—and a dose of humor? Denise's example helped me to start my day over as well.

I encourage you to stop and breathe a prayer when events are unfolding quickly and you feel out of control. I learned a song as a child that said, "Whisper a prayer in the morning; whisper a prayer at noon; whisper a prayer in the evening, to keep your heart in tune." I hadn't thought of it in years, but it came back to me today when I saw Denise take the time to drop everything and pray. It takes only a few seconds to re-center and begin anew. You'll "keep your heart in tune."

**Jo Harney**  
Head of School

### **IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER DATES**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2011**  
Welcome to  
School

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2011**  
Full-Faculty Mtg  
@ 8:00 am

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2011**  
Bring-A-Book  
Back to School  
Family Picnic  
—4:30pm

After care avail-  
able until 4:30 pm

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2011**  
Back to School  
Night, 6:30pm

Back to School  
Night Reception  
—7:00pm hosted  
by the Parent As-  
sociation



## What a Great Summer!

Summer Camp had a hot start! We didn't let that slow us down. We kept cool in the shade with water play and ice pops. We made binoculars to look for birds and nests on one of our nature walks in our outdoor classroom. We took turns filling our new birdfeeder. We went exploring on a nature scavenger hunt and had fun hiking through our nature trail.



We enjoyed our first special visitor, Scott Vogel, humane educator, who presented a program entitled *The Benefits of Insects*. The children learned why we shouldn't be so quick to swat and squash bugs. Campers developed green thumbs as they planted flowers and tomatoes in the outdoor classroom garden. Our second visitors were from Brandywine Creek State Park. The program entitled "Fantastic Forests" taught us the importance of trees, the parts of a tree, and the animals that live in trees. We got to feel a real possum fur and the skin from a King Snake. Our friends from Brandywine Creek State Park also presented a program entitled "Marvelous Moving Mammals." We learned about mammals by moving like the characters of *It's Not Easy Being a Bunny* by P. D. Eastman. Our third visitor was Coach Mike. He taught us a variety of drills. Our campers looked like real pros in their pinnies as they dribbled the balls around the field. They even won soccer medals! That was a hit! During our sports theme week, we had a Friday field day in the big hall. We had lots of fun bowling, playing basketball, balancing a wooden egg on a spoon, tossing bean bags, hopping in potato sacks, and doing a three-legged race.

In the midst of all of this, we found time to let our creativity soar making many fun projects and keepsakes. The campers are very proud of their art projects. There was plenty of laughter and fun. It was truly a fantastic summer.

Nadine DiLorenzo



## Parent Association: Welcome!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are as eager as we are in our household to get back to school! While the

warm summer months always pass too quickly, we are also anxious to meet our new friends and teachers and get back into the daily school routine.

As you are starting to fill your fall calendars, I would like to add a few September reminders. Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, is our back to school Bring-A-Book Picnic and the following Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> is our Back to School night wine reception, which immediately follows the classroom portion of Back to School night. The back to school night reception serves as our first, informal, Parent Association meeting and is a great time to connect with one another and welcome

our new families to our school.

I would also like to introduce the 2011-2012 Parent Association Officers. Michelle Harra will be the Vice President of events, Jennifer O'Neil will be our Secretary and Kendall Massett will begin her second year as our Librarian. Jinni Butz, one of our CCEP alums will continue to serve as the liaison to the church outreach program, but would welcome a current parent's participation. If anyone would like to serve as a parent representative on the Christ Church outreach committee, or would like more information about the position, please feel free to contact me.

We are looking forward to another fun-filled year at CCEP!

Cynthia Chubb  
Parent Association President

## Back-To-School Bring A Book Picnic!!!

Thursday, September 15th, 4:30p - 630pm

Our first event is almost here! The 6th annual Bring-a-Book picnic event is a fun welcome back to school family event, AND it helps CCEP build our library collection. If you haven't gotten a book yet, you can find school wishlists online at Barnes & Noble and Usborne Books:

**Barnes & Noble—** <http://my.barnesandnoble.com/Kendall-Massetts-Wishlist/cm/9216562>

**Usborne Books -** [www.ReadBooksGrowMinds.com](http://www.ReadBooksGrowMinds.com) - CCEP eFair

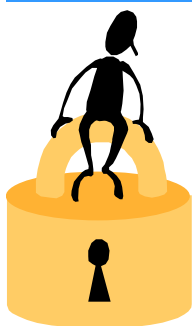
You don't have to bring your book with you, just order it online and have it shipped directly to the school! Please remember that we already have a ton of duplicates so choosing from our wishlist is a great help!

We also need help with set up, break down, and the book table! Please let Cynthia Chubb or Kendall Massett know your availability!

## IMPORTANT NOTES



**Parents, if you arrive after 8:45 a.m., please go to the office to sign your child in. Teachers submit attendance reports to the office at that time and we need to accurately account for each child in attendance. If you come to pick your child up early, please sign him/her out on the classroom clipboard.**



**Parents, please be aware that our front door will be locked at approximately 8:45 each morning. Press the button located to the right of the door and you will be “buzzed in.” Listen for a click and the door will unlatch.**

### Library Volunteer Readers Needed!

Can you help us bring the excitement of books and stories to our children at CCEP? This year, starting in October, we will be having library day for both the upper and lower levels on Thursday mornings from 9am - 10:15 a.m.

We will need two volunteers per Thursday - one for the upper level and one on the lower level. The volunteer will go to each class and read one book; then the members of the class can each choose a book from a small selection that will be provided from our library.

A sign-up sheet will be located outside of Denise's office for both the Upper and Lower Level. I thank you in advance for your support of our program!

**Kendall Massett**  
CCEP Volunteer Librarian

**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**

**Happy Birthday!**

**Skylar Donohue—September 1st**

**Margot Hebert—September 2nd**

**Jasper Johnson—September 4th**

**Isabella Peters—September 10th**

**Monica Peters—September 10th**

**Chase McGinley—September 12th**

**Anais Ritz—September 14th**

**Danielle Keenan—September 17th**



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

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

**Children's Quote from Summer Camp**  
In a conversation about doctors, a camper shared,  
"I had an ear invention!"

**OCTOBER 2011**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Picture Day	6	7	8
9	10 Columbus Day (HC)	11 BOT Mtg 7pm	12 PA Mtg 8:45am	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Morning w/ Dad 8:30am	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween					