



First Presbyterian Weekday School

116 South Loudoun Street – www.fpwds.com

The Absence of a Good Job

If this is your first year as a Weekday School family parent, you may have noticed the absence of the phrase, "Good job" from the teaching staff's vernacular. This omission is intentional, and is based on brain development research, and best practices in education.

Giving specific feedback offers auditory information regarding the actions that led to that child's success. In a classroom environment, providing auditory feedback along with modeling is one way of providing differentiated instruction. Differentiated instruction doesn't just reside at school; it's helpful in many different situations! Descriptive language also conveys the message that we are present, and notice our children's efforts. (Bailey, B. 2011). Providing praise directed at helpful and successful actions is much more helpful for children than all-encompassing praise. (Wong, H. & Wong, R., 2009).

Examples include the following:

- "You signed in today! Here are all of the letters in your name!"
- "Look at this floor! You cleaned up the blocks, so it was safe to walk across the floor!"

If you are interested in exploring how specific feedback increases success for children, start by slowly replacing, "Good job" with task-specific feedback. Doing so will increase the likelihood that your child will internalize the steps needed to accomplish a task, and that your child could teach the skill to sibling, cousin, or friend.

Sources:

Bailey, B. (2011). *Creating the school family*. Oviedo, Florida: Loving Guidance, Inc.

Wong, H. & Wong, R. (2009). *The first days of school*. Mountain View, California: Harry K. Wong Publications, Inc.

March 2015

School Calendar

March

Weds, Mar 4th – NOON
DISMISSAL

Week of March 8th:

WATTS (Winchester Area Thermal Shelter). *All guests attend 7 pm – 7 am. If you would like to volunteer to help this week, contact the church office: 662-3824.



April

April 2nd, 3rd, 6th: NO SCHOOL
Spring Break (**Notice the change from original calendar**)

April 12th – 17th: NAEYC Week of the Young Child

Weds, April 15th – Dinner and Auction in Fellowship Hall, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Weds, April 29th & Thurs April 30th – Apple Blossom Parades, 12:30 pm

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL:
MAY 29**

Big Traditions at the Weekday School

The Weekday School will be hosting its 5th Annual Dinner and Auction on April 15th. This event is an opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of other Weekday School families while raising funds for the school. In past years, classes have worked together to create class-made items to be placed in the silent auction. Look for special "director" drawings during the auction! (Hint: it has to do with drop-off and pick-up.)

If you have items or services you would like to include in the auction, please contact April Aikens at april@aikensgroup.com. Past offerings have included: quilts, handmade jewelry, sporting event tickets, rounds of golf, and professional photography sessions.

The dinner and auction also fall during the National Association for the Education of Young Children's *Week of the Young Child*. This week is a celebration of our children's successes and efforts, and places emphasis on the importance of quality early childhood education.

PUBLIC SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2015 - 2016

Clarke County: Contact the elementary school.

Frederick County: March 9 - 13

Winchester City: March 16, 9:00 - 6:00; March 17 - 20, 9:00 - 3:00

What's Happening in the Community?

The Museum of the Shenandoah Valley is hosting a "Stroller Stroll" on Friday, March 13th from 9:30 to 11:00 in one of their art galleries. For more information, please visit the following link:

<http://themsv.org/events/calendar/day/2015-03-13>

The Bowman Library will be hosting Story Time on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm for children aged 2 to 5. For more information, please visit the following link:

<http://www2.youseemore.com/handley/calendar.asp?cal=35>