



First Presbyterian Weekday School

116 South Loudoun Street
Winchester, VA 22601
540.662.7588

wds@firstchurch-winchester.org

Lara Davis, Director

Dear Weekday School Families:

It's hard to believe that registration for the next school year begins in February of the current one! For some of our families, preschool days are waning and registration and planning has begun for entrance into public or private kindergartens. This can be a time of excitement as anticipation of entering into a different phase of education gets closer. There may also be feelings of uncertainty. Families will experience a time of transition. Parents may entertain thoughts of "readiness."

Readiness, by definition, is a willingness or eagerness which motivates action. Readiness means being prepared for the next task or step. "Readiness is:

- a child with strong relationships to significant adults, and the ability to form attachments.
- a child who loves books, reading, and being read to.
- a child who is infinitely curious about the world around him.
- a child who speaks up for himself, with skills to talk to people of all ages.
- a child on a continuum of learning.

Readiness might not be all of these at once." This list was posted on January 29, 2013 by Emily Plank, an early childhood educator (<http://abundantlifechildren>).

We begin to nurture this readiness when our children enter preschool, whether as an infant or five year old. Staff members intentionally and thoughtfully observe, then plan activities and provide materials which support children's physical, social/emotional, cognitive, and language development. Through play, exploration, experimentation, and engagement in meaningful activities, children begin to see themselves as learners. It's not as much about teachers providing the answers as it is about teachers asking the questions that will motivate and inspire children to continue to discover and learn. This approach relies on the mindfulness and expertise of the teaching staff, whose knowledge and observation of the development of children, directs curriculum planning to assist children in their current stages of development and help scaffold them toward the next developmental stage.

As always, I am wishing you well!

Ms. Lara

March, 2013

School Calendar

March 2013

Wednesday, March 6th

Noon Dismissal
(Staff Training Day),
Spirit Day*

**Wednesday, March 27th -
Tuesday, April 2nd**

No School -
Spring Break**

** If there are any more inclement weather days, we will need to adjust Spring Break. We will keep you posted.

April 2013

Wednesday, April 3rd

School Reopens
Noon Dismissal
(Staff Training Day),
Spirit Day*

April 15th - 19th

Week of the Young Child
*** Children's Art Gallery
will be set up in Loudoun
Hall all week

Wednesday, April 17th
4th Annual WDS Dinner and
Auction, beginning at 5:30
p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

* Don't forget to wear your WDS shirt or something with a heart on it.

PARKING SPACE UP FOR BID!

The Fifth Annual WDS Dinner and Silent Auction will be held Wednesday, April 17th at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children—more information about ordering tickets will be forthcoming. We are pleased to announce that, in addition to multiple items of various values donated from local businesses and WDS families, a highly-coveted parking space in the church parking lot will be up for bid. To encourage school-wide participation and attendance, WDS classes have been encouraged to contribute a special homemade class project! We would love to celebrate the school year with all the WDS teachers, students, and families and hope to see you there! Please contact Kelly Tierney (kellybrooket@hotmail.com) with any questions."



Meals for Moms—We need volunteers to take families meals! Contact Jen Volkmann at jvolkmann_99@yahoo.com or 703-587-9890

Kindergarten Registrations

Frederick County Schools:

March 4-8, 2013 (www.frederick.k12.va.us)

Winchester City Schools:

March 18-22, 2013 (www.wps.k12.va.us)

Clarke County Schools:

March 19-21, 2013 (www.clarke.k12.va.us)



HAVE YOU NOTICED?



Signs of spring are abounding in our flower bed outside the back door. Stop and take a look.

HOWEVER, let's keep our flowers safe by looking at them and not walking on them.

Registration for 2013-2014

We would like to thank all the families who have registered for the 2013-2014 school year. We still have limited openings in the following classes: Two's MWF & T/Th; Three's MWF & T/Th; Four's M-F and Five's M-F.



The Power of Rewind...

At times you may notice a staff member videotaping the class "in action." We use these video moments in our staff trainings. How helpful for us to watch these as a staff family. This is part of our continued commitment to observe, document, and plan appropriate activities for our children. We can't pause or slow down the action as it is happening in the room! How beneficial for us that we can with a video segment. As always, we are committed to respecting the confidentiality of our families. These videos are not shared or viewed by anyone except Weekday School staff.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY EASTER CELEBRATION Sat., March 23rd, 8:30-10:30 AM Children age 3-4th grade



Weekday School families are invited to join us for a Celebration Breakfast, followed by a walk through of six modern-day settings that engage the senses—as they explore Christ's love and sacrifice from unique perspectives. Festivities begin at 8:30AM and will wrap up at 10:30 AM. Register your family at the Children's Ministry bulletin board table or to Todd Bowman by phone 662-3824 or email todd@fpcwinc.org with the number of children age 3-4th grade, adults, and children 2 and under requiring childcare. The registration deadline is Wednesday, March 20th. There is no cost for this event, but a sign up for food items for the breakfast is available on the Children's Ministry table. This is a family event— an adult must accompany their children.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

Our new email address is: wds@fpcwinc.org
New church website: www.fpcwinc.org
Check it out!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY?

The bulletin board in the main hallway of the church has a section labeled "News." Be sure to check this bulletin board for listings of community events and opportunities. You will also find our newest members of the Weekday School family (birth announcements) and other helpful Weekday School information. To highlight some events:

From Handley Regional Library:

March 2, 11:00 at Bowman Library: Celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. (Other fun events can be found on www.handleyregional.org)

Other events:

03.19.2013	Easter Egg Hunt - Eggcessible	Jim Barnett Park
03.23.2013	Easter Egg Hunt	Jim Barnett Park

Child Find Day, March 8, 2013 at NREP - Please call 540-665-0103 to make an appointment!
If you would like more information, there is a brochure located on the bulletin board in the main hallway.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving Christ & Neighbor in the Heart of Winchester & Beyond

PASTORS:

Richard W. Reifsnyder • Dan McCoig, Jr. • Maren Sonstegard-Spray

February 28, 2013

Dear Parents:

There were two incidents this week where an individual was displaying inappropriate behavior while on church property. In each case, church staff members immediately responded and took the appropriate steps to ensure that the individual was removed from church premises. Neither incident was deemed an imminent threat to children or staff members. Both incidents have been reviewed and discussed among church staff as well as the Weekday School advisory team.

In addition to the plans we already have in place to provide safety and security to our families and staff, we are exploring other ways to increase building security. One of those ways is to alter the time that the back door is locked. We will now lock the door immediately after drop off time (9:15) and unlock just prior to pick up time (12:45). In addition, there is a buzzer on the front door designed to alert church staff of anyone entering the building. We have noticed that some parents have turned the buzzer off due to the sound it makes. Please help us by leaving the buzzer on at all times.

We must all be vigilant about the safety of our families wherever we are. Please be sure that your child is supervised at all times, in the hallways and in the bathrooms. In addition, take your child's hand as you enter and exit the building. Our parking lot is very busy. If you witness an individual displaying inappropriate behavior, report it immediately to a Weekday School staff or church staff member. If you should have questions about incidents that are reported, please call the Weekday school at 662-7588 or the church office at 662-3824. This is a helpful way to obtain the most recent and accurate facts.

We assure you that the school and church staff are committed to providing a safe physical and social environment for our children so that optimum learning may take place.

We Are Wishing You Well,



116 S. Loudoun St., Winchester, VA 22601

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