



PRESCHOOL NEWS



St Stephen Presbyterian Preschool

www.ststephenkids.com

October 2018

Dear Families,

The new school year is very successfully under way! We are so proud of all your children, you the parents, and our super talented staff. As we are all settling in, we continue to add even more new students daily. Please continue to spread the word to friends and family - the more the merrier. *Welcome AND Welcome Back.* I know that those of you that feel so at home at St. Stephen, will join me in sharing all that is special here with our new families and help them feel right at home with open arms and that St. Stephen school spirit!

Speaking of school spirit - (admittedly clumsy segue) We will be celebrating Halloween on Tuesday, October 30th and Wed., October 31st. These are very special days at school for all the children. Please read the additional information further along in this newsletter for more details.

The curriculum themes for this month are our five senses and fall harvest. Our additional cultural themes include artist Gale Kaseguma and author Laura Numeroff. The yoga pose for the month is *Twister* and we will be enjoying the music of composer Johann Sebastian Bach. Please have a look at their bios in the showcase outside the office and the displays within your child's classroom.



Ms. Tracey

*****Important*****

*****DATES TO REMEMBER*****

- *October 2: After School **Kung Fu Moves**
CLASS BEGINS @ 12:30 (Youngers)
& 1:00 (Olders)
- *October 3: After School **Science Enrichment**
CLASS BEGINS @ 1:00(spaces still avail.)
- *Our **Music** Teacher Ms. Susan
joins us beginning Thursdays this month
- *October 16 & 17: **SPEECH & LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT SCREENING**
- *October 30 & 31: **Halloween Fun!!**

Boxes, Boxes, Who Has Some Boxes?



We will need several large appliance boxes for our Halloween activities. If you have any large empty boxes please drop them off on the play yard.
Thank You!

HALLOWEEN FUN



On Monday, October 30 and Tuesday, October 31, we will be having Halloween Fun at Preschool. Special events will begin at approximately 9:30 a.m. and wrap up around 10:30 a.m. We will have games to play and parties in the classrooms. The children may wear their costume to school that day. If you would prefer your child not to play in their costume all day, please bring a change of clothes or have them wear play clothes under their costume.

If your child is staying for Kids Club please remember to send a healthy lunch.



Please also be mindful that while our youngest students (and some of their older friends, for that matter!) may repeat back to us that "Halloween is only make believe" – there is not yet a true line between fantasy and reality in their minds. The ongoing development of object permanence and preoperational thinking can have them enjoying "spooky" one minute and worrying intensely about it the next. SO... remind your child that friends will be wearing COSTUMES on the play yard.

***ABSOLUTELY* NO MASKS, GOREY MAKE-UP, GUNS, SWORDS, OR WEAPONS, of any kind.**
Thank you!! Ms. Tracey and the Preschool Staff

[Pretty Please \(with a cherry on top 🍒\)](#)

SUPPORT ST. STEPHEN PRESCHOOL

Did you know that we have an **eScrip** account, a **Ralph's** Grocery Store Community Contribution account, and participate in **Shoparoo**. You may **sign up online** following the instructions below. Flyers with sign-up information are also available in the preschool office. If you signed up last year you will need to re-enroll for the current school year. If you have any questions or need more information, please see us in the office.
~Tell All Your Friends To Sign Up Too~

**YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL EARNS \$\$\$
AND
IT'S COMPLETELY PAINLESS!!**

eScrip:

- 1) Go to www.eScrip.com
- 2) Go to "sign up" OR "my eScrip"
Our Group ID# is **166449004**

Ralphs:

- 1) Go to www.ralphs.com
- 2) Click on Services
- 3) Click on Community Contribution
- 4) Under Participant, click "Enroll"

Our Organization Number is **92160**

Shoparoo: Is a smartphone app that is 100% safe & can be used at **any store.**

- 1) Download the Shoparoo app
- 2) Create a user name and password
- 3) Select St. Stephen Preschool Chatsworth

If you have any other fundraising suggestions that do not include direct sales, we would be happy to hear about them

ROOM 1

Our young friends have done an amazing job learning school rules and routines. It's been great seeing some of our old friends and meeting and getting to know our new families. We are also learning each other's names with the help of various songs and chants. To help keep us healthy at school, we practice sneezing in the crook of our arms (not into our hands) and good hand washing habits. We are also encouraging independence when using the restroom, including flushing the toilet, pulling clothes up and down, and washing hands.

As we head into fall, we will focus on exploring our 5 senses, weather changes, falling leaves, pumpkins and, of course, Halloween fun.

Love Ms. Vickie & Ms. Carla

ROOM 2

We've had a great start to our school year! During the month of October, we will be exploring apples and pumpkins through many sensory experiences. Look for our sign-up outside our classroom for a list of fall items that we will be using. We are looking forward to the end of the month for our annual Halloween festivities.

Love Ms. Maria and Ms. Jeanie

**ROOM 3**

What a busy 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks we have had! We enjoyed meeting you at Open House and hope that we will continue to have an open communication with you. A strong partnership will benefit your child and her/his growth and development. We are getting to know them through their interactions with one another, interviews and self-portraits, and by asking open-ended questions. We also are assessing their large muscle and fine motor skills. This is the way we will plan our daily curriculum.

October will be filled with apple exploration, cooking, changing weather, the five senses, cutting activities, child-generated classroom rules, and Halloween fun. We will continue to build on their knowledge and experience, helping them if needed, with their social interactions, their listening skills, writing their names and using scissors and other classroom tools. We will continue working on pattern building and continue to work on counting and one to one correspondence.

If you need to talk to us about any concerns, our door is always open, and we can schedule a meeting. Thank you for entrusting us with your child.

Ms. Christine and Ms. Ana



Outdoor Classroom

Each day your children have the opportunity to learn and grow in a space connecting them with nature on our playground. Our playground is not only a fun place for physical & social education; it is also integrated into our art, English, math, and science teaching plan. This month we will be focusing on Autumn and the beauty

of the season. Along with dramatic play to get into the Halloween spirit, we will also discuss and observe the change of season with art depicting the colors of Fall. We will also use pumpkins in art, as well as in science discussions and sensory play. Halloween and Fall are my absolute favorite time of the year and I am so grateful to enjoy the season with your children.

Love, Ms. Selene



Mommy and Me

Although we have only met two times for our Mommy and Me Program, we are getting into the swing of things with our enthusiastic children and amazing families. Our toddlers are getting used to the routine of the classroom setting, are learning to negotiate with our help, and are exploring the room with enthusiasm and joy! They love music, the outdoors, cars, books, and art. Informal parent discussions are taking shape and we are getting to know one another. Welcome to our class!

Love, Miss Betsie



During September, in addition to meeting new friends, learning classroom routines, adjusting to new teachers and the environment, we learned many skills through our "play":

Pre-Math: Counting (*ordinal numbers; one-to-one correspondence*)

Pre-Writing: Manipulatives (*develops muscles used in writing*)

Pre-Reading: Story time (*Connecting books to the world around me*)

Pre-Science: Mixing colors and discussing (*Observe changes*)

Core Intelligence: Yoga poses
(*Coordinating our minds and body*)



Just a friendly reminder . . .

In addition to the National races, California has some very important ballot measures, propositions and state elections coming up that will impact your children for Years to come. If you are already registered, consider helping others to do so and/or helping them get to the poles on November 6th, 2018.

As an NAEYC Accredited school we find many of these topics and issues reviewed on the website

www.NAEYC.org by clicking on the **Policy Priorities and Initiatives** link

Federal and State Agendas

To Register In California

- **In-Person:** You have until **Monday, Oct. 22**, to register to fill out [this form](#) and take it to a voter registration location. You can also conditionally register to vote up to and including on Election Day in person at your county elections office, or, in some counties, at a county elections satellite office or vote center.
- **By Mail:** To request a paper voter registration application be mailed to you, please call (800) 345-VOTE(8683) or email [Elections Division staff](#) by Monday, Oct. 22.
- **Online:** [You can register here](#) until **Monday, Oct. 22**.

What You Will Need

To register online you will need

- Your California driver license or California identification card number,
- The last four digits of your social security number and
- Your date of birth.

PLAYDOUGH RECIPE



Thank you to all the parents who have signed up to be a "Play dough Parent" for their child's classroom. If you would like to make play dough for the school and the sign-up sheet for your child's classroom is full, you are welcome to make it for our outdoor classroom. Or Simply Have Fun Making Some for Your Own Use At Home!!!

NOTE: These are single batch recipes. Please double or triple the batch when making play dough for the classroom.

Play dough Recipe

2 Cups Flour 1 Cup Salt

4 Tbls Oil 4 tsp Cream of Tartar

2 Cups Water mixed w/ Food Coloring

Combine ingredients. Cook over medium heat until it looks like mashed potatoes. Knead until smooth. Store in an airtight container, such as a gallon-sized Ziploc bag.



Kool-Aid Playdough -

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cups Flour 1 Tbls Cream of Tartar

$\frac{1}{2}$ Cup Salt 2 pkgs unsweetened Kool-Aid

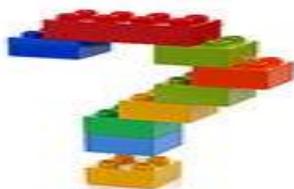
3 Tbls Oil 2 Cups boiling water

Mix together all ingredients except water. Add boiling water and mix until cool. After cooled, knead with hands until right consistency.



If you have stopped in the office you have probably wondered what happened to those old dingy gray office chairs. Well they got a lovely beauty makeover thanks to our own accountant extraordinaire and her adorable husband - Lois Ann and Greg Myers. They generously donated the beautiful upgrade to our decor out of the goodness of their hearts. Thank you Lois Ann and Greg! We are sitting pretty indeed.

And If you noticed the beautiful smell of flowers Everywhere over the last two weeks, you would have reason for joining us in thanking Katie, Joshua, and J.J. Gibson (Room 2) for the dozens and dozens of roses, lilies, The sheer number of blooms were overwhelming - only to be matched by the many creative ways that the teachers and children found to use them in our indoor and outdoor curriculum.



Did you know...?

Did you know that your child can come to our afternoon program, Kids' Club, even on the days that they do not attend school? We call this program Special Kids' Klub.

For example, if your child attends school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, he/she can come to Special Kids' Klub on Mondays, Wednesdays, and/or Fridays from 11:30 am until 2:00 or 3:00 pm.

All you need to do is let the preschool office know that you want to sign your child up for "Special Kids' Klub" the day before or no later than 10:30 am on the morning that you will be using the Special Kids' Klub. Then, simply bring your child, with a lunch, to his/her regular classroom at 11:30 am. *The charge for this service is \$11/\$16 per day.*

Of course, you are always welcome to use Kids' Klub on the days that your child attends school. Just sign up in the preschool office on the morning that you would like to use Kids' Klub. Again, the charge is \$11 (until 2:00)/\$16 (until 3:00) per day and we keep track of your usage and bill you in the upcoming month.

