

CHAMBLEE METHODIST KINDERGARTEN
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Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that January has come to an end and we are already at the beginning of February. The children have had great fun learning about hibernation, bears, penguins and snowmen. As we begin February, the month of celebrating Valentine's Day, I am sure you will begin to hear about love and hearts. We want to encourage you to continue the theme of "February – The Month of Kindness" at home. We will be talking about this in some of our classes too. We will also celebrate Dental Health month and Presidents' Day.

We have been working with the church and a security company to make sure that we continue to be a safe environment for your children. Later this month we will send home information about how we will handle the several drills that need to take place and how we will make sure each drill is age appropriate for your children. Be on the lookout for information about the "sleeping bear" procedure.

Lastly, we hope you can join us for Open House on February 12. You should be receiving more detailed information from your child's teacher about this night. In order for everyone to be able to enjoy the activities of the night, please let the teachers float among all the families instead of trying to have an individual conference. Ask your children what areas they like to play in and have them introduce you to the friends they have in the class. I look forward to seeing you all at Open House.

With Gratitude,

UPCOMING DATES

Friday, February 1	Dental Health month; Dr. Remigailo (dentist) will visit
Monday, February 4	Dental Health Month; Dr. Bill Jamieson (dentist) will visit
Wednesday, February 6	Chapel 9:15
Thursday, February 7	Kindergarten class visits the Ga. Aquarium
Tuesday, February 12	Evening open house for current families; 5pm – 6:15pm
Wed. and Thurs, Feb. 13-14	Valentine's Day parties
Friday, February 15	NO SCHOOL (Presidents' Day weekend)
Monday, February 18	NO SCHOOL (Presidents' Day weekend)
Thursday, February 21	Chapel 9:15, staff meeting - NO LUNCH BUNCH
Wednesday, March 6	Chapel 9:15
Thursday, March 7	NO SCHOOL for teacher workday (PMO meets as usual)
Friday, March 8	NO SCHOOL (DeKalb schools closed)
Thursday, March 21	Chapel 9:15; K class visits Center for Puppetry Arts
Mon – Fri, April 1 – 5	NO SCHOOL (spring break)
Wednesday, April 10	Chapel 9:15
Thursday, April 11	Staff meeting -- NO LUNCH BUNCH
Friday, April 12	Tuition Deposit DUE – Kindergarten class
Saturday, April 13	CFUMC Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am
Friday, April 19	NO SCHOOL (Good Friday)
Monday, April 22	Puppet Show
Thursday, April 25	Chapel 9:15

REGISTRATION FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Registration began about two weeks ago, and all classes are full as of this writing! We greatly appreciate those of you who have recommended our program to others, since almost all of our new families came for a tour because of a parent recommendation. If you have questions about your child's registration, please let Mellie know. And, of course, if you decide not to return to CMK next year please notify Mellie right away so that we may contact someone on our waiting list.

SUMMER CAMP

Join us for summer camp this summer! Chamblee Methodist Kindergarten will have summer camp for children who will be 3 by 9/1/19 through rising 1st graders. Each week is filled with a variety of fun activities and staffed by CMK teachers. Camp dates are June 17-20 and June 24-27 from 9:00 – 1:00. Snacks will be provided and each child will bring a lunch from home. Registration will begin in late spring. Cost for camp will be \$125.00 which includes \$25.00 registration fee and \$100.00 tuition per child.

CHURCH SERVICES AT CHAMBLEE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Chamblee First UMC is a growing church in a growing community. We regularly have close to 300 in worship each Sunday and currently offer two services. The church is offering a new type of contemporary service at 8:45 am each Sunday. This service is more relaxed. There is no choir, but we have many talented musicians lead worship in a variety of styles. Come and bring your children for a more casual Sunday worship service.

MUSIC AT CHAMBLEE METHODIST KINDERGARTEN

We had such a fun and joyful Christmas season, now we are singing lots of songs that piggyback with winter themed classroom activities like Snow is Falling Down, the Teddy Bear song and Going on a Bear Hunt. We've done plenty of instrument play, freeze dancing with creative movement scarves and marching to songs like The Grand Old Duke of York. As we move into February, we will of course sing about Love as we near Valentine's Day. We will also use Black History Month as an opportunity to explore Afro-Caribbean rhythms, as well as American Jazz, blues and gospel.

Here are a few more songs we've been singing this year:

Jesus Loves the Little Ones

Jesus Loves the Little Ones like Me, Me, Me
Jesus loves the little ones like me, me, me
Little ones like me, sat upon his knee
Jesus loves the little ones like me, me, me

Jesus loves the little ones like you, you, you
Jesus loves the little ones like you, you, you
Little ones like you, Jesus loves you too
Jesus loves the little ones like you, you, you

God Made the World

God made the world and it's very very good
Don't mess it up, don't mess it up!
God made the world and it's very very good
Don't mess up God's world. No!

Teddy Bear

Teddy bear teddy bear turn around
Teddy bear teddy bear touch the ground
Teddy bear teddy bear sit on your shoe
Teddy bear teddy bear, that will do!
Teddy bear teddy bear climb up the stairs
Teddy bear teddy bear say your prayers
Teddy bear teddy bear turn off the light
Teddy bear teddy bear say good night!

Amigos de Cristo

Amigos de Cristo, we're friends of the Lord
Amigos de Cristo, we're friends of the Lord
We love one another like Jesus taught us to
Amigos de Cristo, we're friends of the Lord

[HTTPS://DEEPROOTSATHOME.COM/KIDS-FRIENDLESS-BORED-IMPATIENT/](https://deeproootsathome.com/kids-friendless-bored-impatient/)

“Kids today are in a devastating emotional state! Most come to school emotionally unavailable for learning. There are many factors in our modern lifestyle that contribute to this.” ~V.P.

In her practice, my friend Victoria Prooday, OT is seeing something so widespread and alarming that I asked if I could share her thoughts. Due to the overwhelming interest and conversation on this topic, I am re-sharing her post.

WHY ARE KIDS IMPATIENT, BORED, FRIENDLESS, AND ENTITLED?

I am an occupational therapist with years of experience working with children, parents, and teachers. I completely agree with this teacher's message that our children are getting worse and worse in many aspects.

I hear the same consistent message from every teacher I meet. Clearly, throughout my time as an Occupational Therapist, I have seen and continue to see a decline in children's social, emotional, and academic functioning, as well as a sharp increase in learning disabilities and other diagnoses.

Expose children to different shapes and orientations

Young children's books and toys usually introduce two-dimensional, closed, symmetrical shapes first, like squares, circles, rectangles, and *equilateral* triangles (triangles with sides of equal length). They tend to show the shapes as if they have a bottom and a top, like this:



These positions, or *orientations*, can be misleading. For example, children who recognize as a triangle may not think that is also a triangle. Children who recognize as a square may not think that is also a square. (It's okay to call a diamond, but it's important for children to

understand that it is still a square, just in a different orientation.) Using a physical object can help children understand that no matter how you turn it, it's still the same shape—the orientation doesn't matter. This is important because it's different from writing numbers and letters, where orientation *does* matter (and , and). Encouraging children to pay attention to a shape's defining attributes—such as the number and length of sides and angles—helps them form a more accurate understanding of shapes.

This information has been adapted from *Games for Young Mathematicians*, a program of research in early mathematics at the Education Development Center (EDC), supported by funding from the National Science Foundation and the Heising-Simons Foundation. For more math information and games, visit <http://ym.edc.org>.

Summer camp

Church services

Parent Information

The following is an excerpt from "*Self – Reliance*" by Dianne Stringer Harper, Ed. S. published for the Georgia Preschool Association.

Whether uttered the statement of fact, or punctuated with a stamping foot, "I can do it myself" has been heard by every parent of a preschool child. Try to remember being a child. Pretend you are three years old again. You wake early, your parents are still asleep. You select a few garments from your closet and drawer. They fall on the floor as you discover your favorite Barney shorts (it's February). How proud you are thinking, "I can dress myself." Right shoe on the left foot, you strut into the kitchen to make breakfast. Minutes later, with a few Krispies spilled on the floor and a puddle of milk on the counter you sit to have your breakfast thinking "I did it myself!" Now be the parent waking up noticing the shorts in February, the wrong shoe on the wrong foot, the spilled cereal and milk all over the counter – the evidence of self-reliant dressing and making breakfast. How do you react? Think about it. Evaluate. How do you see your child – as a problem; or as a problem solver?

Here are 12 of the key reasons to start (or continue) reading aloud with your children. A Commission on Reading report found "the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children."

1. Build a lifelong interest in reading. "Getting children actively involved in the process of reading and having them interact with adults is key in a lifelong interest in reading," said BeAnn Younker, principal at Battle Ground Middle School in Indiana.
2. Children whose parents read to them tend to become better readers and perform better in school, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.
3. Reading to children helps them with language and speech development.
4. Reading expands vocabulary and teaches pronunciation.
5. Reading to toddlers prepares them for school, when they will need to listen to what is being said to them (similar to being read to).
6. Reading to older children helps them understand grammar and sentence structure.
7. Children and parents can use reading time as bonding time. It's an excellent opportunity for one-on-one communication, and it gives children the attention they crave.
8. Being read to builds children's attention spans and helps them hone their listening skills.
9. Curiosity, creativity, and imagination are all developed while being read to.
10. Being read to helps children learn how to express themselves clearly and confidently.
11. Children learn appropriate behavior when they're read to and are exposed to new situations, making them more prepared when they encounter these situations in real life.
12. When read to, children are able to experience the rhythm and melody of language, even before they can understand the spoken or printed word.

From the Georgia Preschool Association Newsletter

The Benefits of Music on Child Development **A note from Mrs. Lewis**

We know that music is an important part of our culture; we hear it in media, sports, worship, and holiday celebrations, just to name a few occasions. When children hear music, many areas of their development are affected: emotional, motor, language, social, literacy.

I am fortunate at CMK to be able to meet with students twice a week to help with this development. Our children love to move to the music even before they have the ability to sing.

Our youngest 2 year olds like finger plays and the use of American Sign Language to help them express themselves in song. And they particularly love to play all kinds of instruments. Our 3's and 4's are, of course, much more verbal and really enjoy the rhyming, the humor, and the stories within the songs. Our kindergarten students also enjoy singing and playing various percussion instruments. Additionally, they have been playing recorders this year and have learned several tunes.

Music is not only a developmental tool for our children but also a means to succeed at school. Some children excel at social interactions, while others do well in movement class; still others are more keen to express themselves with arts and crafts. Of course, some children are exceptional at pre-reading and reading skills or math. Music can provide an expressive outlet for all of these children and other children as well.

I hope all parents will help provide a stimulating musical environment in your homes, whether it is by playing recorded music, singing with your child, or playing a musical instrument. Just remember to have fun. Music is something you and your family can enjoy for a lifetime!

Parents' Morning Out (PMO) at Chamblee 1st

The PMO program has a few available openings in the following age groups for the '17-'18 school year:

Monday	9 – 11 months
Tuesday/Thursday	18 - 23 months
Wednesday/Friday	12 – 17 months
Wednesday/Friday	18 – 23 months

Please contact the director, Chris Tench, if you are interested in learning more at 770-457-2525 or ctench@chambleeumc.org. Please let your neighbors know that PMO is a great entry point for the early childhood education programs at Chamblee 1st United Methodist.

Staff Recognition

This month we are recognizing several staff members for their length of service at our school. The following teachers have served Chamblee Methodist Kindergarten for five years or more: Tracy Kester (23), Donna Curles (19), Heather Nortje (14), Claudia Lewis (16), Dianne Wheeler (19), Nancy Kelly (16), Patti Payne (12), Jennifer Wilner (11), Nancy Bethany (10), Lauren Cortese (10), Patty Cottle (8), Yvonne Clemens (8), Becky Cooper (6), Melanie Gracey (6), Traci White (6), Ann Council (6), Christy Archibald (5), and Anne McGrath (5). We are fortunate to have these experienced teachers on our staff! You may be interested to know that all of our teachers, leads and assistants, continue to enhance their preparation by attending a minimum of 16 hours of workshops and professional development classes each school year. Some will attend the Georgia Preschool Association Conference in March. Sometimes we host a professional development class here at CMK, as we did in August. Sometimes we find great classes for educators at places like Zoo Atlanta!