

# CHAMBLEE METHODIST KINDERGARTEN

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October 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to October! The tears and uncertainties of September have given way to smiles and eager anticipation of what awaits us in the classroom each day. It will prove to be a busy month of activities and learning. The fire truck will visit CMK for Fire Safety month, every class will have individual school pictures, our 3s, 4s, and 5s classes will host "Donuts for Dads" and the church will host the annual Fall Festival and Trunk of Treats for all to attend.

As we celebrate the arrival of autumn, we'll also be getting ready for Halloween, introducing many of the traditional symbols in an entertaining, non-threatening way by focusing on the fun of pretending, something all children do many times each day. We'll have classroom parties (and we thank all parents who are helping with the preparations); we may carve jack-o-lanterns with circle eyes and triangle noses; and we may make a friendly ghost or two. But the children know it's all make-believe fun. We hope you'll agree with our staff and kindergarten committee that even a church school, with proper emphasis, can retain some of the wonderful traditions of Halloween, Santa, the Easter Bunny, etc. If you are a "party parent" for this first party, please be sure to check with the teacher regarding your plans. If your child's class has any students with food allergies, please be sure you know who those students are so that they will only be served the approved snack. Only the party parents are asked to attend this party, but everyone will be invited to the end-of-the-year parties.

With Gratitude,

## UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENT

Wednesday, Oct. 9	Chapel in the church sanctuary, 9:15 am
Thurs, Fri, Mon, October 10,11,14	CMK Closed – Fall Break
Thursday, October 17	<b><u>School Closed – CMK teacher workday</u></b>
Saturday, October 19	CFUMC Fall Festival, 1- 4 pm
Monday, October 21	Fire Truck visits CMK to learn about fire safety
Wed, Thurs October 23, 24	CMK Individual student photos
Thursday, October 25	Chapel in the church sanctuary, 9:15 am
Wednesday, October 30	CFUMC Trunk of Treats, 6 pm
Wed, Thurs October 30 -31	Halloween Parties
Tuesday, November 5	<b>School Closed for Election Day</b>
Wednesday, November 6	Chapel, 9:15 am, Bring canned goods
Wed, Thurs. November 6 - 7	Speech screenings (more info in newsletter)
Monday, November 11	Puppet Show for all Monday classes
Wed, Thurs, November 13-14	OT screening (more info in newsletter)
Thursday, November 14	Staff meeting; <b>closes at NOON for all classes</b>
Thursday, November 21	Chapel, 9:15 am, Bring canned goods
Monday - Friday, November 25 -29	<b>School closes for Thanksgiving Holidays</b>

## CHAPEL

Chapel start at 9:15 in the church sanctuary. After carpool, park your car and come into the building through the breezeway beside the PMO playground. It doesn't matter whether you're dressed for the office, for the gym, or for grocery shopping, you are always welcome. Children sit together with their classes, and we'll have a section of church pews set up for parents. We love having our CMK family together to sing, pray, and listen for God's word.

Our chapel lessons in September were about "Making room for Jesus" and "Run the race for Jesus." If you haven't had a chance to join us please know that it usually lasts about 20 minutes and we would love to have all parents join us at least once throughout the year.

## **UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS**

**CFUMC Fall Festival** - The annual Fall Festival sponsored by Chamblee First United Methodist Church is on Saturday, October 19. This event is open to all families in the community to come and join in the fun. Hay rides, inflatables, a cake walk, food and drinks will be available for all to enjoy. There is a new Artisan's market this year so plan to do some early holiday shopping. Be sure to find a teacher and say Hi!

**Donuts for Dads** - Children in our 3, 4, and 5 year old classes are hosting "Donuts for Dads" in October. This special happening is early in the morning before our school day usually begins to make it convenient for those on their way to work. Please know that if a dad is unavailable, a grandpa, uncle, or other favorite relative or friend is welcome to attend.

**Fire Truck visit** - Since October is Fire Safety month local firefighters will visit our school on Monday, October 21. The firefighters will talk to the children about fire safety, what to do in case of a fire and give the children the opportunity to see inside a fire truck. We look forward to learning about these very important community helpers.

**School Pictures** - On October 23-24 Kristin Boyer, our photographer, will take individual photographs of the children. We're planning to take the photos outdoors if possible, so the photos will be more casual rather than formal portraits. The proofs will be available on the photographer's website after all photos are taken (we'll let you know the date) so you may order if you wish. Each teacher will announce the day for your child's class.

**CFUMC Trunk Of Treats** - On Wednesday, October 30, Chamblee First United Methodist Church will host a community Halloween event called Trunk of Treats in conjunction with Wednesday night supper. This year the church would like to invite the parents of PMO and CMK to participate by decorating a car trunk and handing out goodies (car decorating starts at 5). It is sure to be a fun evening with costumes, treats, and even prizes for the best-decorated trunks. Be sure to find Mrs. O'Keefe and say Hi!

**Halloween Parties** - If bringing a costume to school for your child's class Halloween party is part of your child's class plans, please follow these guidelines: wear regular clothes and shoes to school since playground and other activities go on as usual; do not bring masks, swords, guns or other weapons; choose positive characters instead of violent action characters; and put the costume in a bag with your child's name on it inside the tote bag. Thank you for helping make this time safe and comfortable for everyone. Individual teachers may send home other suggestions too.

**Speech and Language Screenings** - On November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, we will have speech and language screenings, an optional service that costs \$25 available for all CMK students. This service is offered to CMK families by a licensed speech - language pathologist to determine the child's age appropriateness in the area of receptive language, expressive language, articulation, social/interpersonal skills, fluency and voice. This screening is an inexpensive way to gain more information about your child's language development. This screening might also involve classroom observation time to evaluate the child's expressive and receptive language as well as the child's articulation and vocal fluency when interacting with the teacher and peers. An information form regarding this screening will be coming home soon. Please talk with your child's teacher or call Mellie if you have any questions or concerns.

**Occupational Therapy Screenings** - On November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, Chamblee Methodist Kindergarten will offer OT screenings for all children in our program. This program is optional and will cost \$40.00. A child can benefit from the screenings if parents and/or teachers have concerns regarding the child's overall development. More information will be sent home later this month about this service and how to give your permission for your child to be screened if you are interested in this service.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

**Veritas Classical School** – Chamblee First United Methodist Church has partnered with Veritas Classical School by allowing their students to use CFUMC one day per week for classes. On Wednesdays we have 1 classroom of children in our building. These students have been very courteous and polite to our younger students and have done a great job modeling good school behavior.

**Safety and Security** – Please remember that when you visit our school during the day you will need to sign in at the main desk of the church in the atrium area and put on a nametag. The side doors to the church will be locked so you will need to come into the building from the back main entrance doorway.

**Kindergarten Committee** - As you know from your school handbook, Chamblee Methodist Kindergarten is governed by the Kindergarten Committee. Currently serving on the Committee are: Ann Hammond (chairperson, church member, former parent), Emily Jameson (church member, former parent, current PMO teacher), Sarah Carter (former parent, church member), Lisa Harlan (current parent, church member), Jennifer Hodges (current parent), Kate Robinson (current parent), Ingrid Herron (current parent), Liz Johnson (current parent) and Mellie O'Keefe (director). The senior pastor, Eric Lee, the associate pastor, Stacey Rushing, Kristyl Kepley, CFUMC Children's Minister and the church financial administrator, Michelle Watts, also sit in occasionally to offer advice.

**Playground Reminders** – We are so happy that so many of our families are able to use our playgrounds during times other than when in school. The church and the school maintain the playgrounds happily so that they are available to the entire community. Please remember to clean up the playground when you leave by picking up any trash, closing the sandbox and putting the sand toys back in the bin and closing it. Also, since the trash does not get emptied every day, please take dirty diapers with you instead of leaving them in the trash cans. We love to see our friends using our playgrounds!

We are excited to let you know about the installation of a shade structure in mid-October for the upper playground. We are so blessed by your tuition dollars which have allowed us to make this upgrade to the upper playground.

## **PARENTING CORNER**

There are many studies on the benefits of eating dinner together as a family. I recently reviewed this article from the American College of Pediatricians. I have copied a very small portion of the article that pertains to preschool and language development. I encourage you to look up the article to see the full benefits cited for having family dinner together.

### **The Benefits of the Family Table**

*American College of Pediatricians – May 2014*

*Primary Author: Jane Anderson, MD, FCP and Den Trumbull, MD, FCP*

*May 2014*

**Academic benefits:** There is a connection between children's language experiences during their preschool years and their future literacy skills in grade school and high school.?

#### **Also:**

- Language development is enhanced.
- Mealtimes offer unique opportunities for children to learn as they hear longer discussions that include explanations and narratives.
- Children expand their vocabularies as they hear new words used in conversations.

The family table is one of the very few places that children can observe their parents interact, negotiate, solve problems, express emotions and treat one another with respect. A child's world is mostly spent with peers and teachers; the family table gives them a chance to see how adults interact and cooperate.

**Conclusion** - When families regularly share meals together, everyone benefits – the children, parents and even the community. Making the "Family Table" a priority from an early age can serve as a "vaccine" against many of the harms that come to children from a hurried lifestyle. Pediatricians should inform parents of the benefits of the Family Table and regularly encourage its implementation. In a day when digital distractions are rampant, the simplicity of this concept can be refreshing and encouraging to parents.

## 20 dinner time questions to get your kids talking:

1. What was the best part of your day?
2. What was the worst part of your day?
3. What made you laugh today?
4. What made you sad today?
5. Who were you kind to today?
6. How did you show love today?
7. What new thing did you learn today?
8. If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?
9. What's the last dream you remember?
10. If you won a million dollars, what would you do with it?
11. If you could have any wild animal for a pet, which one would you choose?
12. If you had to lose one of your five senses, which would you choose and why?
13. If you had to eat only one food for the rest of your life, which food would it be?
14. What would you do if one of your friends was being picked on by other kids?
15. What's the bravest thing you've ever had to do?
16. If you could travel to another time, what time period would you want to visit?
17. If you could be an Olympic gold medalist in any sport, which one would you choose?
18. What is the most exciting thing that's happened to you so far in your life?
19. If you could change the ending to your favorite book, how would you change it?
20. If you could move anywhere in the world, where would you move to and why?

## Fun Ways to Build Your Child's Literacy Skills While Doing Laundry Together

**Donna C Celano and Susan B. Newman, National Association for the Education of Young Children, Oct/Nov 2019**

Turn laundry time in to learning time! When you wash clothes at home, there are a plenty of things to talk about with your child. These rich conversations help to build your child's language and literacy development. Try these following activities the next time you are doing a load of laundry.

Sort clothes: Having your child help you with sorting clothes can spark many different conversations. For example, you can sort clothes by colors (whites, blues, reds) or by types (shirt, pants, socks).

Look for shapes: Encourage your child to find various shapes. For example, circle shapes include knobs and dryer windows; soap boxes, windows and laundry baskets are rectangles.

Hunt for numbers and letters: Play a game with your child to find numbers or letters of the alphabet on laundry products, clothes and washing machines.

Count: Laundry time provides plenty of opportunities to count with your child. Your child can count the number of socks that are folded, the number of shirts hanging or the number of items in the machine.

Find colors: Many conversations can revolve around colors. Ask your child to bring you the blue shirt, or have you child say the colors of items as you pull them from the dryer. Open the washer before it begins the rinse cycle and ask, "Describe the soap bubbles" you can also find colors on soap boxes, signs and machines.

Read labels: Talk with your child as your read labels, such as tags in clothing. ("This tag says to turn this shirt inside out"), or words on the machine ("let's turn the knob to delicate"). Hearing new words helps to expand your child's vocabulary.

Read books: One of the best ways to enhance your child's literacy skills is to read books together. Cuddle up together with a book while you wait for the washer or dryer to finish a cycle.