

# WINFREE PRESCHOOL NEWS

## JANUARY, 2009



### HAPPY NEW YEAR

All the faculty and staff of Winfree Preschool wish you a wonderful new year. We are glad to have your little ones back after our much needed Christmas holiday. The children and teachers will be looking forward to seeing some snow as we learn about how animals and people keep warm in the winter. It will be fun to watch the squirrels and birds come to our feeders on the playground. **The only school holiday in January, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, falls on the 19th.** Have a joyous new year!

### INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS

Winfree follows the inclement weather closings declared by Chesterfield County Schools. If Chesterfield County Schools are opening on a late schedule, Winfree will open at 9:15 (no early extended care). If public schools are closing early, we will phone parents of afternoon children and extended care children to arrange for early dismissal. One week of inclement weather days are built into the preschool calendar. If all inclement weather days are not used, the school will follow the calendar changes of Chesterfield County Schools. Winfree Preschool will make up as many extra snow days as possible without continuing school in June. School closing announcements will also be posted on our website: [www.winfreepreschool.org](http://www.winfreepreschool.org).

### JANUARY DATES

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|--------------|--|
| Jan. 5 or 6  | <b>Spiritual Book Group</b> will begin with a study and discussion of <i>The Shack</i> at 9:30                                   |
| Jan. 5 -16   | <b>Re-Registration</b> forms and payments may be brought to the school office at any time these weeks.                           |
| Jan. 12      | <b>Winter Parent Meeting</b> , Janice Nieliwocke, 7 PM, School Fellowship Hall, <b>Kindergarten Readiness</b>                    |
| Jan. 15, 16  | <b>Animals in Winter, What's Underfoot?</b> A biology presentation for 3's, 4's and 5's.   |
| Jan. 12 - 16 | <b>Church Members Register</b>   |
| Jan, 19      | <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> , school closed   |
| Jan. 20      | <b>Special registration day for children recommended for JK (must have a Gesell recommendation and a teacher recommendation)</b> |
| Jan. 20      | <b>Preschool Chapel</b> , 9:30, 11:45, 3:30  |
| Jan. 21      | <b>Preschool Chapel</b> , 9:30, 11:45  |

## **A MOTHER'S BOOK GROUP TO STUDY *The Shack* by William P. Young**

Interested mothers are invited to join together into a new book study group which will meet in the preschool fellowship hall ("Rainy Day Room") either Tuesday or Wednesday mornings at 9:30 beginning January 6 or 7. You may come to whichever date works best for you and your child's schedule. We will have our inaugural meeting and decide as a group how often we will meet, whether we will need child care, and other pressing issues (food and beverage).

Enclosed is just one of the tantalizing reviews of *The Shack*.

"An exceptional piece of writing that ushers you directly into the heart and nature of God in the midst of agonizing human suffering. This amazing story will challenge you to consider the person and plan of God in more expansive terms than you may have ever dreamed."

David Gregory, author of *Dinner With a Perfect Stranger*

**Note:** The church has purchased 10 copies of *The Shack* which will be available for sale in the church office on Monday, Dec. 15 or Tuesday, Dec. 16 at a price of \$10.00. Come buy your book, read the first few chapters, and join us in the New Year!

## **WINTER WEATHER CLOTHING**

Cold weather does not keep us indoors unless it is raining. Please see that your child is equipped with warm clothing including: boots, hats and mittens. It is also a good time to be certain that the extra clothes kept at school are warm enough and large enough for your child. Vigorous outdoor play is an important part of the curriculum. Children exercise large and small muscles and gain socially, emotionally and cognitively through outdoor play. Each teacher will try to take her class outdoors for 15 minutes or longer daily.

Note: Lost mittens, hats and scarves may be found in the lost and found box placed on the coat shelf in the hallway.

## **SCHOOL READINESS PARENT MEETING PLANNED**

On Monday, January 12 at 7:00 PM, we will have a nationally renowned speaker from the Ron McGuckin and Associates National Lecture Staff, Janice Nieliwocke, speak to us about school readiness. If you have been wondering about public or private school readiness and how to determine where your child will have the best chance for a successful school start, please join us at this important meeting in the school fellowship hall. You will find Janice to be knowledgeable, entertaining and most helpful in this crucial decision. Also, by special request, Sondra Adams, a Kindergarten teacher and former Winfree JK teacher will address current Kindergarten expectations. This parent meeting is free and we encourage you to bring a friend.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, but would like to hear Janice Nieliwocke, she will be presenting at Bon Air United Methodist Church at 7:00 P.M. January 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **GESELL SCHOOL READINESS TESTING**

If you are uncertain about your child's readiness for Kindergarten, Ginny Brenner is available to test your child using the Gesell School Readiness Assessment. This assessment looks at a child's developmental age or behavioral age rather than his /her chronological age or IQ. The test is used by many school systems around the country and is highly respected. At least one local private school uses the Gesell Screening as an admission test. The cost of testing is \$30.00 for Winfree students and \$75.00 for other children.

## **HEALTH NOTES**

Your child's health is important to us. Please keep your child home if he/she has any of the following symptoms: a green or yellow discharge from the nose or eyes, severe cough, sore throat, ear infection, fever, vomiting, diarrhea or suspicious rash. At these times your child's resistance is low and he/she needs to rest. If your child has been seen by a doctor, please allow 24 hours on an antibiotic before returning your child to school.

We are teaching children to use tissues, throw them away, wash their hands frequently, and cough or sneeze into the inside of their arm. We visually check each child's health daily and isolate ill children until parents can come for them. In addition, classrooms, bathrooms and rest mats are cleaned and sanitized daily. If we all cooperate, we will keep the spread of colds and flu to a minimum.

## **2009-2010 RE-REGISTRATION BEGINS IN JANUARY**

Registration forms for currently enrolled children are included with this newsletter. Your child and younger siblings as well as church members will have priority until February 1. After that date, new children will be accepted on a first come basis. A large number of applications for these new children have been received in the school office already. Those applications will not be considered until after February 1. If you plan to register your child for next year, we will be registering children who have been recommended for JK on Tuesday January 20. All other children may have their re-registration forms and payments delivered to the school office at any time during the week of January 5 - 9. We will issue acceptance letters as soon as we are able. For any classes that appear to be overfilled, we will have a traditional re-registration with families able to take numbers and wait indoors sometime during the week of January 20. Further details will be sent in your child's communication folder as soon as we are able to see demand for individual classes. Tell your friends, now is the time to get an application if they want their child to have a Winfree start!!

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Limited scholarship assistance will be available for 2009-2010. Applications may be picked up in the preschool office, or from a member of the preschool committee chaired by Kerstan McGrath. If you know of a deserving child in need of scholarship assistance, please let us know.

## **TAX TIME IS COMING**

If you take the child care tax deduction, you will need to have the preschool tax ID number. **The federal tax ID number for Winfree is 054-1070190.**

## **JANUARY LUCKY LUNCH**

Beginning in January, Lucky Lunch will return to the original format (12:15 - 1:15 for \$30.00 per month). If your child is enrolled in Lucky Lunch in January, we will leave your child on the roster for the balance of the school year unless you stop by or call to cancel. The time to sign up for January Lucky Lunch began on Monday, December 8. If your child has not been in the Lucky Lunch Bunch, but would like to give it a try, you may call or see Ginny about availability.

## **EXTENDED CARE AVAILABLE ON DROP-IN BASIS**

Winfree Preschool's extended care program is a wonderful success story for busy parents. You may not know that care is available for any potty trained child in a three, four or five year-old morning class on a drop-in basis most days. Simply call the school (794-1388) to let us know. You may leave a message on the school answering machine before normal school hours. Ginny will call to confirm or to let you know if we are already filled. The extended care class takes a maximum of 15 children per day. We normally have drop in openings for your child if you have unusual obligations and find yourself in need of afternoon care for your child. The extended care program is staffed by excellent Winfree teachers. We keep the afternoon relaxed and fun, providing quality care for children and flexible services for families.

## **CREDIT SURVEY RESULTS**

We had a great response to the survey about use of credit cards to make preschool payments. Thanks for all your input! To summarize, many families indicated that they would like the convenience of a credit card to pay for preschool tuition and fees. However a very small number would be willing to pay an added processing fee to cover the additional cost to the school. There was also considerable interest in the ability to set up regular deductions from personal bank accounts directly to Winfree. The committee is studying your responses and will let you know what we are able to work out for next year.

## **FOOD BANK THANKS**

Many thanks to all those families donating to our Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Virginia Food Bank. We collected close to 200 lbs.! Your generosity means so much to those in need!

## **TEACHING IN A CHURCH PRESCHOOL**

Preschool teachers have daily opportunities to “teach as Jesus did.” **Jesus used common things in the environment of his listeners- the mustard seed, the birds of the air, the grain of wheat.** And preschool teachers use the children’s own joyful discoveries and play as “teachable moments.” **Jesus touched and moved among the people he taught, bringing Himself to their level and understanding their needs and concerns.** Preschool teachers sit and talk with children, hugging and holding and laughing and crying with them every day right at their level. **Jesus accepted all people and taught us to do the same.** The preschool teacher models love and respect for each child. It is that model which children imitate as they move into an understanding of community.

In *The Sense of Wonder*, Rachel Carson states that “If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.” That is what we do at preschool. We bring our sense of the sacred and our respect for all persons and things to the children. Everything that is important for children’s growth and development is of Christian value. In the weekday preschool program we are guided and inspired by our Christian faith and values.

This is all summarized well in a few lines from *Sharing the Light of Faith*. “Life’s beginning stages are of critical importance to individual growth and development. Here foundations are laid which influence the ability to accept self, relate to others, and respond effectively to the environment. Upon these foundations rests the formation of the basic human Christian personality – and so also one’s human capacity for relating to God.”

It has been said that the church is only one generation away from extinction. Our commitment to the Christian education of every child and to the support and guidance of every family is truly critical for the continuance of healthy individuals, healthy families and communities and strong churches. And so we teach as Christ himself did, with everyday real experiences, a loving personal touch, and respect for each child and family.

# Winfree Memorial Preschool Re-Registration

(Use this form for returning children only)

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cellular phone \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate preference:

Tuition Rates: 2009-2010

Toddlers (must turn 1 by May 1, 2009)

Wed. \_\_\_\_\_

Thurs. \_\_\_\_\_

1 day classes: \$100.00 /month

2 day classes: \$155.00 /month

3 day classes: \$215.00 /month

5 day fours: \$275.00/month

Two year olds (must turn 2 by Sept. 1, 2009)

Fri. \_\_\_\_\_

JK1 (5 day AM): \$290.00 /month

JK2 (4 day PM) \$255.00 / month

Two ½ year olds (must turn 2 by April 30, 2009)

Mon., Wed. \_\_\_\_\_

Tues., Thurs. \_\_\_\_\_

Three year olds (must turn 3 by Sept. 30, 2009)

Tues., Thurs. \_\_\_\_\_

Mon., Wed., Fri. \_\_\_\_\_

Three and Fours Mixed (must turn 3 or 4 by Sept. 30, 2009)

Tues., Wed., Thurs. (PM) \_\_\_\_\_

Four year olds (must turn 4 by Sept.30, 2009)

Mon., Wed., Fri. \_\_\_\_\_

Mon. (PM), Tues., Thurs. \_\_\_\_\_

Mon. - Fri. (5 days) \_\_\_\_\_

Junior Kindergarten (JK1 must turn 5 by Sept. 30, 2009)

JK1 (5 days, AM) \_\_\_\_\_

JK2 (must turn 5 by Jan. 31, 2010) (4 days, PM) \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: (a discount of **\$10/ family** applies when more than one child registers)

Preschool: \$80.00

Junior Kindergarten: \$100.00

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Office only: Registration paid \_\_\_\_\_

Acceptance letter sent \_\_\_\_\_