

## Winfree Preschool Newsletter October 2011



“I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag”

Dear Families:

We are proud of the adjustment your children are making to school and to new classrooms, teachers and routines. Learning to play with friends, to take turns, to solve problems together and to listen to teachers is hard work. In addition, we are learning classroom rules and how to safely and productively work with blocks, art, science, music, movement and reading materials. Your children are probably tired from their efforts each day. We hope you are pleased with their progress so far.

During the next month, we will emphasize home and family, fall nature experiences, safety and making new friends. Children will be learning about colors and shapes, cooking and farm life with trips to the **Pumpkin Farm or Apple Orchard**. We are starting to have fire drills, and I'm sure your child will be telling you about how we go outside to practice fire safety. Threes, fours and fives will be having **school pictures** taken this month. The younger classes will have informal portraits taken in classrooms, but class pictures will be done in the spring when children are more settled. Finally, **Betsy “Q”** will be performing for us this month. You will agree that October will be fun filled and exciting.

Parents will also have many events at school. We have an exciting **Parent Meeting planned for October 3** titled, **“Tools of the Mind: How Play Builds Self-Regulation”**. I hope to see many of you at this exciting meeting. You will also get an early shot at your Christmas shopping with Discovery Toys, Mary Kay, Scentsy Candles and two portrait photographers! In addition to our fall parent meeting, we will be holding **parent conferences for families of 3's, 4's and 5's on November 7 and 8**. Child care will be provided during your conference, and we hope you will stop by to **pick up your cookie dough, which is to be delivered on November 7**. We'll also have our wonderful **Barnes and Noble Book Fair** on November 3 and an afternoon of fun at **Monkey Joes** on October 25.

If you have not yet signed up as a volunteer, feel free to contact your child's teacher so you may be placed on the class calendar. You will love your time at school, and your child will be thrilled to have you here!

God bless each of you, and have a Happy Fall!

Sincerely,

*Ginny*

### **Important Dates for your Calendar**

- October 3, 4**      **School Pictures for 3's, 4's and 5's classrooms**
- October 3**      **Fall Parent Meeting, "Multiple Intelligences: How Your Child IS Smart"**  
 9:15    Coffee, socializing and browsing  
 10:00    "Tools of the Mind"  
           9:15 – 11:15 **Childcare available, reserve (794-1388)**
- October 10-14**      **Spirit Days, wear your Winfree T-Shirts this week!**  
 Your child should also wear his or her Winfree T-Shirt on all field trips, if possible, for easy identification of our children. T-Shirts are on sale in the school office for \$10.00 each.
- October 11**      **Betsy "Q"** performing her fun and educational children's songs at  
 11:00 and 1:15. There is no charge. If this is not your child's regular school day, you may attend with your child. Betsy "Q" CDs will be available to purchase.
- October 21**      **PACED Teacher's Conference, NO SCHOOL except for Fri. 2's!**  
 Our teaching staff will be away for an exciting training event. Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Holzbach will hold class for the Friday 2's only.
- October 24, 25, 26**      **Bring CARITAS contributions** Watch for a notice with more details.  
**October 25**      **Monkey Joes Fundraiser** Take your child to Monkey Joes from 1-3 and mention Winfree Preschool at the admission!
- November 3**      **Barnes and Noble Book Fair** See details below  
**November 7, 8**      **Parent Conferences-** On Monday, November 1, there will be Parent Conferences for all MWF 3's, MWF 4's, MTT 4's, 5 day 4's, JK 1 and JK2 classes. These classes will not be held, but free child-care is available during conference hours. Tuesday, November 2 will be the conference day for the remaining 3's, 5 day 4's, and TWTh 3's and 4's. On your child's conference day, there will be NO SCHOOL for the class.  
 Parent conference appointments will be arranged by your child's teacher.  
Note: Toddlers and Twos will come to school as usual on these days.  
Child care is provided during conference times.  
Extended Care will be offered both days.
- November 7**      **Cookie Dough Delivery** – 8:30 through 4:00 PM.  
 Thank you for an excellent fundraiser! **It is imperative that all cookie dough be picked up on Delivery Day since the dough must be refrigerated!**

## **Pumpkin Patch Trips Planned**

Three and four year old classes will all travel to Chesterfield Berry Farm to pick their own pumpkins, take a hayride, and see many baby farm animals. Classes have scheduled trips on different days, so check your child's calendar to find all the details for his or her class.

Because of strict state regulations about drivers on preschool field trips, classes will meet at the designated time at the Berry Farm. The cost of this trip is \$8.00 per person. All siblings except non-walking infants in baby carriers must pay full price. Please make your check payable to Winfree Preschool in a timely manner so we can have teachers pay with one check. The Chesterfield Berry Farm requires payment with one school check, and they charge an extra fee for families who pay separately at the farm. If your child is sick or you will be unable to attend, please call the school before 9:00 AM if you would like a refund. Otherwise the class will select a pumpkin to bring to your child. Rain cancellations will be made by the farm and families will be notified via phone.

## **Teacher Requests**

Please send your child in comfortable clothing that is easy for him/her to get on and off. Belts are hard for little hands to manage. We will be working on dressing skills, but we would like to avoid frustrating the children. Also, we remind you that "jellies", sandals, "cros" and leather-soled shoes are unsafe on the playground. Children are more likely to slip and fall on climbers and while running with these shoes. Rubber soled sneakers, well fitted and with full heels, are preferred on the playground.

## **Carpool Safety**

A few parents have been reporting that the carpool line sometimes backs up onto Midlothian Turnpike. For everyone's safety we recommend that you pull into the lot on the west side of the church and form the line around the parking lot so that all cars may easily enter and get out of highway traffic. We also remind you to place your carpool number on the passenger side window as far away from the side view mirror as possible. Please hang up your cell phone and give lots of welcoming attention to your child as he/she climbs into the car. We know that the carpool process is slower at this time of year, but we are amazed and proud of how well the children are learning this important part of the preschool experience!

### **Toddlers and Twos Note**

Parents of toddlers and twos are asked to arrive within five minutes before school is scheduled to begin. These little ones have difficulty waiting in the hallway. Also, while you are waiting, we would appreciate it if you and your child could stand or sit along the wall so the threes, fours and fives who are trying to find their classrooms can see their teachers. Many of the children are reluctant to walk down the hall past a congestion of parents if they cannot see their teacher smiling near the doorway to their class.

### **Sign up for Childcare for the Parent Meeting October 3!**

With our wonderful parent meeting planned for October 3, we have an exciting array of parent vendors who will have products on display for your early Christmas shopping. Come to learn all about how successful preschool curriculum helps build self-regulation to prepare children for Kindergarten. At the same time you may enjoy fellowship with other parents while shopping for wonderful products. Don't forget to phone the school office (794-1388) to arrange for childcare for your little ones. We will need an accurate count in order to arrange for enough child care workers.

### **CARITAS Guests to be at Winfree October 23-29**

Once again Winfree Baptist Church will be hosting homeless families during the week of October 23 -29. They will be housed overnight in the Commons Fellowship Hall in the main church building. The preschool has been asked to provide lunch items for the guests to take with them when they are bussed back into the city each morning. Watch for a memo with directions on requested contributions.

### **Barnes and Noble Book Fair**

Winfree will be holding its third annual Book Fair on November 3 at the **Barnes and Noble Book Store at Commonwealth Center** off Hull Street Rd. Proceeds will be used to expand the Winfree Preschool Library and to purchase new educational toys for the school. At the Barnes and Noble Book Fair, everything you purchase, even a cup of coffee or cocoa, benefits the preschool. And parents, grandparents and other family and friends can help us out at any Barnes and Noble store in the country as long as you have passed along the Winfree code (to be supplied). Even online orders can help us raise money for Winfree. We hope everyone will shop (Christmas gifts?) at a Barnes and Noble on November 3 and support our school! **LOOK FOR INFORMATION TO COME HOME WITH YOUR CHILD.**

## **Mother's Bible Study**

An organizational meeting of a new Mother's Bible Study group will meet at 9:30 on Tuesday October 4 in the Connections Fellowship Hall of the Preschool Building. Child care will be provided and moms will meet and decide which book(s) to study and what format this group will use. Our beloved retired Lucy Dorr and Beverly Vandervender will lead the group. We hope to see many of you who yearn for a dedicated time for your own soul's sake and for the support of other mothers.

## **Bienvenidos La Clase De Espanol!**

Spanish classes for all children in 4's and JK classes will begin on October 3<sup>rd</sup>! The children will have a great time learning Spanish through music, movement, stories, games and more. Look for information to come home in your child's folder about what he or she has been doing in Spanish class.

## **Winfree Gymnastics at VIGS**

Virginia International Gymnastics (VIGS) is offering a special class for Winfree students age 3 and older on Tuesday afternoons from 2-2:45. Information about this class recently went home in folders. Please return your forms and first month's payment of \$35.00 to the school office by Friday, 10/7.

## **Payment Schedule Changed**

In an effort to simplify life for families, we printed a sheet with the preschool payment schedule and fees. This sheet was included in both the packet of paperwork that families received in May 2011. (or whenever they enrolled over the summer) and it was also included in the stack of papers in the communication folders which families received in August or September. There were some changes that we knew families would need to know about. These changes were not just the typical \$5 or \$10 per month increase in tuition fees, but also involved one new supply fee and a change in the schedule of due dates. We regret that we did not communicate this better, since we have discovered that many of you were unaware of the adjustments. If you have questions or concerns about payments, late notices or any other administrative details, please call Ginny (794-1388).

## **Curriculum Objectives Can be Found Electronically**

You will have noticed that the curriculum objectives which are cited in our parent newsletters from teachers and on lesson plans posted outside doorways refer to one of two documents. These documents can be found on line at the following addresses:

**Virginia Foundation Blocks for Early Learning:**

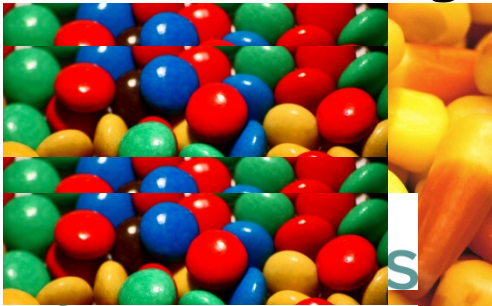
[www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/early\\_childhood/preschool\\_initiative/foundationblocks.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/early_childhood/preschool_initiative/foundationblocks.pdf)

**Milestones of Child Development:**

[www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/cc/provider\\_training\\_development/intro\\_page/publications/milestones\\_one\\_document/milestones.pdf](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/cc/provider_training_development/intro_page/publications/milestones_one_document/milestones.pdf)



# Trunk or Treat for the Family in the parking lot of Winfree Church Free food, games and inflatables



794-5031 if you would like to bring your decorated car and give out treats



CARITAS

October 22 - Friday, October 28



up of house-less families through CARITAS in October. Opportunities for everyone to serve and be blessed.

**We will be collecting the following:**

Toiletry bag supplies for our guests: Razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo,

deodorant, lotion, washcloths.

Donations of breakfast food items: cereal, bagels, muffins, fruit.

Furniture and household items for the CARITAS furniture bank. Needed items include: household furniture

(including mattresses), kitchenware, and linens. Sorry, but clothing, baby items, toys, books and

exercise equipment are not accepted. (See CARITASva.org for more info.)

*(We will have a POD in the Winfree parking lot open for furniture donations the week of CARITAS.)*

**Volunteer opportunities:** Note: Preschool families will be asked to send lunch items for packed lunches.

*Contact the church office at 794-5031 if you would like to volunteer.*



### **Backpacks to Feed Hungry Children**

The Backpack Ministry at Winfree provides food for children who receive free lunch at school, but are hungry on the weekend. The backpacks are delivered to Watkins Elementary on Fridays filled with food for the weekend. The child returns the backpack on Mondays to be filled for the next weekend.



We need non-perishable foods to refill the backpacks each week. Some suggested items include canned meats and vegetables, breakfast bars, peanut butter or cheese crackers, juice boxes, fruit snacks, soups, cereal, etc.