

Winfree Preschool Newsletter

November 2011



Happy Thanksgiving!
Hunter and Eli Study Ramps and Gravity

IMPORTANT DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

- November 7** **Cookie Dough Delivery Day**, all orders MUST be picked up on this day!
- November 7, 8** **Parent Conferences**, free child care offered during conferences
- November 3** **Barnes and Noble Book Fair** at Commonwealth Center all day
- November 14** **Valentine Richmond History Center, "Powhatan Indians"** to be presented for 4 and 5 year-old classes, 11:15 and 1:15.
- November 14** **School Readiness Parent Meeting**, 7 PM, Sanctuary
- November 21** **Preschool Chapel Thanksgiving Service**, at 9:30 for 3 day 4's and 5 day 4's, 11:45 AM for MWF 3's. Parents are welcome to attend.
- November 22** **Preschool Chapel Thanksgiving Service**, at 9:30 AM for MTTh 4's and JK1, 11:45 AM for TTh 3's, and 3:30 PM for TWTh 3's and 4's and JK2. Parents are welcome to attend.
- November 23 - 25** **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING !**

THANKSGIVING

Giving thanks for things we have received is something preschoolers can relate to. During November we will plan activities and experiences that help to create an awareness of God's good gifts and that will develop a feeling of gratitude to Him. Please join us for our first special Preschool Chapel services to be held in November. Emphasis in the classrooms will center on families, food, good eating habits, playing grocery store, seeds and harvest, and how people and animals prepare for winter. Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday, and God bless each of you.

RAISING A JOYFUL FAMILY: A Parent's Prayer

O Lord,

Help me to teach my child peace...

even when the world is precarious,
I accept the peace you promised

Help me to teach my child goodness...

even when evil seems to trample the tenderhearted,
I trust in your goodness, that you will work in all things for good
to those who love you.

Help me to teach my child faithfulness...

even when the faithful are disloyal-deserving of mistrust,
I rest in your steadfast love which endures forever.

Help me to teach my child kindness...

even when life seems uncaring, insensitive to my own vulnerability,
I praise you that you remember my frailty and take pity on me, your child.

Help me to teach my child joy...

even when my own heart is full of sadness,
I will bless your name and offer the sacrifice of praise.

Help me to teach my child light...

even when my own light is flickering and threatening to go out,
I will remember that you, the light of the world, do not break a bruised
reed or quench a smoldering rock.

Help me to teach my child love...

Even when I do not feel loved, and perceive myself incapable of loving others
I believe in your love for me demonstrated in the gift of your son, Jesus Christ.

O lord,

I hear your voice. You know me. I follow you.

Give me the strength and courage to face the task which, without you, is utterly overwhelming and
impossible- the task of being a parent.

Amen

Guideposts, 1986.

VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATED

We want to offer a big “Thank you” to every parent for the wonderful pumpkin patch trips. The children had so much fun, learned about farms and pumpkins, and enjoyed spending the day with you! In addition, we have been having many parents volunteering in the classrooms with more scheduled to begin in November. Your time is so valuable to us, and your participation truly enriches the school for all of the children.

CHRISTMAS IDEAS FOR TEACHER GIFTS

If you have been thinking of giving a gift to your child’s teachers for Christmas, you may like to consider a gift to the Preschool Scholarship Fund. The teachers would be very proud to have a donation made in their honor so that more children can have the benefit of a Winfree Preschool experience. Gifts in any amount are put to good use!!!

EXCLUSION GUIDELINES FOR SICK CHILDREN

With the onset of the flu season, it is prudent to review policies for keeping your child home in the event of illness. Please keep your child home from school if he or she presents any of the following symptoms:

Upset stomach

Vomiting within the past 24 hours

Diarrhea within the past 24 hours

Fever of 100 or higher within the past 24 hours **(or requiring fever reducing medication)**

Unexplained or contagious rash

Sore throat

Ear ache or head ache

Pink or red eye(s) with or without discharge

Severe cough or thickened and/or colored nasal mucus

For more specific exclusion guideline information, re-read the insert in your child’s communication folder. Information regarding precautions during the flu season can be found at www.cdc.gov.

Also, please help us teach children to wash hands thoroughly. With everyone’s help, we will try to minimize the spread of germs this fall and winter!

NEW APPLICATIONS TO WINFREE ARE BEING ACCEPTED NOW

If you have neighbors who are interested in Winfree for their children, you should tell them that we are accepting applications now for next fall. Applications are held in reserve until February 1, after all of the current preschool families have had priority re-registration. Church members as well as currently enrolled children and their siblings will re-register after the Christmas holiday, before new applicants are placed. I have been told that rumors abound that Winfree’s waiting list is 18 months or that it is impossible to get into Winfree. Those rumors are untrue. Children who have applications in this fall have an excellent chance of being placed in one of our classes.

COLDER WEATHER

Colder weather means winter jackets, mittens and hats, buttons and zippers, belts, ties and boots. When purchasing winter outerwear, please consider purchasing mittens as opposed to gloves, coats with zippers as opposed to buttons, and boots that the children can put on without assistance. We are trying to emphasize independence in this area, and we would like you to reinforce our “do it yourself” policy at home. Becoming independent in dressing and self-help skills builds self-esteem as well as small muscle strengths, which are later needed for writing tasks.

Please label all coats, jackets, sweaters, caps, mittens and boots with your child’s name. If possible, please attach mittens to coat sleeves with yarn or elastic bands. This is a good time to change up the clothes that are kept at school for your child if the things sent in September are for summer wear. Thank you.

FUNDRAISER AND DONATION THANKS

Thank you to all the many people who made our fall fundraisers so successful! We sold a great amount of cookie dough, and earned over \$1800.00 in profit from that sale. Other sales at the parent meeting yielded cash contributions, toys and books. Thank you to our talented vendors: Judy Hopkins, Kris Spencer, Sue DeBruyker and Melissa Davis. And lots of families took advantage of an afternoon at Monkey Joe’s to support our school. We look forward to seeing preschoolers, siblings and parents at Barnes and Noble on November 3. Bless every one of you!

THANKSGIVING SONGS

Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving day is a happy day
and we say “Thank you, God.”
Thanksgiving day is a happy day
and we say, “Thank you, God.”

God Our Father (tune: Frere Jacques)

God, our father
God, our father
Once again
Once again
Thank you for our blessings
Thank you for our blessings. Amen. Amen

THANKSGIVING PRAYERS

Dear God, I thank You for the gift of this child to raise,
this life to share, this mind to help mold, this body to
nurture, and this spirit to enrich,

Let me never betray this child's trust, dampen this
child's hope, or discourage this child's dreams.
Help me, dear God to help this precious child become
all you mean him to be.

Let your grace and love fall on him like gentle breezes
and give him inner strength and peace and patience for
the journey ahead.

Marian Wright Edelman
Guide My Feet

God, I thank you for my children.
Please be with them today in all
their coming and going and in all
their thinking and doing.

Marian Wright Edelman
Guide My Feet

SUPPLY FEE NEW THIS YEAR

Some of you have been surprised at the new supply fee due this past summer. It has been added to pay for custodial supplies so that families no longer have to send paper products to school, and so we can keep new Purell and hand sanitizing soap dispensers filled. If you have not paid the \$50 supply fee, please do so as soon as possible. Your fee will help us keep Winfree Preschool exceptionally clean and healthy.

“Early Childhood Parenting Made Easy” : a Love and Logic parent training program designed by the Cline/Fay Institute.

Presenter: Ginny Brenner

Dates: 11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12
Time: 9:30 – 11:30 AM
Location: Winfree Preschool Connections Fellowship Hall
Cost: Free to Winfree families, \$30.00 per person or \$50.00 per couple
Textbook: \$10.00
Childcare: \$2.00/class/child

Reservations will be taken in the preschool office (794-1388) until November 5, 2011.
Let us know if you need childcare!