



TIDBITS



First Presbyterian Church Weekday School
September 2007

From the Director

Our new school year is in full swing, and we are off to a great start! We love seeing all the familiar faces of children and parents who have been a part of our school for several years, and we are delighted to welcome many new children and parents to our Weekday School family. We look forward to creating a partnership with each family, and we look forward to your involvement in our school. We hope that each parent will feel supported in many ways by our teaching staff. Most importantly, we want every child to be appreciated and valued for who they are. It is our goal to help each child become all that God intends for them to be, to tap the talents and strengths that are uniquely theirs, and to enable them to blossom in their own special way.

Your child's class will become a second family for him/her, and both the teachers and the other children in the class will have great influence on your child. These influences will broaden your child's experiences and teach them many new things. And just as importantly, your child will influence the others in the class as he/she contributes to the group with his/her own unique characteristics and skills. This is the beginning of understanding "community".

When you ask your children what they did at school today, we hope you will hear: "I played," because if they played, they learned about themselves, about the world around them, about how things work, and about other people. Play provides the solid foundation for academic learning in young children and is the means they use to acquire knowledge and to understand abstract symbols such as letters and numbers. It is also the way children develop language and literacy skills, develop their physical skills, and learn the many social skills they need for life. The philosophy and curriculum of our school is based on the studies of educators and psychologists versed in the field of child development; it is based on brain research; and it is based on the criteria and standards set by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. From these sources, we know that young children acquire skills and learn through discovery and by interacting with their environment using all their senses.

If you observe children closely while they play, you will notice that their play is very hard work for them! They work intensely, with great concentration and focus on the many tasks they create for themselves as they play. You will notice how they connect with their surroundings, use their imagination, and how they analyze and problem-solve as they are challenged by daunting tasks. In their play, they display great determination, amazing creativity, and are remarkably resilient and diligent. The play at our school is not random – it is well-planned with a purpose each day. Our teachers spend many hours planning a classroom environment which offers children many opportunities for learning through play. We always want the classroom "to speak to the child" so that the children will often know what to do without even being told. Observing what a child does with those opportunities gives us much insight into each child.

The Weekday School teachers are very skilled at providing a variety of activities throughout the day to enhance a child's development in every way: physically, intellectually, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Be careful not to judge your child's learning experiences by "the work" they bring home from school. What your child is learning every minute of the day at school cannot begin to be measured by what you find in their tote bag. Learning for your child will occur at the activity tables with art and manipulatives, during imaginary play in the housekeeping center, in the block center, during circle time, lunchtime, and playground time. Your child's learning can best be measured by the growth and changes you will see in your child throughout the year.

We look forward with great anticipation to this school year, and we hope you know how welcome you are at our school any time. It will be a joy and a privilege to know and love your child this year, and we are very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of your child's life during these significant early years.

Janis

WDS SOCIALS

You should have received invitations home to the following special events:

October 12, 7-9 PM: WDS Parents' Party-What great fun we will have getting together with old friends and meeting new friends in the home of Jane and Pat Eudy. Find your babysitter now so you can be a part of this fun evening.

October 26, 5:30: Family Fun Night- Another great evening you definitely do not want to miss! Back by popular demand is our favorite music performer, Roger Day, who will have young and old alike dancing and rockin' to his fun music. Bring the whole family to this fun event.

If you did not receive your invitation to these events, please contact Madeline at mdrake@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704-927-0229.



Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 26 & 27	Parent Program
Oct. 8-11	School Photos
Oct. 12	Fall Parent Party
Oct. 26	Fall Family Fun Night
Oct. 29	NO SCHOOL
Nov. 8&9	NO SCHOOL

Other Upcoming Special Events:

Shaping Your Child's Sexual Character – This parent program presented by guest speaker, **Mary Flo Ridley**, is a wonderful opportunity for you to grow as a parent. This program will be offered at two different times (both programs are the same): Wednesday, September 26 at 7:30 pm and Thursday, September 27 at 9:45 am.

St. John Photography – will be at the Weekday School during the week of October 8 – 11 to take black and white photos of the children. Info is being sent to you this week.

Classy Lunches – These informal lunch gatherings are a great opportunity to meet other parents in your child's age group. Parents bring their lunch and meet in the Fellowship Hall, from 11:30 – 12:30. These lunches are for parents only on days that your children are in school. Invitations with specific dates will be sent home soon.

Notes and Reminders

Activity Fees are due in September if your child is in the 3s, 4s, or TK classes. The next tuition payment is due by October 10th, unless you are signed up for Bank Draft.

Link your VIC card: As of today, our school has 150 people linked to our school code, **3417**. The more families linked, the more \$\$\$ we earn for the WDS. It is definitely not too late to sign up. You may email Janis with your VIC card number and last name on the VIC account. Or you can ask the Harris Teeter cashier to link your card as you check out. Thanks to all who have already signed up and started earning \$\$\$ for our school!

Car Seats – **Did you know that every child’s car seat has an expiration date?** Car seats are only considered safe for six years because the plastic in the seat begins to break down and does not provide enough protection for a child. Car seats expire from their date of manufacture, not the date you purchased the seat. On the seat (possibly on the bottom), you should be able to find a sticker or label with the date of manufacture. You should be able to find more information online about this subject.

Cell Phones – Please remember to **keep your cell phone on during the time your child is in school.** It is very important that we are always able to contact a parent in the event of an emergency.

Carpool Squad – **Thanks** to all the parents who have volunteered to help with carpool duty once a month. When we have several parents helping with carpool duty, especially during the morning carpool, it allows the teachers more time to be in the classroom with the children, and that is certainly a good thing! You can sign up to help throughout the year, should your schedule change and you find you would like to be on the Squad!

Peanut Patrol- Please help avoid confusion over your child’s lunch, by clearly marking when they have soy butter that might look like peanut butter. Please remember NO peanut or other nut products are allowed at the WDS.

Carpool

- Cars may not line up on 5th Street earlier than 9:05 am or 12:30 pm. The Charlotte Traffic authorities allow us to carpool in an area that is technically not a loading zone and is a no parking area. We must be very careful to abide by their rules or we risk losing the use of this area. Never leave your car unattended on 5th Street or you risk getting a \$25 parking ticket.
- We open the doors and begin bringing children in from the cars at 9:15 AM. Afternoon carpool will begin at **12:40 PM.**
- Cars should enter our carpool line by driving up 5th Street from Pine or Graham. Do not come down Poplar and turn right onto 5th.
- **Park It!** Be sure your car is in “park” when children are being loaded or unloaded.
- **Please do not use your cell phone during the time children are being loaded or unloaded.** We need your full attention and cooperation.
- Our teachers are not expected to climb into your cars to buckle or unbuckle children. This is especially important if you drive an SUV and are using a 3rd row of seats. Our teachers need your help with this procedure.
- If a child is upset about getting out of the car at morning carpool, it may be best for the child if the parent parks in the church driveway and walks the child into the classroom. This is especially helpful for our oldest children who are too heavy for teachers to carry.



Please update your WDS Parent Handbook by making these changes and additions to the following:

Thank You

Snacks for our work days & September staff meeting were provided by the following parents:

Kelli Mallory, Hillary Pitts, Patti Mayo, Patti Bitter, Deana Adamson, Sally Davis, and Kellie Wasson.

Thank you so much. The staff truly appreciated them.



~The Cozy Corner~

I need you:

To remember that I am watching everything you do

To know that the most comforting voice in the world to me is yours

To never stop loving me

To rub my back when I don't feel well

To keep my stuffed animals nice and clean

To consider Grandma's advice. After all she has done this before.

from

“Why I Need You, 100 Reasons”

By Gregory E. Lang