

**Lenexa United Methodist Church  
Preschool/CDO Newsletter  
September 2019**

Welcome to LUMC! Excitement abounds in the classrooms and halls as we enjoy our first weeks of school! Our teachers have been working hard to prepare their classrooms with fun activities that will spark the love of learning in your children. We invite you to share in the many new discoveries your child will make this year as we all begin the adventure of a new school year together.

**CARNIVAL / OPEN HOUSE**

Please mark Monday, October 7, on your calendars for our annual carnival and open house from 5:30-7:30 pm. This has been a fun tradition at our school for many years and serves a dual purpose as both a community-building night and a fundraiser that provides many valuable extras for our programs. Bring your entire family to enjoy a pizza dinner, preschool carnival games, and visit your child's teacher and view some of their first work.

**FIRST DAYS**

Starting school is exciting, but for most children and parents it is natural to experience some anxiety or a bit of sadness too. Our goal is to make these first days as easy for everyone as possible. Please trust us. Rest assured your children are in loving, capable hands. We will never let a child cry for a lengthy time without a parent being notified. As trust builds and routines become familiar, separation should become easier for all. Celebrate success – both yours and your child's – and realize these first days will be the beginning of many more happy school days to come. Enjoy this special time in your child's life – it is truly so precious!

Ms. Lori

**IMPORTANT OCTOBER DATES**

- Preschool Carnival/Open House - October 7
- NO SCHOOL - October 11
- 3-yr.-Preschool/T-K Conferences - October 17
- Pre-K Conferences - October 18
- Preschool Pictures will be taken October 22 & 23. CDO by apt. only.

## **IDEAS FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN OUR SCHOOL**

1. Give your name to Ms. Lori for inclusion on our substitute teaching list, get involved with the Teacher Appreciation Committee, or volunteer to do cutting/coloring activities from your home. All these opportunities provide important contributions to our school's success.
2. There will be many volunteer opportunities for parents in our preschool classes. Watch for sign up sheets. Both CDO and preschool parents can always let teachers or Ms. Lori know they are willing to cut items, complete small projects, etc. at home or during class time.
3. Read the newsletter and notes that come home thoroughly and share ideas and feedback regularly. We can't always act on every idea that comes our way, but your ideas are always given consideration and are very much appreciated.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Please be sure to keep us apprised of any change in emails, phone numbers, etc. We want to be sure you get all communication from school in a timely manner. Please make it a habit to check your child's backpack every school day for messages. Lori is always available to talk with parents about suggestions, concerns, or questions. Two-way communication is key! We would strongly prefer you discuss any concerns you have with staff instead of other parents who are not able to address or solve your problems.

## **FINE MOTOR**

We continue to be amazed at the technological proficiency our little ones are growing up with. While this will certainly serve them well, please remember the importance of having your child frequently use pencils, markers, crayons etc. Fine motor skills are important to a young child's development and holding writing instruments are a different skill set than children use operating electronic devices such as I-Pads and playing games on cell phones. Writing, coloring, and cutting are skills that can easily be encouraged in your home and are worked on here at school.

## **ACTIVITY SHEETS**

We are a "no work sheet" school because research has shown that is not how preschoolers learn best. Our teachers have numerous resources to utilize in developing your child's cognitive growth as we engage in hands on learning. I know some parents and some children love to have work sheets to do in together in one on one fashion in your home environment. I will occasionally have work sheets on the black table outside the office you can take home you may do with your child to extend some of the areas we work on here at school. Please remember they will be spread through developmental levels for 3 – 5- year-olds, so some may be too easy or too difficult for your child. These are totally optional and a fast, easy way to provide parents an activity they can do with their child at home at their convenience, and to work on pencil/marker/scissor control.

## **CLASS ROSTERS**

Class rosters will be sent home via backpacks for all classes as soon as we have time to make all the corrections. Please keep your copy handy if you need it for birthday invitations, to arrange play dates, etc. If you don't want your personal information shared at school for any reason, please let Ms. Lori know immediately.

### **ALERT SYSTEM**

We have contracted with an alert service to do mass communication with parents about important events and reminders via voice mail, email, and/or texts. It is important you keep us updated with any changes in phone numbers so you will receive these. Also – a helpful hint is that when an alert is sent to your phone it will come from (913) 888-6300. Please remember this is a recorded message so there may be a slight delay before the message begins and please listen to the message in its entirety before calling the preschool.

### **NEWSLETTERS**

If you have trouble reading our newsletters on your phone, please use another electronic device. We have learned anything we drop into our newsletters often becomes jumbled on phones. They read well from other electronic devices.

### **REMINDERS**

Please send your child in clothing they can easily maneuver themselves to make going potty easier. Closed toed shoes help us ensure fewer injuries to vulnerable toes. As the weather changes, layers work great as kids can take off or add layers depending on the weather each day.

### **HAND ME DOWNS NEEDED**

Sometimes children have accidents at school without having the required change of clothing in their backpacks. We would love to have some of your kids outgrown “hand me down” clothing to keep on hand for emergencies. We need:

Boy/Girl Shorts – size 2-5

Boy/Girl Socks – for ages 2-5

Boy’s underwear – size 2-5

Boy/Girl Long sleeved tops/sweatpants – 2-5

Drop any donations in the preschool office. Thanks for your help!

### **TODDLER CDO**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our toddlers and their families! We are excited to begin our school year, which for many will be a “first experience” at school. This month our goal is to help each child feel comfortable and happy in the classroom. Our centers will be filled with exciting activities for your toddlers to play with as they learn. At circle time we will ring bells and sing “We are Happy”. We will do finger plays, count red apples, explore different textures, learn about colors, and have fun with bubbles. Some of the books we will be reading are Brown Bear, Brown Bear; The Apple Pie Tree; and My Friend & Me. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your amazing children!

### **OLDER 2'S & YOUNGER 3'S CDO**

Hello and welcome to CDO! We are so excited to have your child in our class. Initially, a few tears may be shed as they get use to a new environment without mom and dad, but quickly those tears will turn into great big smiles! We work hard to get those happy smiles and it's worth it.

Themes for the month of September are:

Week 1: Transition Week –This week is about getting acquainted with our classroom and our daily schedule

Week 2: Back to School

Week 3: All About Me and My Family

Week 4: Apples

We will also be talking about circles and the color RED this month. We are looking forward to getting to know you and especially your child and having lots of fun in the process!

### **3-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL**

We are so very excited to welcome our newest preschoolers! Our first days of September are filled with activities that will help us learn about each other and how to maneuver our way around our beautiful classroom areas and centers. We will learn how to properly wash our hands, stand in a line, and put our toys away at clean up time. We will soon know how to find our way to the music room and the playground. Our first book, Llama, Llama Misses Mama by Anna Dewdney is a beautiful story about Llama Llama's first day of preschool. We will read this at visitation during circle time. We will begin to learn the names of our classmates and take pictures for our class book. Your children will draw self-portraits and identify different body parts through fun songs, games and rhyming activities. We will create a shape collage together on shape day. To familiarize the children with community helpers, we will read books, sing songs and prepare for a visit from the Lenexa Fire Department. The primary colors will be talked about during the month, especially the color red. We will have a "red day" so we may wear this fun color. Don't forget to check out our "Daily News" sheets that are posted outside our rooms each day. These are great starting points to discuss what we did at school that day.

### **TUESDAY & THURSDAY ENRICHMENT – Ms. Missy & Ms. Kris**

Welcome to Enrichment! We are looking forward to the start of our school year and are excited to see new and familiar faces. We will spend this first month getting acquainted with each other and becoming familiar with our classroom routine. We will be talking about animal habitats and will "hatch" dinosaurs from eggs. We also have some fun art activities planned using bingo markers and marbles. Please be sure to read our Welcome Letter and our Lunch Guidelines form. It will be especially important to make sure ALL items your child brings to school have his/her name on them (this includes lunch dishes, silverware, cups, ice packs, etc.) Also, since your child stays at school for the extended day, it is helpful especially at the beginning of the year to include two complete sets of clothing in your child's backpack. As the seasons change, we ask that you update these extra clothes to make sure they are appropriate for the current weather. If at any time during the year you have questions or concerns, feel free to email Ms. Missy and Ms. Kris. Let the fun begin!

### **PRE-K**

Get Ready, Get Set...Go! Ms. Kristi, Ms. Suzy and Ms. Heather are very excited to begin our new school year! We have so many fabulous things planned. First, we will be busy "Rockin' in our School Shoes", just like our favorite storybook character, the positive thinking, Pete the Cat. Pete will help us get acquainted with our classroom, classmates, school rules and learn about how special each of us is. We love Pete's attitude because no matter what happens, he always says "it's all good"! Other stories and characters will fill our September days as well. We will learn and review our ABC's and 123's as we read the "Chick-a Chick-a Boom Boom" books. We will work on writing our names and learn who has the longest name in our class. We are even going to break open a real coconut and dare to taste what's inside. Next, we will be reading "The Rainbow Fish" and learn about making friends and how sharing is caring. We will work together to create one huge shiny classroom Rainbow Fish! We are all very privileged to be a part of this exciting new journey with you and your children. Welcome back!

### **T-K**

Our first month in T-K we will discuss how we are a school family and how in our class we work as a team. We'll be discussing what our class rules should be and sign a class treaty with each child contributing their rule. We will be starting an All About Me Book as children learn about themselves and are able to document their find. Then we will discuss our families and how they may differ from another culture. Each child will have a form to bring home for you to include information and a picture (please include pets) so that we can put them all together to make our T-K Class Book where children can look through and discuss their family with another child in class. Once our Class Book is complete each child will take a turn to bring it home so that you may look through it with them! It's going to be a busy month, hang on because October, November and December get even busier!

### **MONDAY & WEDNESDAY ENRICHMENT – Ms. Megan & Ms. Becky S.**

We are so excited to have you in our Enrichment class! Our first month of school will be filled with so many fun activities and learning opportunities. We look forward to getting to know each child, making new friends and exploring our classrooms through play! As we get to know each other this month, our focus will be on making new friends and becoming comfortable in our classrooms. We will explore colors and experiment with mixing them to make new ones. We will read Only One You, I Like me and Should I Share my Ice Cream? and My Friend is Sad. There will be lots of singing, playing outside, running, jumping and having fun! We can't wait to meet you!

### **FRIDAY ENRICHMENT/FANTASTIC FRIDAYS – Ms. Janet & Ms. Kristi**

Welcome to Friday Enrichment and Fantastic Fridays! The first month of school is always so much fun! Getting to know each child, making new friends and of course, lots of play time. This month we will focus on becoming comfortable in the classroom and at school. We will be exploring colors and mixing them to make new ones. We will be reading Mouse Paint; Little Blue, Little Yellow; and The Mixed-up Chameleon. We will be experimenting with some sparkly science and exploding colors. There will be lots of running, jumping and having fun, both indoors and out. We are so excited to meet you all!

## **MUSIC & MOVEMENT**

Welcome back to school! My name is Ms. Sommer and I am the BRAND-NEW music teacher at LUMC Preschool. I am so excited to meet all the students and get to know them better. This month in music we will be moving and grooving to songs about SUPER HEROS! And not just those that wear capes, but also those that wear badges and city uniforms! (How do the "wheels on the firetruck" go?) We will learn each other's names and sing some old favorites like "Old McDonald Had a Farm" and "Baby Bumblebee"! We will talk about what we did over the summer and perhaps "Row, Row, Row Your Boat". I look forward to seeing ALL my little movers and shakers soon!