

# NEWS FROM THE BLUE CLASS

"Your hands made me and fashioned me." Psalms 119:73

## Important Dates in September, 2011

Monday, August 29 – First full week of school  
Monday, September 5 – No School, Labor Day  
Friday, September 9 – 4's Enrichment begins  
Tuesday, September 13 – Lunch Bunch begins  
Wednesday, September 14 – Brunch Bunch begins  
Monday, September 19 – Curbside begins  
Thursday, September 29 – Devotion Worship 9:05 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

## Welcome, Welcome

We are very excited about the school year we have planned for your child. Our first unit is **God Made Me Special**. Throughout this first unit we hope to help the children see just how special they are. We plan to do this partly through the use of stories, games, class discussion and pictures of them as a baby and today. During the first week we will ease the children into the routine of our school day and familiarize them with the classroom and what each area has to offer. To begin the year, our House Area is outfitted to be an ongoing birthday party with many of the trimmings. Birthdays always make children feel special. If you have any extra invitations we would gladly accept them for the Writing Center. Each of the four areas of the classroom offers a variety of toys and supplies that are open ended allowing the children to explore the potential of each choice. It is through this process that much learning takes place.

**Fine Motor** skill and dexterity is developed when they draw, paint, use scissors, work puzzles, use Legos, button dress-ups, etc.

**Problem Solving** is honed when building in the Block Area. "It fell over! How can I make it stay up?" Deciding how to share a toy is another example of using this skill.

**Language and Imagination** are sparked when trying on different roles in the House Area or sharing a task like building a garage for the cars.

**Pre-math Skills** are practiced over and over when patterning, counting, and comparing the size of various items in the classroom.

This is just a sampling of what the children will be learning while having a good time. At this age, play is an invaluable source of learning. Knowing this we do our best to have enriching offerings available to the children.

## Parent Volunteers

In case you missed our volunteer sign-up sheets on your orientation visit, drop us a note if you would like to be an occasional volunteer for your child's class. We have two kinds of volunteers. In-class volunteers mainly help to serve the snack that is provided by our school. The children love having the parents visit and chat with them while they eat. We also need home volunteers

who can work on items such as cutting out things for us from home. Let us know if you would like to help.

### **Important Reminders**

1. Please be sure to include a Ziploc bag with an entire change of clothing (shoes included). Accidents of many different kinds do occur and children feel much better if they can change into their own clothes.
2. When writing your child's name, please use the upper/lower case form, not just capitals.

### **Blue Class September Birthdays**

These are the dates we will be acknowledging birthdays with these friends.

Blue P.M. Class

Patience Baldwin (9/29) – Thursday, September 29

### **Contact Us**

Don't forget, we encourage you to contact your child's teachers anytime you have a question or comment. Catching us after class is not always the best time, however. If you'd like to drop in on Monday afternoons, we are always in our rooms for staff time and would love to talk. Leaving a message with the office or e-mailing us would also work. If it is something that we should know at the beginning of class please write the information down and put it in your child's Parent Pouch. We check those, not the backpacks, each day as the children enter the classroom.

### **Some Fun Changes**

In an attempt to make what we do more meaningful for your child we have made some changes with our method for presenting the calendar and the weather. If your child announces that they were the Days of the Week Helper, they got to place the name of that day on a chart and helped find the names of the day before and the next day. Next we will sing a simple song to the tune of Frere Jaques that includes "today, yesterday, and tomorrow". If your child was the Weather Grapher, they decided what the weather was for that day and got to place a corresponding symbol on a calendar. At the end of the month we will graph the number of days that were sunny, rainy, snowy, cloudy. We are also using a plan that helps children learn to self regulate emotions and reach an emotional state of calmness. Your child might talk about being a STAR, a Drain, or a Balloon. Our Calming Captain of the day will choose which technique we will all use in preparation for Story Time. Our goal is to offer more meaningful learning in a variety of ways for your child.

### **Our Prayer For September**

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us.

Help us to remember to share that love with others. Amen