

Preschool

March 2009

NEWSLETTER

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me..." Preschool Office 581-8115
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God Gives Us His Word & Books

As we encourage the children to love books and reading (especially God's Word) this month, let me encourage you to make time for reading for yourself – especially the Word of God. Research shows that children who see their parents read are more likely to develop a love for reading. The same I believe holds true for God's Word. Not only will reading your Bible help your children to value that, but it will bless you in ways you can't imagine. I would also encourage you to join a Bible Study either here at LCC or at your own church. Psalm 119:105 says, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." We all need guidance for our path and the Lord has given it to us in His Word. Enjoy reading this month with your child, and most of all I pray you will enjoy reading God's Word on your own, with your child, and in a Bible Study.

Grandparents' Day

The grandparents will have their turn to spend some special time with your preschooler at the Teddy Bear Picnic on Thursday, March 26, and Friday, March 27. Please let us know if your child has a grandparent (or how many grandparents) coming that day. If you don't have grandparents in town, we will provide a substitute grandparent for your child from among our many wonderful and willing grandparents here at LCC. Please sign up at the Parents' Tables so we can begin arranging for the substitutes!

Book It! Beginners

With the focus of our curriculum for March being “Jesus Gives Us His Word and Books,” we will be encouraging reading in the classroom and at home. In your files you will receive materials from Pizza Hut that help you to keep track of the books that have been read to your child. This year Charlie & Lola are joining together to get the children excited about books and reading. At the end of the month, each child will receive a coupon good for one free Personal Pan Pizza at Pizza Hut. We hope you will enjoy some special times reading with your child – don’t forget Bible stories count, too!

Purple Days

For March’s color days, we will have our Purple Days on Thurs. Mar. 19, and Fri., Mar. 20. Please help your child find something purple to wear that day. We will have many fun activities.

More Than Money Matters

More Than Money Matters is an interactive, values-based money management workshop being offered here at the Laguna Woods campus Wednesdays at 6:30pm, March 4 – April 1. Please see the sign-up sheet in your file on the Parent Table.

Author Visit

To help us celebrate literature during the month of March we’ve invited a local author to come and read her book to the preschool children. Deborah Sherrell’s book Baby Lauren and Theodore explores the four seasons in a fun and playful manner while children learn the valuable role that trees play in the environment. Signed copies of her book will be available for purchase by filling out an order form prior to the reading on Mon. March 23 and Tues. March 24. Forms will be in your parent files, and you may preview the book in the preschool office.

”P”ajama & “P”ancake Days

Once a year (when we are learning about the letter “P”) we have our Pajama & Pancake Days. This year it will be on Thurs., March 12, & Fri. March 13. Yes, the children (and staff) do wear pajamas to school that day! We will enjoy pancakes and milk for snack, and lounge around in our pajamas! They will still enjoy their outside time so please have your child wear his/her tennis shoes (and a jacket or sweater if it is cold).

Parent's Page

Simple Techniques to Encourage Reading

Reading is the foundation skill for all learning. Teach your child to love books and you'll build a lifelong reader. There are many things you can do at home to get your child interested and off to a good start in reading and language development.

- **Read with your child every day** and have the whole family join in.
- **Keep books** within your child's reach.
- **Label a few objects** in his room like "dresser" and "bed."
- **Help him explore** magazines, comics and maps in addition to books.
- **Encourage your child** to write and scribble.
- **Notice words around you** – on signs, in grocery stores, on products in your home.
- **Help your child** get in the library habit. Set aside time to visit the library. Check out a book yourself; you'll be setting a powerful example of the importance of reading.
- **Have fun!** Teach your child to love words, play rhyming games, read books or nursery rhymes with interesting words to practice saying and build vocabulary.

Remember learning to read isn't a race!

Monitor TV, Computer and Video Game Time

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children limit their "screen time" to no more than two hours daily. This includes time spent watching television, playing video games and using the computer.

Help your child set limits:

- Limit the time your child spends watching TV, playing computer or video games, even if they're educational.
- Watch TV with him/her. Choose appropriate shows and have a conversation about what is being viewed.

"Read Your Bible, Pray Every Day..."

...and you'll grow, grow, grow!" These are words from a song we sing in preschool that embody a deep truth. Though the children, being concrete thinkers, assume this means to grow physically, we know that these habits are key to growing spiritually in our relationship with the Lord. Help your child to grow close to Jesus; and while you're at it, remember these habits are beneficial for adults, too! Since actions do speak louder than words to your child, let your child see you cultivating these growing habits!

Make Reading Convenient for Your Child

- Build these reading steps into your family's daily life and watch them work for you:
- Put books in places your child will be (car, stroller).
- Carry books with you to waiting rooms.
- Keep books near the bathtub.
- Subscribe to children's magazines.

Write Notes to Your Child

Turn reading and writing into a family tradition. Write your child little notes each day. Put them in different places – on his/her pillow, beside the toothbrush, in the lunch box for Lunch Bunch, on a napkin at meal time, etc.