

February 2011

Dear Parents,

Valentine's Day is fast approaching. Please check your class sign-up sheet to see if every party need has been covered. Reminders will be sent. For the actual valentine cards, have your child sign his or her own name on the card (good practice), work on just a few each time, but please do not address the envelopes. You are welcome to attend the Valentine's party set for February 10 & 11, at 11:15 a.m. (2:45 p.m.). The teachers would appreciate parents' help setting up at 11:00 a.m. (2:30 p.m.) while the students are in the chapel.

We are supporting St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital with a Trike-a-Thon on February 17 & 18 DATE CHANGE DUE TO SHALOM BEING IN GYM. Pledge envelopes will be arriving in your child's mailbox soon and pledges can be a fixed donation or per lap. The permission slip to participate is on the envelope and due the day of the Trike-a-thon. The money you pledge and collect will be due March 4. You may bring in your child's tricycle or bicycle, along with a safety helmet, to the gym and park it in their class' parking lot. We will welcome any and all assistance with this event. Parents are needed to help keep track of how many laps around the gym the students do in a 20-minute session, and a lap count (for lap pledges) will go home at the end of the Trike-a-thon. Everyone gets a tricycle license and those turning in \$35 or more receive a T-shirt (see the pledge sheet for other prizes).

We are collecting buttons, dress up clothes for boys and girls, and magazines with pictures of people and animals (to cut up). We are also collecting Campbell soup can UPC symbols. Please use the collection sheets available at the hall desk. You may turn in the craft items to your child's teachers and the soup UPC codes go in the receptacle in the hall. Thank you.

Pre-registration packets will be available in mid-March for students planning to enroll for next school year (2011-2012), and for younger siblings of current students. We will begin early registration March 25.

Building Self-Esteem Foster a sense of independence & confidence in your preschooler (excerpt from **Early Childhood Parents Make the Difference – entire issue posted on Office Bulletin Board**)

Having healthy self-esteem means you consider yourself a person who can do things. To foster this sense of independence and confidence in your young child:

- Let her be involved. Too many parents say yes when a child wants a new toy, but no when she tries to help her family. For example, if you are doing laundry, and your child asks, "Can I do that?" you can answer, "Sure, please start handing me everything that is blue." Lesson: I am competent.
- Make her wait. Your child deserves much attention--but not all the attention. Your child should frequently hear, "I am helping Jimmy right now. Your turn will come later." Or, "I need to get ready now. You will be fine with your blocks while I do this." Lesson: I am big enough and secure enough to wait.
- Let her entertain herself. Spend time with your child, but don't try to keep her constantly fascinated. Offer things to do--books, crayons, blocks--and encourage her to do them on her own. Notice her efforts. Lesson: I can make myself happy and busy.

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Feature Teacher – Dianna Mitchell joined the staff at the beginning of the 2008/2009 school year. She is teaching the 3's and young 4's in Room 112, Tuesday through Friday mornings. Dianna is married to Jesse and they have 2 sons, Andrew and Ryan, in elementary school. She attends church at Breiel and helps with Children's Ministry.

Lastly, just a few reminders. Please label back packs, mittens, hats and coats. Visit the Restroom before class.

- Please call school (424-1887) if your child will miss class for any reason.
- Remember your Scholastic Book Order Coupons from Christmas when the next catalogs go home.
- School closing due to inclement weather will be posted on school's website www.sunshinechildren.com, on the voice-mail message, and on TV Middletown (channel 24 or www.tvmiddletown.org). Sunshine Preschool follows Middletown City closings, and we will close if there is a 2-hour delay, since Middletown City Schools will close their preschools, but will operate on normal class hours if public schools are on a one hour delay. We will be here when you decide it is safe to venture out on the snowy streets. If you decide not to bring your child, please call to notify us. Thanks.
- School will be closed on Monday, February 21, for Presidents' Day.