

PRESCHOOL PRESS

Newsletter for RockPointe Weekday Preschool



January 2021



Registration for 2021-2022 School Year

It's time to register for the coming school year—already! Children who are presently enrolled in our program and their siblings will be given priority before we open enrollment to the community. Here are the dates:

Tuesday, January 26

Re-enrollment packets go out to students currently attending RWP. Packets will also be available for younger siblings.

Tuesday, February 2

Re-enrollment packets & payment due; last day for current students/siblings to register.

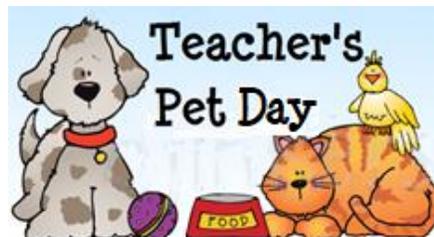
Monday, February 8

Open enrollment for the community at 10am
Tell your friends!

We anticipate next year to be a more normal year, so we'll return to our hours of 9a-2p and tuition will be \$210/mo. Enrollment fees include registration fee (\$100 per family, supply fee (\$250) and last month's tuition (May '22).

Current students who re-enroll do not have to pay all those fees at once; registration and supply fees will be due on January 28th, but May 2022 tuition ("last month's tuition") can be paid this coming May. Registration fees are

non-refundable. All of this will be explained in detail in your re-enrollment packet. We love your children and hope they will back with us next fall. ☺



This month all of the classes are discussing the responsibility required when a family owns a pet. On **Tuesday, Jan. 26th**, we will have "Teacher's Pet" Day, when some of our staff members will be bringing their own pets from home. We'll have dogs, a cat, turtles, as well as a hedgehog and other pets for the children to see. *If your child has an allergy to animal dander, please advise the classroom teacher.*

In conjunction with this unit, the 3's and 4's will have a unit titled "Prevent the Bite." This program provides children with information necessary to be safe from dog bites through instruction about appropriate behavior around unfamiliar dogs. More info at preventthebite.org



Inclement Weather

The recent cold weather prompts us to remind you of our weather policy: if the LISD schools are either **closed** or have a **delayed start** due to inclement weather, the preschool will be closed for the day. Tune in to local radio and TV stations for a list of school closings.

And another note about the cold weather: unless the temperatures are below freezing, we will always try to go out to the playground---even for a short while---to get some vitamin D and to "get the wiggles out." So please send a coat to preschool every day during the winter months, and make sure it's labeled with your child's name.

Spanish for 3's and PreK



On Thursday mornings, the 3's and PreK classes attend Spanish class with Ms. Kathy. The children are learning basic Spanish words that are appropriate for preschoolers: numbers 1-10, colors, shapes and simple phrases like "good morning," "good evening," "hello" and "goodbye." Most of the teaching is done through music.

The goal is not for fluency, but to introduce their ears to the concept of language that is different than English, and to learn simple words and phrases that can start a foundation for Spanish (or other languages) in later years. We also want to build a love and respect for other cultures at an early age. We'll have a *fiesta* at the end of the year, when the children will sample Mexican foods and do a version of the Mexican hat dance!

Fine Motor Fun!

Early childhood development includes acquiring *fine* and *gross* motor skills. While both these skills involve movement, they do have differences:

- **Gross motor skills** involve movement of the larger muscle groups, like the arms and legs. It's these larger muscle groups that allow babies to sit up, turn over, crawl, and walk.
- **Fine motor skills** involve movement of the smaller muscle groups in your child's hands, fingers, and wrists.

Both types of motor skills enable children to become more independent. Fine motor skills are especially crucial, however, because the ability to use the smaller muscles in the hands allows children to perform self-care tasks without assistance. These include:

- **brushing their teeth**
- **eating with utensils**
- **getting dressed with buttons, zippers**

At the preschool, we're especially focused on the following tasks associated with hand strength and fine motor skills: **coloring, writing and scissoring.** These will all be very important for success as your child enters kindergarten and the elementary years.

So every month, this newsletter will give you some fun activities that you can incorporate into your child's daily routine to help improve their fine motor skills. This month let's focus on increasing **hand strength.**



Toys that require **squishing** (like Playdoh) or **squeezing** (like the Martian squeeze-toy) are not only fun for your preschooler, but help develop strength in his fingers and hands. Crumpling paper into balls has the same effect; have yourselves a paper "snowball" fight in your den this January!



Dates for Your Spring Calendar

Spring Break.....T & Th, March 16 & 18

Easter Program..Thursday, April 1 9:30am

Last Day of Preschool...Thursday, May 13

And for PreK parents:

PreK "Time to Shine" End-of-Year Program

Tuesday May 11 9:30am

Christmas DVD's



If you'd like to have a DVD of the Christmas program, it's not too late! We'll have some extras; cost is \$10 each.

A special "thank you" to the PreK parents who brought their children to the extra performance of the Nativity pageant at RockPointe Church on Dec. 6th. We're grateful that you spent your Sunday morning with us.

✝ Chapel Schedule ✝

Chapel is held on Tuesdays at 9:30. This month the children are learning that *Jesus told people about God,* and our Bible stories will be:

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|-----|----|-------------------------|---------------|
| Jan | 12 | Boy Jesus at the Temple | Luke 2:41-51 |
| | 19 | Fishers of Men | Luke 5:1-11 |
| | 26 | The Good Samaritan | Luke 10:25-35 |

Our memory verse this month is:

"Jesus said, 'I must preach...about...God because that is what God sent me to do.'" Luke 4:43 GNT

RockPointe Weekday Preschool

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