

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

# Newsletter

"WHERE LEARNING IS AN ADVENTURE"

September 2017



Dear Families,

We are off to another great year and have so many interesting, creative, and fun experiences planned for your children. We can hardly wait to get started. We'd like to offer some tips to help your preschooler adjust to school, the classroom, the teacher, and new friends.

- Greet the teacher with confidence and warmth. This communicates to your child that school is a fun and safe place to be.
- Plan to stay a bit. Interact with toys and other students. Be a role-model for how to act at preschool.
- Be positive. Let your child overhear you praising the parts of her personality that will excel in school. "I can't wait for (insert your child's name) to start school. She is so creative. Her teacher is going to love the towers she builds." Avoid classifying your child as shy or clingy, or identifying what will be hard at school for him or her. Focus on the positive. This is important for both the preschoolers and the parents.
- Make a book with your child that focuses on the routine before school, what will happen at school, and how you will return each day. Keep it simple. Each page can focus on something different. This makes children feel comfortable because they know what to expect.
- Establish a clear good-bye. Try a high-five or a kiss to the palm (see the *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn). Make the good-bye quick and try not to return for one last hug. If there are tears, we will help your child get focused on something fun and exciting. Give your child time to adjust to a new environment. We promise they will love preschool!

## DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR &

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## September

1st September

Staff Development Day – no school

4th of September

Labor Day – no school

5th of September

1st Day of School

11th and 12th of September

"Kick-Off " School Days

28th and 29th of September

School Picture Days

## October

16th and 19th, October

Pumpkin Patch Field Trips

October 17th and 20th

Speech Screenings

27th of October

Staff Development Day – no school

30th and 31st of October

Halloween Parties/Parades

# Let's get to know our staff. . .

Mrs. Villanueva

The Pond Classroom

Mrs. V, as we call her at WPP, became a teacher because she loves to make a positive impact on children's lives and enjoys watching children grow. Her proudest moment in the year is when all the children are ready to move to the next classroom.

Ms. Di Senso

The Den Classroom

Mrs. Di Senso's fondest childhood memory is fishing with her dad. Once she caught a three-pound thresher shark. She loves being a teacher because of the shared laughter, creativity, and fun she has with her students.

Ms. Metcalfe

The Forest Classroom

When Mrs. Metcalfe is not at school, she enjoys wakeboarding, hiking, visiting the Farmer's Market, and Jami making. She loves seeing the moment a new idea clicks for a child. When she grows up, she wants to be a park ranger!

Mrs. Schmidt

The Reef Classroom

Mrs. Schmidt has been married for three years to her best friend. She loves pineapples, new restaurants, and her rescue dogs. Her proudest moment is seeing how far her students have come at graduation.

Mrs. Dodson

Support Teacher

Mrs. Dodson's fondest memory from childhood is visiting her cousins in the country milking cows and riding horses. Today, she enjoys spending time with her granddaughter, Eleanor, who is a graduate of Westminster.

Mrs. Galindo

Student Accounts

Mrs. Galindo is the daughter of the owner. Her favorite memory of WPP is the merry-go-round in the lower park where she loved to make herself dizzy as a child. Mrs. Galindo finished WPP with the first graduating class of preschoolers in 1982.

Ms. Batchman

Director

Did you know Ms. Batchman is an accomplished seamstress and set designer? She wants to help our young learners develop into incredible, successful adults. It's no wonder she was voted "Most Inspirational" in high school.



Please take time to get to know more about the staff here at WPP. We believe our school community should be built on close relationships, not only amongst the students but also the adults.

Mrs. Stephens

Owner/Founder

Mrs. Stephens enjoys art, cooking, entertaining, travelling, reading, and gardening. Her fondest memories of childhood are camping with cousins and her family. She became a teacher because it has been her dream since she was a child.



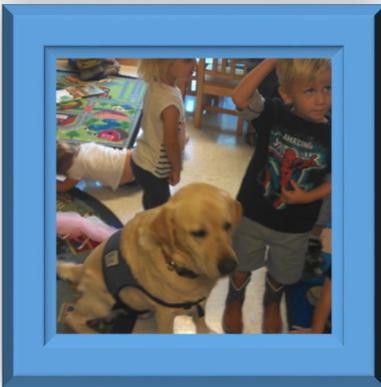
## Kick-Off School Days

**September 11th and 12th**

We're transforming WPP into a mini-training camp for our little ones. Highlights include games like "Rush the Quarterback, Run for the Goal Line, and Kick-Off Challenge." Send your child in his or her favorite team jersey or team colors. (Students may also wear their WPP school t-shirt). A delicious and healthy tail-gating snack will be served.

### Small Talk Speech

Free screenings are happening October 17th & 20th. Everyone is encouraged to participate.



### Love on a Leash, featuring Ed Silverman and Milo, the yellow lab.

Every Thursday, Ed Silverman, a volunteer and professional dog-handler, brings Milo to visit our preschool classrooms. Ed hopes to help children build confidence around dogs and provide joy as well as a moment of connection that only a pet can provide. At the end of the visit, Milo sometimes does tricks for the children in order to earn a sugar snap pea – one of Milo's favorite snacks!

### Music Classes

My Music Workshop offers a music class for a small fee Thursdays and Fridays during lunch. Your child will love the instrument exploration, singing and performing, and learning about music notes. Brochures are available in the office with specific times and dates, or you can visit [www.MyMusicWorkshopForKids.com](http://www.MyMusicWorkshopForKids.com).

Cost is \$48.00 a month.

### Spanish Classes

Information will be sent home soon about our enrichment language classes.

### Helpful Three-Year Olds

Mrs. Stephens came to school with two very black eyes after having walked into a wall in the dark the night before. Elleson, along with her three-year-old classmates, were very concerned and wondered why Mrs. Stephens was not being safe. They advised her to use a flashlight in the future. Mrs. Stephens explained that she could not find a flashlight in the dark. Thoughtful Elleson promised to bring her flashlight from home. Another friend couldn't understand why Mrs. Stephens didn't use her cell phone flashlight. Mrs. Stephens was impressed by all the wonderful advice she received.

## Volunteers

Each of our busy teachers is looking for a parent or family member to help with all those classroom “extras.” Volunteers will help prepare various projects, and with the classroom teacher coordinate fun classroom events. This is a great way to support your child and get to know his or her teacher. There is a sign-up sheet located on your teacher’s blog or you can simply notify her. You will need to have a current TB test and proof you are up-to date on all immunizations.

## Kid Fitness

This heart-pounding program includes warming-up before exercise, gymnastics, games, seasonal sports, and closes with cool-down activities and yoga. It is taught by our very own Fitness Frog, the puppet, with a little help from our teachers. Kid Fitness is free and only offered during our afternoon program from 1:15– 2:00. Consider extending your child’s day to experience all the fun!

## Scholastic Book Clubs

Here’s a great opportunity to build a library for your child. Scholastic Books provide a wide variety of stories and games for all ages at discounted prices. The company even makes it easy to order. Either use the order form that is provided by your child’s teacher or access their website at [www.scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs) and enter our school’s code **GNWVF**. Follow the directions and your books will be delivered to the preschool within about two weeks. If you would like to volunteer to help or have questions, please see Debbie Batchman.

## Reminders...



- All paperwork must be turned in prior to leaving your child at preschool. Make sure that all your information is up to date.
- Send your child to school in appropriate attire. Shoes and clothes should be for running, climbing, and having fun.
- Please keep toys that could be considered weapons at home.
- Please consider an early bedtime and structured morning routine to help your child transition to school.
- Punctuality is important, whether you are coming to or going from school.



## Safety Zone

Please take care to always:

- Shut all gates and doors. Please open the door for your child, taking care to secure it quickly behind you. Reminder! A secure environment is important!
- Please do not leave children in a car unattended. (It’s never a quick drop-off.)
- Hold your child’s hand as you walk to and from preschool.
- Drive slowly in parking lot, and look for children.

## Contact us:

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