

# BACK TO SCHOOL



Village Church Weekday Preschool  
Volume 1 Issue 1  
September 2011

6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208  
913.671.2338  
terri.gaeddert@villagepres.org

## Inside this issue:

Bags & Tags	2
Accreditation	2
Parent Workshop	2
Separation Strategies	3
Field Trip	2
Snack Sign-ups	2
Tuition	2



## BACK TO SCHOOL!

This "don't miss" event is a special time for classroom teachers to share philosophy and important information with parents regarding their individual rooms. Three yr.old classrooms meet on 9/13, MWF 4's meet on 9/14, and PM4's and PreK meet on 9/15. All meetings start at 6:30 preceded by an opening reception!

# Welcome!!



Welcome to Village Church Preschool! The beginning of the school year always brings a special enthusiasm and this year is no exception. While much remains the same, we hope you will also be energized by a few new initiatives including some recent additions to our staff. We are very excited to introduce Sarah McKee as a new classroom teacher in Room 106 (both 3's and 4's) and Jenny Hull as our new music specialist. Both bring extensive experience and high standards to our program, as well as the added expertise of being recent Village preschool moms!

Family partnerships and open communication have always been at the heart of Village Preschool. Be sure and check our parent information literature rack outside the preschool office next to the large bulletin board. We hope you will find the brochures and information helpful and meaningful for your busy lives with young children! In turn, please know your input is very important to us and we value your comments and questions. If a personal visit isn't convenient, you can always drop a note in the tuition box located right inside the office door (where I am sure to find it at the beginning of every month!)

Remember, preschool and EPD classes will begin September 6th for our 3's and PM 4's/5's and September 7th for our MWF 4's. We hope our "Get-Acquainted" parties provided you with a glimpse of the fun your child will have this year at Village Preschool! We are so glad you are here!

## CELEBRATING 15 YEARS WITH DEBBIE SMITH!

### Opening receptions from 6:00-6:30

Join us in celebrating Debbie's 15 years with Village Preschool during the Opening Receptions from 6:00-6:30 pm, preceding your classroom's Back To School Night curriculum meetings. We'll be outside by the playground with refreshments and fanfare! Throughout the years Debbie has worked her magic as coordinator of our Extended Preschool Day program, as developer of the "Creations By Kids" art program and more recently as administrator of the popular "Creations By Kids" Summer Camp! We feel blessed on a daily basis to have her creative talents guiding and inspiring us. Please join Children's Ministry and Village Preschool in honoring a stellar artist and educator!

Making Creative Connections



## What is accreditation??

Early childhood programs accredited by the **National Association for the Education of Young Children** have voluntarily undergone a comprehensive process of internal self-study and improvement. Each NAEYC-accredited program must meet all 10 of the NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards. Accreditation is valid for 5 years during which time programs make annual reports documenting that they maintain compliance with the standards. This year, as part of our reaccreditation process we will also be visited by unannounced assessors!



## New Bags and Tags

Continuing the tradition started last year, we are giving all of our new families a red tote bag with our preschool logo on the tag! We are hoping these will be helpful when you bring home all of the wonderful creations, notes and preschool fun!



## Parent Workshop

You've met the classroom teachers, now here is your chance to meet our enrichment specialists! On Wednesday, Sept. 28, from 9:30-11:30 am, the teachers for our movement, music, art, and nutrition programs will join together for a "Show and Tell" gathering. Come get fun ideas to use at home, ask questions, and browse through some great new resources!

## FIELD TRIP



Our 4's and 5's will have their first field trip on September 22nd and 23rd to the Beanstalk Children's Garden near Lakeside Nature Center. They will have fun exploring with touch, taste, and smell while learning about plants, insects, food production and nutrition. In addition, each child will come home with a special live reminder of their adventure! Watch for the permission sign-up sheet outside your classroom the second week of school.

## TUITION

Please remember that tuition is due the 1st of each month and delinquent after the 15th. Place checks in the tuition box just inside the preschool office door. For each day of EPD enrolled add an additional \$60 to the monthly tuition fee. One check for both payable to Village Church Preschool.

2 day preschool	\$110.00
3 day preschool	\$165.00
4 day preschool	\$220.00

## SNACK SIGN-UPS AND CUPS

Every year, we ask each family to provide a box of 5 oz. disposable cups for your child's snack time at school! You may send this with your child during the first week of school. THANK YOU!! Colorful snack calendars have been posted outside each classroom so that families can sign up to provide snack for their child's class. Please remember to send nutritious items that are posted on our NAEYC approved snack list and indicate if the snack is in honor of your child's birthday by adding one of the provided stickers next to your name!

## SAFETY FIRST

When dropping off and picking up, PLEASE remember not to leave children unattended in your car. We realize how inconvenient this can seem at times, but it is a safety issue we take very seriously. If need be, try arranging a "car-sitting" trade with another parent who is also dropping off at the same time. For more information (and some heartbreaking realities) about this important topic, you can visit: [KidsAndCars.org](http://KidsAndCars.org)

# Making a Separation Plan

Leaving parents at the beginning of the school day can be difficult for any child, no matter how loved and secure the child feels. Here are some ideas you can use to make this transition smoother for you and your child:

**Help your child anticipate what will happen each day of school.** If your child is returning for a 2nd or 3rd year in the program, let him or her know that there will be new children as well as some old friends in the group. Create a “separation ritual” to follow with your child each day as you drop him or her off. Keep your plan simple (for example, a story together followed by a wave at the window or two hugs and a kiss).

**Be consistent about following your plan.** If your child is having a particularly difficult time, adding “1 more story” at the last minute will not ease these feelings; in fact, your child’s sadness or anxiety may become stronger.

**Acknowledge your child’s feeling yourself, both as you leave (if there are strong emotions) and at home when you discuss it.** This means to make simple statements that label the feelings. For example, say, “It’s really hard when we have to say goodbye at school. You feel really sad when I leave.” Use a soft, calm voice and touch your child gently to communicate that you understand. Pause and wait for your child’s response. It is important to show you accept your child’s feelings, even if his or her outbursts are upsetting to you.

**If your child is not upset, avoid pressuring him or her to be sad that you are going.** Instead know that your child cares very deeply about you and that you can take pride in your child’s independence.

**Know that your child cannot begin to cope with your leaving until you actually leave.** After your last goodbye, it is important that you leave without further ado. Children become confident that they are okay only after they have experienced their own ability to carry on without you in the new setting.

**Above all, show confidence in your child’s ability to adjust by saying goodbye as planned.** Do not sneak away while your child is distracted. This will make your child distrustful of the whole separation process.

Following these simple suggestions will ease daily transition for most parents and children. If you need more help with separation problems, please feel free to talk with the teachers. We will help in any way we can!