



May 2019

Looking Ahead

May 2 & 3—Spring Music Programs

10:00—2's

11:00—3's, 4's, & Pre-K

May 9 & 10—Chapel with Mister Mark

May 15—Preschool Promotion

11:00 am in Wesley Hall

May 15—Early Dismissal 12:15

May 15—Last Day of School

May 28—First Day of Summer Camps

August 28—Parent Orientation

August 29—Meet the Teacher Parties

September 3—First day of school

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 * **AUCTION RESULTS** *
 * Our Silent Auction was a *
 * wonderful event, and was *
 * a huge financial success! *
 * Thank you Stacey Connor, *
 * Julie Harvick, Andrea *
 * Jordan, and all of our *
 * amazing volunteers. Our *
 * gross income is close to *
 * \$65,000, and we are still *
 * adding up expenses. Wow! *
 * We can't wait to get new *
 * iPads and are excited for *
 * another great year of en- *
 * richment classes. Thank *
 * you for supporting the *
 * event in so many ways! *
 * * * * *

Preschool Summer Camp Availability

	2's	3's	4's
May 28—30 Spanish/Math Games	full	full	1 spot
Weeks 2, 3, 4, & 5	full	full	full
July 1—3 Soccer	4 spots	full	7 spots

**FUMC VBS
JULY 8-12 2019**



We have had such an amazing response to VBS this year. It is full, but if you volunteer, then your kids can come too! Sign up below. We need youth volunteers too.

Come on! It's fun!
Click [Here](#) to Register

**PROMOTION PROGRAM
FOR 4'S AND PRE-K
MAY 15, 11:00 AM**

We will have a promotion program for the 4-year-old and Pre-K classes on the last day of school at 11:00 in Wesley Hall.

Even if your child will be coming back to Pre-K bridge next year, you are still invited to celebrate the end of the year with your friends from this year. But if your child will bridge and you prefer to wait until next year, just let us know. Either way is fine!



Summer & Fall 2019 Paperwork is Past Due

We input all student information over the summer. If you have everything, but are waiting to see the pediatrician, please turn in everything else now, if you have not done so already. All our forms are online, at www.fumcdayschool.org. Remember that we need current shot records before children attend in the fall.

THANK YOU!

Mrs. Donna Simmons Is Retiring

After working at FUMC Preschool for 29 years, Mrs. Donna Simmons is going to take a well-deserved retirement. Donna began as a teacher assistant, then worked as a teacher, and has been Mrs. Kristin's Pre-K assistant this year. Donna loves children, and loved teaching. If you looked in her room you might see anything: her dancing the chicken dance, "skating" with paper plates, building a trap to capture a Leprechaun, celebrating Elvis' birthday with inflatable guitars, or just regular preschool fun. Donna has promised to sub here next year, but you might want to give her a hug before the year is over. We will surely miss her, but we are thankful for her dedication, her friendship, and the countless number of lives she has blessed.



How Do You Make the Classes for Next Year?

At this time of year, I often hear this question from parents. Or sometimes people ask if they can request a certain teacher. Here is what I do:

- 1. Ask current teachers for recommendations**
- 2. Try to balance each class (i.e. personalities, boys/girls)**
- 3. Look at family relationships (did an older sibling have a teacher?)**
- 4. Make sure each child has old friends and new friends.**
- 5. Consider the individual needs of each child, and parent requests**

I really take time to consider each child and each classroom. Please let me know if you have any concerns about your child's placement. I would greatly appreciate it if you could phrase your request in terms of your child's needs (i.e. my child needs a teacher with a quiet voice, or my child would do best in a highly structured environment). Thank you!

Parent Survey Results

Thank you to all of you who filled out surveys. We had 52 completed surveys out of 182 children, so a 29% response rate. The results are below, with top 3 answers listed for each question:

1. How did you select our program?

We researched online and/or toured (17)
Older sibling (13)
Word of mouth (11)

2. What do you like best about preschool?

Teachers & Staff (24)
Loving nature, family feel of school (16)
My Child loves learning & loves school (6)

3. Do you feel the preschool program meets the needs of your child?

Yes (34)
Absolutely! (10)
Above and beyond

4. Do you have any suggestions that would help us better meet the needs of your child or family?

No (34)
Establishing set parties for parents to attend (2)
Our class had a fun playdate this spring where the moms got to know each other and kids had fun. I think this would be great to do at the beginning of school to meet sooner.

5. Have you been happy with SmartCare?

Yes (41)
Absolutely (4)
Love the convenience of paying online (2)

6. Do you feel well-informed on all activities at preschool?

Yes (41)
Have a yearly calendar at the beginning of the year (2) *Note, we have this already.
I miss monthly paper calendars from teachers

7. Other comments—I am happy to share all of the individual comments and suggestions, but in the interest of space and time, I will consolidate the responses I got concerning parties, since that was the biggest issue.

We had 22 positive comments regarding the changes that were made this year, 9 negative comments, and several neutral comments. Moving forward, we will clarify the parties at the start of the year, and do more to support parents who want to connect with each other.

Positive Comments:

- *Happy there's not so many.
- *Love that they aren't so crowded this year.
- *I enjoyed parents not being required to attend.
- *I think this year's policy is great. I hope people like it.
- *I appreciate the new policies.
- *I liked the set-up this year.
- *All great!
- *I like the new system! My child has not felt like she's missed out on anything.
- *LOVE! (3)
- *I like that the classroom parties are low-key.
- *I'm happy with all of it.
- *I did the Christmas party with another mom and I thought it was very nice.
- * :)
- *Loved the flow of the parties this year.
- *Happy with all of it (2)

Parent Survey Results (continued)

Positive Comments regarding the changes to parties this year

- *Great! The new model worked for us.
- *Happy about the change that was made regarding the parties. Thumbs up!
- *Loved the Thanksgiving Feast.
- *Great Improvement!

Negative Responses Regarding Parties

- *I would like to be able to come to the parties throughout the year. This is a great way to get to know the parents of your child's teacher and interact with your child.
- *I'm not sure we had a chance to connect with other parents —seems we did not get it done when left on our own — ha! So maybe some help there. :)
- *Wish we could attend more.
- *Establish set parties for parents to attend.
- *I think most parents missed the parties this year but I do understand why the change was made. Maybe add a few parties next year but limit parent helpers?
- *Wish I could have gone to more.
- *I would love to be able to attend class parties.
- *Let parents come again!
- *Always enjoyed — helps with unity and to engage with other parents.

Neutral Comments

- *I would love to be able to attend 1—2 parties per year, but we understand the rationale for the change.
- *Good. I miss going to parties, but I understand.

So, moving forward...

We will give parents a list up-front of all the parties throughout the year, including all of the ones where everyone can attend (Meet the Teacher, Easter Egg Hunts, End of the Year Parties)

We will include a list of all the opportunities for parents to attend school events (Open House, Christmas Concert, Fort Worth Zoo visit, Rodeo Round-up, Fort Worth Children's Opera, Spring Concert, Monthly Chapel, Walking to Library with 4's and Pre-K).

We will let parents know which parties they can attend in limited numbers during the year (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day).

We will remind parents of other ways they can be in the classroom (lunchtime visits, parent readers, sharing about their jobs or their family traditions).

We will encourage Room Moms to organize a get-together early in the year, so that kids and parents can get to know one another.

We will open the playground up on Meet the Teacher days, so parents can socialize early in the year, and have somewhere to go if they have time between parties (i.e. more than one child at school).

May Birthdays

Charlotte Connor
Harry Granden
Vivian Granden
Palmer Hedden
Jack Hutchison
Claire Miller
Silas Morgan
Alexander Ross
Enzo Ussery
Andy Vaughan
Ms. Christie Navejar Gomez

Reid Stevens
Samuel Stevens
Ms. Carrie Wall



August Birthdays

Hollis Baker
Wyatt Campbell
Breck Glasgow
Coale Kinson
DJ Lowy
Louise Manuel
Grayson Sherrieb
Maeve Thierren
Mrs. Vivian Campbell

Elizabeth Berkes
Harrison Franklin
Graham Kinard
Monroe Landry
River Lundquist
Declan Sanders
Annie Skillman
Avery Weston

June Birthdays

Matthew Boggess
Austin Coleman-Garrett
Owen Jordan
Max McClellan
Wells Phariss
Jack Shive
Janie Grace Toulouse
Mrs. Elaheh
Ms. Angie Reyes

Virginia Bourgeois
Poppy Copeland
Hadley Lovelace
Hattie McCoy
William Sanders
James Slaughter
Mrs. Kelly Payne
Ms. Michelle Phillips

July Birthdays

Lyra Bennetch
Merrick Collier
Clementine Decker
Emma Gregory
Shep Opitz
Isabella Rodriguez
Mrs. Kim
Mrs. Samantha Morgan

Annie Berkes
Lane Dagley
Joseph Elliott
Kieran Keel
Hazel Patterson
Will Youngberg
Mrs. Pari
Mr. Chris Rathburn

Dear Preschool Family,

I want to take a moment to thank you for sharing your children with us. This is a wonderful school, because it is filled with wonderful people. I hope you have some time to unwind and relax with family this summer. If this is your last year at preschool, we will miss you! Please know we love to have you visit and hear how you are doing at your new schools.

With Love,
Mrs. Nina

