

Director: Frances Harrelson



Early Learning Programs

APLC DAY SCHOOL NEWS

May 2021

Calendar Dates:

May 4—Parent Teacher Conferences

May 11 —Parent Appreciation Brunch

May 18 —Last day of chapel

May 20 —Pizza lunch provided to children

May 20 —Last day of school

July 23—Parent letters mailed

Aug. 24—Parent & Child Orientation

Aug. 25—First Day of School



Parent Appreciation Brunch

To all the wonderful parents who have volunteered their time and talents this year at Abiding Presence—we, the staff at APLC would like to do something for you! On Tuesday May 11th, we will host a brunch for you from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The teachers will be cooking!! We hope you will take some time to enjoy a tasty brunch as our way of saying thank you for all that you do! Every parent has done something to contribute— from moving furniture, being Secret Reader, helping with the Silent Auction, Trail Riders breakfast, Fiesta, or just arriving everyday with a smile of support! Come and let us show you **OUR** appreciation!

Wall of Memories

You may have noticed our “Wall of Memories” in the lobby outside the Day School office.



The children decorate a tile with special markers and then they are baked in the oven. Through the rest of the month, we will be hanging the completed tiles produced by the children on the wall in the lobby of the Day School. Especially for those departing 4 & 5 year olds—what a great memory it will be for them when they come back to visit! The cost is only \$10.00. Contact the office if you are interested.

Honoring our PreK-4 & PreK-5 classes

Our last chapel day will be Tuesday, May 18th at 9:15 am. We will be honoring our departing 4 & 5 year olds moving on to kindergarten. We plan to have it outside as usual but if it rains—we will have it in the Sanctuary. Parents are invited to attend—but not extended relatives. We will be sending out more information next week. Please mark your calendars for this very important event!



Community Events, Parenting Tips and Resources

The Best Gift for a Teacher

—Love and Logic tip

Centuries ago, I presume, a tradition developed whereby parents felt compelled to provide a tangible expression of their gratitude toward teachers. The original motivations for this tradition are unclear. Some may have been prompted by genuine appreciation; others may have been spurred by guilt and attempts to atone for the unruly classroom conduct of their children; some may have darker motivations where it was hoped a small payoff would “grease the wheels” a bit toward a better grade for their child.

While I’m sure that most educators truly appreciate the gesture, I’m not sure how many apples an average person can eat. I wonder how many of those cute little picture frames, paper weights, plaques, and other cute thingies eventually get regifted.

Of course, all of us dedicated educators want to be appreciated for our hard work, long hours, and willingness to be exposed to every germ known to humankind. It’s nice to be appreciated for the fact that we choose to love kids even when they behave badly and produce noxious fumes. It’s great to be appreciated for the fact that we take classrooms full of kids with different needs, abilities, behaviors, and troubles and turn them into high-powered learning teams.

- Make sure that your kids overhear you saying positive things about their school and their teachers.
- Ensure that they are doing chores without reminders at home, so that they know how to do assignments without reminders at school.
- Allow very little time with technology, including video games, texting, surfing the web, watching videos, television, etc. These activities make it more difficult for our children to remain calm and content at school.
- Have family meals together, where you enjoy each other and talk about all of the things you’ve learned during the day.

Storytime in the Garden

Thursdays, March 4 – October 28 | 10 – 10:30 a.m.

The Botanical Garden offers children’s story time weekly, Thursdays, March 4 – October 28 from 10 – 10:30 a.m. Each session features a different nature themed book designed to stimulate young minds and foster an appreciation for the great outdoors. Families are welcome to bring a blanket to sit on during story time. Recommended for ages 5 and under. Fee: Included with paid admission (\$15-12) and membership admission



San Antonio Museum of Art

Virtual Playdates: Name Bugs

May 5, 10:00 am-10:45 am

Free/ Register: samuseum.org/calendar

Ticket Price: Free

Cultivate, nurture, and inspire creativity in toddlers through stories, gallery activities, hands-on art, movement, and music.

We invite you to “meet” us in our virtual Zoom room and check our Facebook events for pre-Playdates preparation suggestions. Registration is limited to caregivers and toddlers aged 2 to 4 years.



Fiesta events will be June 17—27th. Check out the website for more information as it is available:

<https://fiestasanantonio.org/official-fiesta-event-calendar/>

There are always fun free events for families and children of all ages! Viva Fiesta!





APLC Church

Chapel Notes

I have truly been blessed with my experience of leading Chapel for your children. The joy in each face as they have listened to a Bible story, watched a puppet show, or sang and signed a song will be with me always. Our last puppet show for this year is May 12th. Julie and Sandy will share some ways that we can talk to God. Please plan to join us for Chapel on May 18th, as we honor and celebrate our PreK4 and PreK5 classes. May God bless them and their families as they move forward next year!

Love Mrs. Larsen



River of Life -
Vacation Bible
School



June 21-25 | 9:00-
12:00 pm

We are planning an **in-person VBS** week again this year with a journey down the river to learn about God's gracious gift of water. From the waters of baptism to the waters that sustain farms and gardens, water is life. But water is much more than a resource. For people of faith, water is a powerful symbol, with significance as deep as the natural stores that cover the globe.

In "**River of Life**," participants will learn about the importance of water and visit important "ports" during the week to hear Bible stories about water. They will also hear about communities working to restore watersheds, to protect rights to water and to ensure safe water for everyone. And they'll have some fun! The games and other activities help to celebrate water and remind us of our important calling to be good stewards of creation.

Signup on the church website:

Aplc.org

Participants (Age 4 –completed 5th grade)
Volunteers (Of any age)

Family Survey Results

Many thanks to the parents who took the time to return the Family Surveys. Your kind comments are very much appreciated. We had 34 out of 49 surveys distributed returned. As we looked over the surveys, we are pleased to report that parents were very happy with their experience at APLC. We had many challenges this school year and with your help and support—we were able to keep the school open and keep everyone safe. Below are a few comments from the questions asked.

Under "The Program"

Question 4. Followed the appropriate guidelines relating to Covid19? Comment: **"would have liked a more formal policy and transparent communication from administration."** A formal written policy was provided to all families in the Parent Handbook. We would be happy to address any other concerns about transparency at any time.

Comments: "The teachers, the staff and the ideologies are top notch. I would not send my children anywhere else. There is superb creativity, teaching of the whole child, children are free to explore safely and they feel loved and welcomed. And, they learn about God. Communication is wonderful." "Thank you for being cautious (and putting so many safety measures in place) during Covid. It helped me feel more comfortable sending my child to school during the pandemic. More Spanish, if possible!" "Super challenging year and you all performed above expectations!" "I appreciated having the one-on-one meeting to see the classroom ahead of time." (child orientation). "Very welcoming. Great newsletters & pictures. Very happy with safety protocols." "I feel like feedback is sensitive and kind and I welcome it because they seem to love my child too!" "I love getting photos and the updates. It makes me so happy. I love her going there and she loves it too!" "At this time, I feel your school is doing great and is best you can considering all circumstances." "Although we are new to the school, we have been made to feel very welcome."

Pizza Lunch

A pizza lunch will be provided to your child on the last day of school—Thursday, May 20th! You will be asked by each class to help with fruit to have in addition to the pizza. If your child does not eat pizza—please send a lunch with them. You will need to send their snack and water bottle as usual.



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Have a great summer!

