

Play, Play, Play!



By: Anne Bensinger

When my daughter, Melissa, was a student here at the WPPC Preschool, and I was working full time, when we got home she would say, "Mommy, Play, Play, Play!" I would say, "First work, work, work, THEN play, play, play." and this became a silly lifelong mantra we repeat to this day.

Why Play?

There is play for the purpose of specific learning at school – called **Purposeful Play**. This is the way your children learn to understand the concepts and attain the skills of our curriculum through Movement, Sensory Exploration, Manipulation of Materials, Construction, Role Play, and Expression and then there is play that is simply for relaxation, exercise, and just plain fun. Play needs to be safe and age appropriate, play needs to be a daily part of your child's life, play can be done indoors with toys and manipulative materials and art media, **but daily outdoor play is a MUST!**

Outdoor Play

The main purpose of outdoor play on a playground or open outdoor area is to build good health and large muscles. Young children need to MOVE and use their bodies to stay healthy and gain large muscle control and strength. The specific expectations for physical development are: *General Health, Growth & Stamina, Movement, Balance, Agility, Coordination, Strength, and Beginning Skills in Games & Sports.*

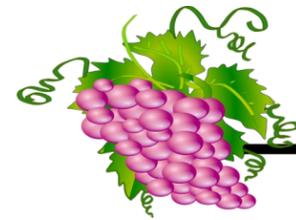
Each of our preschool classes schedule a minimum of 30 minutes daily for Outdoor Play, and often teachers will use the outside environment for locations of planned learning experiences that may be too "messy" for indoor use. The obvious benefits of playing outside are fresh air, sunshine, and space to move freely in gross motor activities. The less obvious ones are development of social skills as the children interact with each other, the development of mental skills as they interact with the natural environment, and the development of behavioral skills as they relax, run, and move to reduce tension and build skills in self-regulation for the times of indoor listening, attending, and learning.

Recess

There is currently a great deal of discussion in the public school arena about teaching young children with Developmentally Appropriate Practice or **DAP**. With the amount of formal standardized testing that takes place, and the very unfortunate need to seem to have to "teach to the test," many teachers of children up to third grade are feeling the need to forgo recess in order to get into the day as much academic work as possible so test scores are improved. Free, child-chosen, active, physical play is a must for young children. Listening, learning, attention, and behavior are all improved when little guys have the opportunity for this type of REAL recess.

Home Play

Play joyfully outdoors with your child every day. Aside from all the benefits mentioned above, the TIME SPENT TOGETHER OUTDOORS is one of the best investments you can make in the life of your child.



The Grapevine

Winter Park Presbyterian Preschool
400 South Lakemont Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32792
Phone 407-629-0727 www.winppc.org

SPRING

Clean-up Day

Saturday, April 7, 10AM-2PM



Spring Clean-up Day is right around the corner. If you would like to volunteer please contact your Room Parent or the preschool office. If you are not able to make it the day of, you can help by donating items needed for this day. Some building projects are planned for later dates that will also need volunteers. Jason Worley our Spring Clean-up chair has provided the attached flyer with more information. Free babysitting and pizza lunch will also be provided. Enclosed is a Spring Clean-up Day insert with information on projects and activities planned for this day, and for sign-up as a volunteer.

Spring Fling/Silent Auction Results



We are happy to announce that the totals from our Spring Fling/Silent Auction is \$10,500.00! Due to all the support from our families, teachers and the community, we have raised enough money to receive the \$10,000 grant from the Joe & Sarah Galloway Foundation. We plan to order the new Ark in the coming weeks!

This would not have been possible without all the wonderful parent, grandparent and teacher and student volunteers that helped us bring this event together! Thank you to Kimberly Stuart, Julie Gillespie, Kara McKean, Scott Stuart, Michal Yakar, Nicole Hamilton, Ashley Mitchell, Ryan Mitchell, Gretchen Raley, Touckay McCurdy, Eric Melymuk, Erin Varela, Eva Phillips, Ashley Ammon, Tiffany Adams, Mary Yeilding, Christine Statz, Katie Manning, Carol Latham, Julienne Guidera, Sophia Cuppy, Angelica Nassar, Ian & Zoe Bloodwell, Emma & Ethan Stuart. We want to thank all the amazing teachers and staff who helped prepare and run the Western theme areas and Silent Auction. We would also like to thank all of our sponsors who helped support this event. A special THANK YOU to Kimberly Stuart and Julie Gillespie who spent countless hours planning and executing this event. YOU ARE AMAZING!

Thank you to our Platinum Sponsor for supporting our school



Scholastic Book Fair Results

Our "Paws for Books" Spring Scholastic Book Fair sold \$2000.00 and earned \$700.00 in Scholastic Dollars! Thank you to all the families that supported our fair! We would also like to thank Lindsay Vermuth our Scholastic Chairperson who did an amazing job planning our Spirit Week as well as setting up, running and breaking down the fair. Thank you to all the book fair volunteers who assisted Lindsay in this endeavor; Elizabeth Papandreas, Kimberly Stuart, Julienne Guidera and other volunteers!

Church Page



Calling All Kids!

WPPC's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 31st from 9-11am. Tell your parents to mark their calendars NOW! The morning will begin at 9:00am with a Continental breakfast, followed by story time and some really fun Easter activities and visits to our six Easter centers. The hunt itself should be finished by 11:00am.



Holy Week Schedule for WPPC

Maundy Thursday, March 29 at 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday, April 1 at 6:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

WPPC Vacation Bible School—June 18-22—9:00am-Noon
Cokesbury's Rolling River Rampage

For more information, call/contact Emily Wasser
emilyw@winppc.org or 407-647-1467 or
visit our website to register online at winppc.org/vbs-registration-form/



Be a Part of Our Church Family!

It's easy! Just come to the front of the sanctuary after any service. Elders will be present to answer any questions you may have and Dr. Micheli will join us. You will let him know if this is the first time you are joining a church, if you're transferring your membership from another church, or if this is a reaffirmation of faith. It's that easy! Our next member luncheon is Sunday, April 8 right after church in the Parlor. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the front office at 407-647-1467.

For your information

Upcoming Events

Happy Easter! — Sunday, April 1

Spring Clean-up Day—Saturday, April 7—10am-2pm

PAC Meeting—Tuesday, April 10—9:30am

Butterfly Encounter—3s & VPK—Tues. April 17

Family Chapel—Wed., April 18—9:35-9:55am

Teacher Appreciation Week—April 30-May 4

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon—May 3—1:30pm — **No Extended Day**

PAC Meeting—Tuesday, May 8—9:30am

Mother's Tea Week—Mon., May 7-Fri., May 11

Last Family Chapel—Wed., May 9, 9:35am-9:55am

VPK Celebration—Wed., May 16, Chapel/F. Hall—Noon-1:00pm

Class Splash Parties Week—Mon., May 20-Fri., May 25

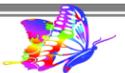
VPK Splash Party—Thursday, May 24

Memorial Day—No School—Monday, May 28

Last Day of School—**No Extended Day**



Earth Week Butterfly Encounter



On Tuesday, April 17, Mr. Lorenzo Zayas, an Entomologist from Nature's Way Butterfly Gardens, will come to our school and give a 30-minute interactive butterfly demonstration and encounter for 3s and VPK Classes. The cost is \$4.00 per child. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity you can go to his website: www.butterfliesandmore.net. You will also have the option of purchasing a butterfly kit for \$10 which includes one caterpillar, fresh food plant supply and instructions. Mr. Zayas will bring the kits the day of the presentation. More information will be going home in the coming days.

Three Summer Camp Opportunities

Move to the Groove with Alison Bodeep—3s, 4s and 5s

June 11-15, June 25-29 & July 2-6. 1:30-3:30pm

June 18-22—12:30-3:30pm (VBS participants bring lunch)

Afternoon Art Camp with Michal Yakar — Rising K-5th Graders

June 11-15, June 25-29 & July 2-6, 12:30-3:30pm

June 18-22—12:30-3:30pm (VBS participants bring lunch)

WPPP Summer Camp—15 months-5 years old

June 11-15, June 25-29, July 2-6, July 9-13, July 16-20, July 23-27