

FROM THE DESK OF ANNE BENSINGER, Education Coordinator

Mrs. B. here (hunkered down in the woods of Missouri). I would love nothing more than to be in Winter Park, meeting your children and working with our wonderful staff, but here we all are, in this strange situation living in bubbles and communicating by technology. Parenting in these times must be difficult. Here are some ideas and thoughts on getting through the holidays with preschoolers this year; some reminders about the facts of child behaviors (in any situation); and a bit of information about assessment, conferences, and "readiness".

Congratulations! You've made it to the winter holidays during a worldwide pandemic! Please use the season to give yourselves and your family the gift of relaxation. Your children are healthy. A vaccine is coming for our healthcare workers, your parents and grandparents. Celebrate the hope that this crisis will end and enjoy a low key family holiday experience. Know that your youngest children may enjoy the boxes, ribbons, and wrapping paper more than expensive toys and your older children may need a break from screen time and you may be unsettled and sad during this no-relative holiday. SO make forts out of the boxes; have wrapping paper-in-the-trash can basketball games; get outside for fresh air walks and bike rides; and thank your lucky stars you won't be cooking for fussy relatives.

Remember the "F Words"- Food, Fear, Frustration, & Fatigue. These are the reasons for unfortunate behaviors in all of us, but especially in young children. If you can eliminate or at least be aware of these things – hunger or too much unhealthy food; nervousness, over stimulation, and lack of sleep or quiet time – your holiday will go more smoothly.

Lastly, as we are getting ready for parent-teacher conferences and assessment of your children's strengths and needs, let's keep in mind that developmental milestones may be delayed this year because of our experiences with COVID. All of us have been through a time of extreme stress and young children feel our stress deeply. The formal assessments this year may show some differences. The most important thing to remember about early childhood development and learning is that "readiness" does NOT mean ABCs and 123s, but your children's ability to relax, ask for help when needed, make the right decisions about behavior, feel good about their strengths and make efforts to participate in experiences that will meet any developmental needs. We know that young children learn best through play, not by desk-work pencil-paper rote drill, so when you talk to your teacher about assessment, keep in mind that the purposeful play experiences they are enjoying are the best learning methods and each child has individual strengths that can be used to meet any developmental needs.

LIVING NATIVITY at WPPC

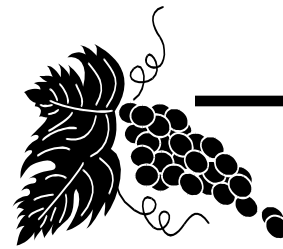
At a time when so much is being put off "until next year," Living Nativity at Winter Park Presbyterian Church persists. Living Nativity here at WPPC has become a time honored tradition with many families in the Winter Park area and we are proud to be able to continue on with this tradition and provide families with a retelling of the Nativity Story we all long to hear this time of the year, even knowing that it might look a bit different than in years past.



This year, instead of timed performances that draw big crowds, our Living Nativity will be broken up into tableaux that families can experience as they walk through our preschool and sanctuary area. Volunteers will be costumed, acting out some of the most important scenes from the Nativity Story. Christmas Music will play from the Carillon during the course of this event and Narration for the tableaux will be available as families walk by, experiencing the journey to Bethlehem at WPPC as they never have before.

Because of these adjustments the Living Nativity will be only one night, Saturday, December 19. We will begin to allow families inside at socially distanced intervals starting at 7:00pm. The last admittance will be at 8:00pm.

Living Nativity, much like this year, is going to be a bit different. But Christmas is an opportunity for us to rejoice in the things that we have and to wonder in all that we are capable of. We appreciate your support as we continue on in keeping this wonderful and beautiful tradition alive and well at WPPC. If you wish to volunteer for Living Nativity as a guide or an actor please get in touch with Emily Wasser immediately for details.



The Grapevine

Winter Park Presbyterian Preschool

400 South Lakemont Avenue

Winter Park, FL 32792

407-629-0727

www.winppc.org



2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION FORMS ARE COMING SOON!

Registration for the next school year will begin on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 for currently enrolled families. Forms will be sent home soon! Open registration will begin on Monday, February 1, 2021 to the public. The earlier you send in the registration form and fee, the more likely you are to get the placement you want for your child. **Prior to registration, your current balance must be paid in full, and your child's health and immunization forms must be up to date.** Please read the new registration form carefully as we have made some changes to our program.

We will not be doing in-person registration this year. Secure your child's space in the preschool for Fall 2021 by sending in the following items starting January 19:

- * Completed and signed Registration Form
- * \$220 **non-refundable** Registration Fee for one, two or three year old classes.
- * For VPK Plus only: half of the first month's tuition is due when you register. Five day VPK Plus deposit is \$115.00 and four day VPK Plus is \$90.00. This deposit is **non-refundable**.
- * For all VPK students: Signed State of Florida VPK Child Certificate of Eligibility

At the end of June we will mail a Welcome Packet and class placement for your child. The Welcome Packet forms must be filled out and returned with August tuition and the annual materials fee by July 21, 2021. VPK Plus parents will pay the other half of the first month's tuition by July 21. There is no materials fee for VPK.

Please call us at (407)629-0727 if you have any questions regarding registration. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2021-2022 school year!

Summer Camp Brochures will be available on our website winppc.org/preschool in February 2021. Our 6-week Summer Camp dates are as follows:
June 14-18, June 21-25, June 28-July 2, July 12-16, July 19-23, July 26-30



Winter/Spring Enrichments
12 week program beginning
Monday, January 25th

Classes for VPK Students
Soccer, Music & Movement, Mixed
Sports, Art, Gymnastics, Cooking,
Ballet, Nature

Classes for Threes
Soccer, Science, Mixed Sports, Music &
Movement, Gymnastics, Art, Nature

Class for Twos
Music & Movement

Early Drop Off and Extended Day
Additional Pre-Paid Options
for Spring 2021

It's time to sign up for extended day for the spring semester. We will now be offering 2- and 3-day early drop off and extended day prepaid options with our existing 4- and 5- day options.

You will be billed monthly for the entire semester. The perk for enrolling in the pre-paid plan is that the cost is \$6.00 per hour instead of \$7.00 cost for tickets. Also, you will not need to use coupons. If you purchase the 2:30 extended day plan and need to have your child to stay until 3:30pm occasionally, you would use a ticket for the last hour.



December/January Calendar Highlights

Christmas songs recorded (2s, 3s & VPK) — Dec. 7-16

PAC Meeting — Friday, Dec. 11 at 10:00am

Visit from Santa — Tuesday, Dec. 15 from 8:45-9:45am

WPPC Living Nativity — Saturday, Dec. 19 at 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Service — Families at 5:00pm & Traditional at 7:30pm

No School during Winter Break — Monday, Dec. 21-Friday, Jan. 1

Return to School — Monday, Jan. 4 **No Extended Day**

No School on Martin Luther King Jr. Day — Monday, Jan. 18

In-House Registration 2021-22 School Year — Tuesday, Jan. 19

Winter/Spring Enrichments (12 weeks) begin — Monday, Jan. 25

Open Registration 2021-22 School Year — Monday, February 1

No School during Parent-Teacher Conferences — Friday, Feb. 5th



The Giving Tree Fundraiser

The **Giving Tree fundraiser** is an easy opportunity for families to directly impact a specific school need (or want!) this year. The administration and teachers have provided a wish list of items tailored for outside activities that will greatly enhance our children's education. You may order items directly from the Amazon wish list to be delivered to the school as a gift from your family. Please address any monetary donations including cash or checks to our PAC Giving Tree Event Coordinator, Brandee Simoncini in care of the Preschool Office. Please make any checks payable to Brandee Simoncini. Brandee will use these donations to purchase items from the WPPP Amazon Wish List. **The Giving Tree fundraiser will run from December 3-18, 2020.**

Please use the link to the wish list below:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/RSZ7BFY69TDW?ref=wl_share

A wonderful bonus to helping the school this year is that donations are tax deductible! Please email wpppoffice@winppc.org when you have made a purchase so that they will be watching for the package, can provide your tax receipt and add your gift to the Giving Tree board that will be on display during car line.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Sincerely,

Lindsay Vermuth
 PAC Chairperson



Plan Ahead!

There will be NO EXTENDED DAY
on these dates:

Monday, January 4

The first day of school after
 Christmas Break

Friday, March 12

The last day before Spring Break

Friday, June 4

The last day of school



Thank you, Families!
The teachers and staff of WPPP
would like to say thank you to
all our amazing families who
have supported us this year!
May you have a
very merry Christmas and
a blessed New Year!