

FROM THE DESK OF ANNE BENSINGER, Education Coordinator



Hello Parents,

As we move into February, we begin to make decisions about our children's *Readiness* to move to the next phase of their preschool-kindergarten experience. *Readiness* is a term that is often misunderstood. Many parents think that *readiness* means having the Academic Skills of emergent literacy, math, science, and social studies mastered before the child moves ahead, but the Academic Skills are not the essence of readiness.

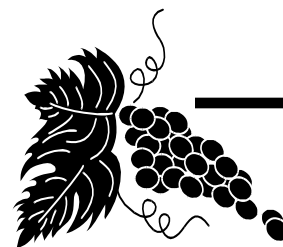
The achievement of the *Executive Functioning* skills are the best determinant of readiness and success in school (and life). They are: Independence: Determine what is needed, retrieve it, use it, and replace it without help. Attention: Listen and focus attention for a developmentally appropriate amount of time. SARRA: Select a work opportunity; Attempt to Accomplish the work; Repeat the work as needed; Reflect on the work through use of all media; and Apply the skills to new work. Comprehension: Understand what is said and follow directions. Memory: Recall and retain words, facts, and instructions. Speech: Speak understandably, increase vocabulary, and have conversations. Self-Awareness: Identify self in terms of age, ability, physicality, family & humanness. Self-Esteem: Have a positive view of self, show confidence, and be willing to try. Self-Control: Regulate behavior. Self-Expression: Express self through art, music, role play, spoken/written words.

These skills are gained through play, role play, problem-solving scenarios, work on group projects, memory and listening games, and opportunities for interaction, conversation, comparison, negotiation, laughter, and group movement with teachers and other students. Both Executive Functioning Skills and Academic Skills must be assessed when deciding on retention, but without having the Executive Function Skills, it is harder for the child to gain the Academic Skills or to have successful future school experience.

Parents can help children gain Executive Function skills by encouraging them to do things on their own, giving them simple chores, letting them solve their own problems, not answering every question, asking them open-ended questions, having daily personal conversations with them, letting them learn (safely) through mistakes without judgement, giving them appropriate ways to regulate behavior, and encouraging self-expression.

Both parents and teachers must be involved in decisions about retention, so we encourage you to understand the importance of the Executive Functioning Skills foremost and the Academic Skills in a slightly less vital but still necessary prerequisite for determining readiness.

The Grapevine



Winter Park Presbyterian Preschool

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Winter Park, FL 32792

407-629-0727

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Spring Clean-Up Day (Babysitting Provided!)

Saturday, February 25, 2023 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Our PAC committee is looking for volunteers that are available to help with our annual Spring Clean-Up Day. Babysitting will be provided by WPPP teachers. We plan on having childcare for children age two (by Sept. 1, 2022) and up. Snacks and lunch will also be provided for volunteers and their children.

Tasks involved include pressure washing, planting, spreading mulch, weeding, trimming, washing playground equipment, raking, painting tables in nature area, cleaning out sand boxes, washing windows, etc.

We will provide plenty of tools and supplies, but feel free to bring your own work gloves, rakes, trowels, garden shears, etc. **We are also asking for four families to lend us their pressure washers (and hoses to hook up pressure washers) for the day to help beautify our campus!**

You are welcome to stay as long as you are able. Every bit helps! Stay for an hour, or stay for the full day! Students looking for community service hours are welcome to join. The cleanup truly is a fun way to help out the school while also getting to know and build community with other parents and teachers from the school. Please sign up using the QR code below that links to our SignUpGenius. If you are unable to attend the Clean Up day and would still like to show your support, we would love for you to donate supplies through the SignUpGenius link.

If you have any questions contact Amanda Burke (email garrettnamanda@gmail.com or call 269-930-0679).

Name: _____ Email address: _____

Child's Classroom: _____ Childcare Needed? Yes _____ No _____

Number of children needing care _____ Age(s) _____ **(must be 2 as of 9/1/2022)**

If you are not available to join us on the day of this event, you are welcome to donate items for our cleanup and drop them off in the preschool office. Here are some of the things we need:

Snacks/Lunch/Water for Helpers Play Sand Seeds Mulch Clorox

Drought resistant flowering plants such as vincas Gift Cards from Target, Walmart, Lowes or Home Depot



PAC Upcoming Events

Class Valentine Amazon Wish Lists—February 14th

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, the PAC is hosting a Class Valentine "Wish List" via Amazon, a way to treat our teachers and classrooms to a special "Valentine". The teachers have provided wish lists of items for their classrooms. You may order items directly from Amazon using the class links via email. If families prefer to donate cash/checks and specify the donation is for a specific class, we will honor that too. Address monetary donations to WPPP. Courtney Pelfrey, PAC Special Event Chairperson. courtneypelfrey@gmail.com

Blaze Pizza—Thursday, February 16th—4pm-9pm

Raise Some Dough—Enjoy yourself and support our cause at a special fundraising event for WPPP. Join us at our School Spirit Night at Blaze Pizza-Winter Park, 501 N. Orlando Ave., WP. For Online orders use promo code 1189A. Blaze Pizza will donate 25% of proceeds to the school.

Spring Clean-up Day, Saturday, February 25th—9am-1pm

Our PAC committee is looking for volunteers that are available to help with our annual Spring Clean-Up Day. Babysitting will be provided by WPPP teachers. We plan on having childcare for children age two and up. Snacks and lunch will also be provided for volunteers and their children. **See front page.**

Family Breakfast—Monday & Tuesday, March 6 & 7—8am-9am

We would like to celebrate our fabulous moms and dads by hosting a breakfast with your student(s) and also provide an opportunity to connect with other preschool parents. **Check out "Save the Date" flyer attached.**

February/March Calendar Highlights

- Fri. Feb. 10—Kids Night Out—5:30pm-8:30pm
- Wed. Feb. 15—Family Chapel—9:40am-10:00pm
- Thurs. Feb. 16—Blaze Pizza—5pm-9pm
- **Mon., Feb. 20 — No School** on Presidents' Day
- Wed., Feb. 22—Patriot's Day Parade—12:45pm
- Sat. Feb. 25—Spring Clean-up Day—9am-1pm
- Mon. March 6—Parent's Breakfast—8am-9am
- Tues., March 7—Parents Breakfast—8am-9am
- Thurs., March 9—Last day before Spring Break—**No Extended Day**
- Sun., March 12—Daylight Savings Time
- Friday. March 10—Friday., March 17—Spring Break
- Mon., March 27—Friday, March 31—Scholastic Book Fair
- Wed., April 5 & Thurs., April 6—Katie Kaufman B&W Photos, Class Pix
- Fri., April 7—Good Friday—**No School**
- Sun., April 9—Easter Sunday



2023 SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS HERE!



Summer Camp registration drop off in office is Feb. 13!

We are offering six weeks of Summer Camp for ages 2—6.
Spaces are limited.

June 5-9—Under the Sea

June 12-16—Pirates & Princesses/Treasure Hunters

June 19-June 23—Wild Animal Adventures/Jungle Explorations

June 26-30—Fairy Tales/Enchanted Forest

July 3—7—Closed/No Camp This Week

July 10-14—Lost in Space/The Solar System

July 17-21—Nature/Camping Adventures



Summer Camp Hours: 9am-1pm and Extended Day 1pm-3:30pm

Patriot's Day Parade

Wednesday, February 22



Join us on Wednesday, February 22 at 12:45pm for our annual Patriot's Day Parade! All classes will be participating in this exciting event! Families & friends should arrive around 12:40pm and stand along the parade route to cheer the children on. The classes will go around two times. The parade begins outside the large VPK rooms and travels in a circle. Once the children return to their classrooms, parents can pick up their children in their classroom. We will not be having car circle on this day. We will have extended day. See you there!

Plan Ahead!

Mon. & Tues. March 6 & 7

Parent's Breakfast—8am-9am

Thursday, March 9—No Ext. Day

The last day before Spring Break

Friday, March 10—March 17

Spring Break!!

Sunday, March 12

Daylight Savings Time

Mon.—Fri., March 27-31

Scholastic Book Fair

