

Independent but Safe, Smart but Not Pushed, Ready but Remarkably Individualistic!

By Anne Bensinger, WPPP Education Coordinator

Some of the most important goals we have for teaching young children are to:

- develop their skills of independence while keeping them safe
- develop their skills of intelligence while using developmentally appropriate practice (DAP)
- develop their skills of "readiness" while not stifling their personal creativity and spirit

At school we want your child to be able to *Select, Act, Reflect, Repeat, and Apply* their learning (and we call this SARRA). Each child needs to be able to choose activities, play experiences and toys from an array of developmentally appropriate ones; participate in learning experiences; use gestures, words, art, conversation/discussion, and eventually writing to recall and express themselves about what they did; practice the skills as many times as they need to in order to feel comfortable with them; and finally put their learning to use in both traditional and original ways.

You can help your children with these important skills by encouraging them to make choices and decisions, find and procure what they need without assistance, try to take actions and do things for/by themselves rather than having an adult do for them, and allowing them to learn from those attempts (make mistakes) without judgement, critique or commandeering the tasks yourself. Here are some examples:

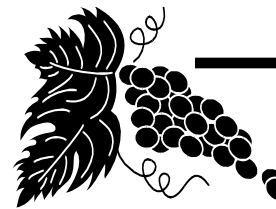
- **Ask babies and toddlers to use a word or two before giving them their juice.**
- **Allow Twos and Threes to choose what they will wear (from appropriate clothing).**
- **Encourage Fours and Fives to make simple decisions about their actions and include them in daily housekeeping chores and family events.**

Independence is vital to your child's development. To encourage this at school we ask your children to do everything for themselves that is developmentally appropriate for their age and abilities. Toddlers can feed themselves; Twos can carry their backpacks and put them away; Threes can clean up after snacks or meals and return their toys to original locations when they are finished playing; Fours can open their lunchboxes, their food and drink packages, set the table, and assist their friends with these things; Fives can take care of all their personal hygiene needs, have conversations at meal/snack time, and clean up after meals and play time.

It may seem easier to just do it yourself, but the quality of learning and the independence your child will gain will increase their intelligence and their readiness for the rest of their lives.

Front Lawn Area Rules

Classes and families have been enjoying our new fenced grassy area next to Dundee. We would like to share this space with parents as much as possible. This area is available for family use M & T from 1:00-1:15 p.m. and W-F from 1:00-1:30p.m. This space is used for after school enrichment classes on Mondays and Tuesdays, and afternoon extended day classes from 1:30pm-3:30 p.m. The gates are locked at 3:30 p.m. after extended day so we ask that you use the pine playground after this time. Thank you!



The Grapevine

FEBRUARY 2020

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



SHOP MIXED BAGS DESIGNS

to Support Winter Park Presbyterian Preschool

School Fundraiser ID: 73299 Fundraiser Dates: February 11-28, 2020

Please support us by participating in our Mixed Bag Designs Fundraiser. Browse through the beautiful collection of feel-good products for home and on-the go, including eco-friendly bags, everyday totes, and uncommonly good organizational items. Keep an eye out for the catalogs which will be given to students in the next week or so. Our Fundraiser kick-off is Tuesday, February 11. The last day to place your order is Friday, February 28. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards our security enhancements that we plan to have completed June 1st.

HOW TO ORDER

CATALOG ORDERS:

Collect money with the catalog orders: **Do NOT collect sales tax**

Turn in money and top copy of the order form to: **Your Teacher by Feb. 28th**

Make checks payable to: **Winter Park Presbyterian Preschool**

ONLINE ORDERS:

Your friends and family can order online using our School Fundraiser ID: 73299

or at: <http://www.mixedbagdesigns.com/winter-park-presbyterian-preschool>

Online orders only: \$75+ ship free and directly to anyone in the USA

Register and track your online orders at

<https://myfundraiser.mixedbagdesigns.com/sign-up/user-type>

QUESTIONS? Contact: Tricia Wilson triciaw@winppc.org



Classroom Highlights
The Little Foxes

Nora Sherwood Yurt, Ashley Wood and Karen Rengel



Hidden back in the corner of our school with easy access to the nature center is our Little Foxes two year old class. This busy group is always on the go. When they are not in their classroom they are moving around the campus, visiting the Nature Center/Butterfly Garden and other grassy areas or on the playground involved in many gross motor activities. We have three teachers in this room on most days to support this active class.

Nora Sherwood Yurt, our head teacher has also worked in different capacities over the past three years at our school. She assisted Karen Grady in the infant class and Jessica Pardo last year in a three year old class. Nora grew up in Denver, Colorado. Nora and her family moved to Florida in 2011. Nora received her AA degree in ECE from Seminole Community College. She is blessed to have her parents, a sister and a brother living nearby as they are a very close knit family. We want to congratulate Nora and her husband, Avery Yurt on their recent marriage on January 12th! Nora's hobbies are knitting, watercolor art and hanging out with her family. Nora's favorite thing about working with children is being able to have fun. She loves to watch the children grow and develop during the school year as she feels it is an incredible thing to witness.

Ashley Wood, the assistant teacher in the Foxes class joined our school as a floater in 2018. Ashley grew up in the Orlando/Winter Park area. She has worked in all the classes and with all ages. Ashley also worked in our Summer Camp program. She has the gift of organization and has assisted many teachers and office staff with cleaning and organizing cabinets, storage and workrooms. Ashley received a BA degree in Organizational Communication and a minor in Business at Rollins College. She also worked many years as teacher at a few of the YMCAs in this area. Ashley's main hobby is her jewelry business. Ashley's favorite thing about working with children is their big smile when they see her and when they run to her for a hug. She loves to see them learn something new for the first time and get excited about their accomplishment.

Karen Rengel, assistant teacher in the Foxes class has been at WPPP for 15 years. She joined our preschool as a teacher for summer camp in 2004. Karen was born in St. Louis, MO and grew up in New Orleans, LA. She worked as a registered nurse in Missouri and Louisiana. Later on she worked as a paraprofessional at OPCS schools. Karen has been married for 52 years! She has three wonderful daughters and three grandchildren. In her spare time Karen enjoys reading, sewing, pickleball and exercising. Karen loves the friendly family environment of the preschool. She thinks the children are so much fun and loves watching them develop and grow.



Patriot's Day Parade
Wednesday, February 19, 12:45 p.m. — No extended day

Please join us for our annual **Patriot's Day Parade**, Wednesday, February 19th, at 12:45 p.m. All classes will be in the parade. The children will have patriotic props that they have made and will march around the square where parents will be lining the sidewalks to take pictures and wave. After two or three times around the square the children will return to their classes for pick-up. There will be no extended day.

Announcements

Security Enhancement News

In the near future, we will be installing a keypad and buzz-in entry at the main preschool gate entrance. We will provide all families with the keypad number. This number can be used during preschool hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For visitors to our campus, we will also be installing a buzz-in type entry with camera. Our office staff members will have a visual of the person at the gate and can either buzz them in or ask for photo I.D. Please be sure to provide all people who will be picking up your child with the keypad number if they would need to walk to the classroom and pick up your child. We will continue to add security enhancements to our school as we receive money from either fundraisers, grants or donations. Thank you to all our wonderful families for supporting our school in a variety of ways.

The following is a list of this school year fundraisers and what we have raised to date:

- ⇒ Holiday Shoppe Breakfast with Santa & Cookie Jar Fundraiser - \$2300.00
- ⇒ Naturesvision Catalog Fundraiser - \$500.00
- ⇒ Mixed Bags Catalog fundraiser runs from February 11-28
- ⇒ Spring Fling & Silent Auction will be held April 4th

Spring Clean-up Day

Saturday, March 7, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Spring Clean-up Day is right around the corner. There will be opportunities for painting, pressure washing,, nature center upkeep, including staining fence & picnic tables, planting, weeding and replenishing garden boxes. If you would like to volunteer please contact Amanda Burke our Spring Clean-up Chairperson at garrettnamanda@gmail.com or go to the following Sign-up Genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4FAAAE28A7FF2-wppp1> You can also contact the preschool office. If you are not able to make it the day of, there are many other ways to help. You will receive a flyer and sign-up sheet soon with a list of activities planned for this day and donations. Needed. Free babysitters are available. Thank you for your support!

February/March Calendar Highlights

- ♦ **February 3** — In-house registration for 2020/2021 school year begins
- ♦ **February 10** — Open registration begins,
- ♦ **February 11** — Mixed Bags Fundraiser Kick-off
- ♦ **February 11** — PAC Meeting—Tuesday 9:30
- ♦ **February 12** — Family Chapel at 9:35
- ♦ **February 14** — Happy Valentine's Day!
- ♦ **February 17** — President's Day — **No school**
- ♦ **February 19** — Patriot's Day Parade — Wednesday — **No Extended Day**
- ♦ **March 2-6** — Scholastic Book Fair — open Monday-Friday
- ♦ **March 7** — Spring Clean-up Day-Saturday
- ♦ **March 10** — PAC Meeting—Tuesday 9:30
- ♦ **March 13-20** —Spring Break Friday, March 13-Friday, March 20 — **No school**
- ♦ **March 24 & 26** — Class Pictures—Tuesday & Thursday