

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

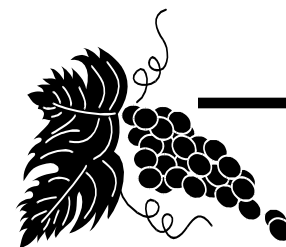
At school we want your child to be able to *Select, Act, Reflect, Repeat, and Apply* their learning (and we call this *SARRA*). Each child needs to be able to choose activities, play experiences and toys from an array of developmentally appropriate ones; participate in learning experiences; use gestures, 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.



The Grapevine

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Fall Registration 2021-2022

Registration Forms for the 2021-2022 school year will be sent home Monday, February 1. Please check your child’s backpack for this important information. We will not be doing in-person registration this year. Prior to registration your current balance must be paid in full, and your child’s health and immunization forms must be up to date.

Secure your child’s space in the preschool for Fall 2021 by sending in the following items:

- * **Completed and signed registration form**
- * **\$220.00 non-refundable** registration fee for one, two and/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 packet containing information for the new school year and class placement for your child. Please return all forms with August tuition and annual materials fee by July 21, 2021. VPK Plus parents will pay second half of 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. Open registration (for those who do not have a child currently enrolled in the preschool) begins February 8. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2021-2022 school year!

Summer Camp Registration 2021

Good News! Summer Camp flyers will be sent home the week of February 22nd. We are offering many exciting adventures for our campers this summer. Each week, along with the variety of themes offered, our focus is for the children to enjoy the outdoors and explore the wonders of nature including sand, dirt, bubbles, chalk, paint, water activities and other sensory experiences. Each age group will also be provided daily opportunities for music and movement, creating art masterpieces, playground experiences and outdoor games.

Summer Camp information will also be available on our website: winppc.org/preschool on February 22. Spaces are limited. Our 6-week Summer Camp dates are as follows:

- June 14-18**—Under The Sea
- June 21-25**—Making Music
- June 28-July 2**—Digging Dinosaurs
- July 12-16**—Nature Exploration
- July 19-23**—Animal Planet
- July 26-30**—Blast Off to Outer Space





Upcoming PAC Events



Kelly's Homemade Ice Cream Valentine Fundraiser Thursday, February 11 12:30pm-3:45pm

Families and teachers have enjoyed having Kelly's Ice Cream visit our school on two occasions so we have invited them back for a third time to celebrate Valentine's Day! Those who wish to participate will need to fill out the preorder form will be sent via "News from the Preschool" email and posted on the Winter Park Presbyterian Preschool Winter Park Facebook page. You will receive an invoice in 24-48 hours that will enable you to make your payment. The preschool will receive 20% of sales.

PAC Event Teacher Appreciation Week April 26-30

Our PAC is busy planning surprises for our wonderful teachers during their Teacher Appreciation week. If you would like to join in the fun with some awesome preschool parents, please email Kelly Seidl at kelly.seidl25@gmail.com



Virtual Scholastic Book Fair March 1-14

Our Spring Scholastic Book Fair will again be online as we are continuing to observe safety precautions for all families. Our online book fair is available from March 1-14. There are over 2,000 titles to choose from for all ages and ships directly to your home. Shipping is free when you order \$25.00 value in books. Thank you for supporting the preschool! To order online through the preschool homepage, please use the following URL:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/winterparkpresbyterianps>

Please be sure to add our school code **5066957** to your order to help us earn Scholastic Dollars! This program enables us to buy classroom materials, furnishings and BOOKS!



Announcements

PAC Spring Clean-up Day Saturday, March 6, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Spring Clean-up Day is right around the corner. There will be opportunities for painting tables, pressure washing, cleaning windows, nature center upkeep, raking, staining fence, planting, weeding and replenishing garden boxes.

Amanda Burke and Raisa Hitchcock our PAC Spring Clean-up Co-Chairs are in the planning stages and will be sending out more information soon. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Amanda and Raisa at gar-retnamanda@gmail.com and raisahitchcock@gmail.com. If you are not able to make it the day of, there are many other ways to help. You will receive a flyer and SignUpGenius information soon with a list of activities planned for this day and donations needed.

Thank you for your support!



February/March Calendar Highlights

- ♦ **February 1** — In-house registration for 2021/2022 school year begins
- ♦ **February 5** — Parent/Teacher Conferences — **Student holiday**
- ♦ **February 8** — Open registration begins
- ♦ **February 11** — Kelly's Ice Cream Fundraiser—Thursday from 12:30-3:45pm
- ♦ **February 12** — PAC Meeting via Zoom — Friday at 10:00am
- ♦ **February 14** — Happy Valentine's Day!
- ♦ **February 15** — President's Day — **No school**
- ♦ **February 22** — Summer Camp registration begins
- ♦ **March 1-14** — Virtual Scholastic Book Fair
- ♦ **March 6** — Spring Clean-up Day — Saturday from 9am-2pm
- ♦ **March 12** — Last day before Spring Break — **No extended day**
- ♦ **March 26** — PAC Meeting via Zoom — Friday at 10:00am
- ♦ **March 15-19** — **Spring Break** Monday, March 15 through Friday, March 19— **No school**
- ♦ **March 26** — PAC Meeting via Zoom — Friday at 10:00am

