

## MAY

Spring is here and I'm sure we will enjoy many beautiful mornings outside! Please do apply sunscreen to your children before sending them to school.



### TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

I think we have a terrific staff of professional, kind, Christian teachers. We will honor them with a special lunch and some other treats and gifts – it always feels good to be appreciated! So thank you to the room parents for helping with this celebration as well as to all the parents who contributed to this day!

### Calendar

May 8 & 9: Mother's Day Luncheons in the 2s

May 20 & 21: Noah's Ark Play in the 3s

May 27: School Closed for Memorial Day – Come march in the parade with us!

Last year we marched as a school for the first time. It was a fun way to show our school and community spirit. Soon I will send home details about marching with us this year.

### 2019-2020 School Year

We still have openings in some of our classes; so if you know of anyone who is looking for a great preschool and kindergarten, please send them this way! Thank you. I appreciate all the referrals you parents have given us in the past.

### Deposit for 2019-2020 School Year

The final deposit for next year is due May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you have any questions about your deposit. Your first tuition payment will be due on the first day of school in September.

### Mom's Prayer group

Calling all moms who live in New Providence and would like to meet regularly to pray for our preschool & elementary-aged children, their teachers and our schools. Two groups are forming in New Providence: an evening and a morning group, and both will run weekly or bi-weekly. If you are interested in learning more, please email Laura Kehoe: [LMKehoe@gmail.com](mailto:LMKehoe@gmail.com) or Autumn Hobbs: [Autumnfhobbs@yahoo.com](mailto:Autumnfhobbs@yahoo.com)

## Outreach Opportunity Continues - YoungLives

YoungLives is a ministry to teen moms. As you can imagine, these teen moms have many practical needs. One of these needs is for an **infant car seat**. If you have an infant car seat that has never been in an accident and would like to donate it to a young teen mom, please see Maury. Your donation will be greatly appreciated!

Thank you to everyone who has been **recycling plastic** here! We've collected over 100lbs. already! We need 500lbs. total to qualify for a Trex bench.

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True Confession – I'm a real Fixer Upper fan! Jenna Bush Hagar recently interviewed Joanna Gaines in Southern Living Magazine. I hope you enjoy these excerpts from their conversation about mothering:

*Jenna:* What does being a mom mean to you?

*Joanna:* Motherhood means everything to me. That's what wakes me up. It is my heart – these kids.

*Jenna:* What surprised you most about motherhood?

*Joanna:* How much they would affect me. You just think kids will fit into your life, and then I had these babies and didn't realize how they would have every string of my heart. Everything I do, from the moment I get into my car to drive to work, I'm thinking, "Did I do everything I could to make those kids know that love them?" I'm a segmented person, but there's not a moment when they're not in my mind. I never thought it would be like that.

*Jenna:* What were your parents' secrets?

*Joanna:* I remember at the end of any day, we would all be in the living room reading a book or just lying down, and we were listening to music together. There's something about music. It just makes me feel at home. That's something Chip and I do. We play music all day in the house. Each of the kids has their own favorite song. That's important to us. I want them to remember the smell of the candles that I always burn and the songs that we have playing. Home is such a sensory thing: the sights, the smells, the sounds, the emotions. We create those for our family.

*Jenna:* It's empowering that we can create this feeling that can change our kids.

*Joanna:* In the home, we can make sure that our kids' hearts are secure and strong. That way, when we send them out into the world, they feel ready for it and know how to take it in without it crushing them. We have to think about what we can do to keep them safe and assured. It's not easy, but this is what we are called to do.

*Jenna:* Any other takeaways?

*Joanna:* I want to be that person who encourages other moms. I remember those times when I was home and couldn't even take a shower. When you're on social media, you need to step back and say, "My life is going to look different." Celebrate others doing little and big things and celebrate yourself by saying, "This is what I was meant to do." I really want women to feel encouraged. Know that you are doing enough. Contentment is the goal and the greatest gift in life.

Maury