



## OCTOBER 2021

Welcome, Autumn! The children are settling into their new school routine quite nicely- thank you for everything you are doing to help in this adjustment process. New routines take time for both children and adults to establish. We all need grace in this process.

Author Shauna Niequist writes this:

“One of my best friends is a kindergarten teacher, & all through August, September & the beginning of October, this is her constant refrain.

She reminds all of us parents who are having a hard time getting into the swing of things, forgetting things left & right, despairing that we’ll never remember to write the sight words or wash the gym clothes or which day library books are due.

Six weeks, she says gently.

Six weeks.

It takes parents, teachers & kids six full weeks to get into a solid routine at the start of the year, & we all need to give & receive loads of grace, patience, & understanding in those first wobbly, exhausting, can’t-get-it-right weeks.

I hope that’s helpful for all of the parents & teachers & kids who are still in the fog of the first few weeks of school—we totally are.

And I think it applies to almost anything new in our lives—I think it takes about six weeks to get our sea legs in a new job or a new relationship, a new home or living situation.

If you’re newly just-about-anything, give yourself (& all parties involved) six weeks of extra grace, patience, & understanding as you weave your way—sometimes clumsily & sometimes beautifully—into whatever “new normal” looks like for you.”

**Health Screening** – Thank you for using this screening <https://form.typeform.com/to/eUIsSKGd> by 7:45 every school morning. It really helps the teachers be able to greet you and your child rather than ask you the questions.

### Parent’s Night – October 20

We hope that Parent’s Night will remain in-person this year with a dial-in option for those not attending. You will get more information in the coming days. But for now, here is the schedule:

<b>7-7:30</b>	<b>7:30-8</b>	<b>8-8:30</b>	<b>8:30-9</b>
TTh 3s	Pre-K	TTh 2s (Mrs. Clark)	Kindergarten
MWF/M-F 2	M-F 3s	MWF 4s	TTh2s (Mrs. McGurn)
M-Th/F 4s		MWF 3s	

## **Halloween at Preschool – Oct 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>**

We are excited to celebrate Halloween in school this year! Most of the children enjoy dressing up, but if your child doesn't want to wear a costume, that's ok! Please send the children to school in minimal costume attire that they will be comfortable wearing all day – perhaps just part of the costume! And please nothing scary/no costume masks! (face masks still required) Thank you.

**Pumpkin Patch** - (date pending) We will visit our school "pumpkin patch" and choose a pumpkin to bring home.

## **Important October Dates**

October 11 School Closed, Columbus Day

October 20 Parents' Night

## **Looking Ahead – November Dates**

November 4 & 5 School closed, NJEA Teacher Convention

November 22 & 23 Thanksgiving Celebrations (children only)

November 24-26 School closed, Thanksgiving Recess

**Flu Shots** Thank you to everyone who gave me their child's medical records. Please remember that all children between the ages of 6-59 months old must have a flu shot this autumn. If you choose not to have your child receive the flu shot, I need a note from you claiming medical or religious exemption. Children will not be allowed back in school in January without the shot or exemption documentation, as required by the state of New Jersey.

**Fire Drills and Lockdown Drills** As you know, we make every effort to keep your children safe while they are in our care. This includes having Fire and Lockdown Drills. Fire Drills occur at least once a month. Lockdown Drills occur at least twice a year. Our first Lockdown drill will be in January. When we have a Fire Drill, we tell the children, "Sometimes we have a drill where we practice leaving the building quickly." When we have a Lockdown Drill, we will tell the children, "Sometimes we have a drill where we practice staying in the building quietly." Teachers will respond to children's questions with age-appropriate answers. However, we will not engage in lengthy discussions but rather will direct the child to ask his/her parent these questions. We believe it is ultimately up to each family to determine how they want to handle these drill situations. In the past we have found that the children do not have many questions. But if you have any questions about these drills, do not hesitate to ask me.

## **October Outreach Opportunities:**

**Moms Helping Moms** - A BIG thank you to everyone who donated diapers during the drive-through diaper collection! 12,000 diapers were collected at this single event! Wow!! The diapers were really appreciated and will greatly help to alleviate diaper need.

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Coat Giveaway** - On Saturday November 6, 2021, Market Street Mission will be sponsoring their 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Coat Giveaway! Coats that are collected will be distributed to those in need in our community and surrounding areas. Please donate gently used or new winter coats, as well as new or homemade hats, gloves, or scarves. Collection dates are Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. A box for your generous donations will be located in the reception lobby inside the main church entrance.

Maury

*"The future is as bright as the promises of God." Adoniram Judson*

