



Arcola Christian Preschool

"Let the little children come to Me . . . for of such
is the kingdom of God."
(Luke 18:16 NKJV)

October 2020

Director's Note

October is almost here, and we've had a great time at Preschool so far. Your children have adjusted to their new classes very well. It is wonderful to hear the excitement in their voices in our classrooms and hallways once again. They are also doing a wonderful job with their masks!

I encourage you to take advantage of pick-up time to hear about their day while it is fresh in their minds. It is wonderful for them to have your undivided attention instead of competing with a cell phone or DVD playing in the car. If you create these good habits now, they'll still be telling you about their day when they are teenagers!

I've attached an article to help you "*Spark Creative Thinking with Open-Ended Questions*" when interacting with your child. Hopefully it sparks creative thinking in you too!

With the sun setting earlier, it is easier to get the kids to bed early. Sufficient sleep is one of the best ways to keep your children healthy during the upcoming cold and flu season and well rested children also have an easier time making good decisions at school. The children wash their hands several times during the day while they are at preschool and we encourage them to cough and sneeze into their elbow and wipe and blow their own noses. It would be great if you could reinforce those good habits at home. We're hoping everyone stays as healthy as possible!

I want to let you know that there will be two nearby construction projects that may affect traffic into and out of our parking lot soon. A new elementary school is being built and Arcola Mills Drive will be widened. Also, the food pantry is going to expand their building, so there may be extra vehicles in the back of the parking lot while that is happening.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at any time.


Barbara

BarbaraL@ArcolaChurch.org
703-327-7878 x222

Halloween

Although we will not have our usual field trip to and Halloween Parades this fall, we will still have lots of fun fall activities during our preschool days!

Teachers will ask for specific donations from parents for their classroom celebrations on October 30.

Arcola Church invites you to Trunk-or-Treat in the church parking lot on the evening of October 30. Children (and adults, if so desired), can wear their costumes and come out for a socially distanced experience; everyone will wear masks. You'll see decorated trunks, costumed volunteers and creative ways to receive 'treats'! Families will sign-up for a 30-minute slot to walk along the one-way path. I will send you that link as soon as it is available. 

Admin Notes

Carline Signs

Carline is going very well. Please try to hang your sign from your rearview mirror (a pants hanger works great) or put your sign in your side window (be careful not to put your window down while it's displayed there). We need to be able to easily see the child's name throughout the entire pickup process and **we cannot read the signs that are laying on the dashboard.**



Tuition

Tuition payments are **due the first of each month**. The best way to pay is on the preschool tuition payment page on our [website](#). You can also use bill pay through your bank but please allow at least a week for the check to be delivered. There is a \$25 late fee after the 5th of the month. We are a non-profit and rely on your timely payments to pay our staff and purchase supplies.

Absences

If your child is going to be out of school due to illness or travel, please email your child's teacher or the preschool office.

Odds and Ends

Please be sure to label all clothes, jackets, and school bags with your child's name. Many children do not recognize their own jackets when there are several others that look similar.

Classroom Notes

Snack

This year, the preschool will supply snack and/or ask for donations of specific snack items. Please send a small (around 12 oz), reusable water bottle each day that is easy for your child to open and close on their own. It should be filled with WATER ONLY and we are happy to fill it as needed so feel free to leave an empty one in their school bag.

Scholastic Books

Each month there are new book order fliers available at www.Scholastic.com/bookclubs. Books are a wonderful way to extend your child's learning and they also make great gifts! This month's **orders are due Friday, October 9** (so they'll arrive before Halloween). You can order online with the information below. Books will be delivered to the preschool and will be sent home with your child. Let me know if you prefer they are a surprise and I'll notify you when they arrive.

September order due date: 10/9/2020

Web address: scholastic.com/bookclubs

Class Activation Code: GZVWY



Arcola United Methodist Church

Pastor: Chris Riedel

Web site: www.arcolachurch.org

Sunday livestream worship: 8:30 & 11:00 am
on Facebook & www.arcolachurch.com/live

Stories in the Field – Outdoor gathering for all ages
@ 9:45am through mid-November

If you are interested in learning more about what is happening in the life of Arcola Church, please send me an e-mail (BarbaraL@ArcolaChurch.org) and I will have you added to the church newsletter e-mail distribution list.

Virtual Art Lesson

Keri Goodfriend is a member of Arcola's heART & Soul team and has a free weekly art lesson and read aloud story on YouTube called "Create with Ms. Keri". She said the lessons are most appropriate for PreK- 2nd grade and are about 20-25 minutes each. A new lesson will be posted each Monday morning through Christmas.

Goodfriend Art Studio

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA2DGI MPC69ti5JeoTjX9A>

Spark Creative Thinking with Open-Ended Questions

naeyc – Message in a Backpack

Pittsburgh Public Schools Early Childhood Coaches of 2016



It's easy to fall into a routine of asking your child simple questions. Many yes, no, or other one-word response questions are necessary – but to help your child learn and develop, open-ended questions are better.

Questions that ask children to share their ideas and feelings are much more engaging. They stimulate curiosity, inspire creativity, develop language skills, and build vocabulary.

Here are some prompts to help you build open-ended questions into your routine.

Questions for Science and Math Exploration

- Tell me about your _____.
- What would happen if you _____?
- What might you try instead?
- What does it look/feel/smell like?
- How did you figure that out?
- What else can this be used for?

Questions for Art and Dramatic Play

- Tell me about what you are doing/making.
- Tell me a story about your picture.
- Why did you choose to use _____?
- What can we make with these materials?
- What would happen if _____?
- If you were a doctor/dancer/firefighter, what tools would you need?

Questions for Reading Together

- What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
- Do you think _____ (main character) solved the problem in a good/bad way?
- If you were _____ (main character), what would you have done differently?
- What is another way this story should end?
Which character would you like to be friends with? Why?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?