



## Arcola Christian Preschool

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

# September 2020

### Director's Note

Welcome to a brand-new school year!

We are so thankful you have chosen to be part of the Arcola Christian Preschool family, especially during these challenging times! The staff is ready to welcome their new students after spending this past week preparing their classrooms. We can't wait to get to know your children throughout the school year. Thank you for entrusting us with their care.

Please make sure to check your child's school bag each day and take time to read the ACP and classroom newsletters. These will keep you informed of the happenings at our preschool. We also post the ACP monthly newsletter on the website for your reference.

This newsletter is a bit longer than we typically send home, but it is full of important information for the beginning of the school year.

We are a developmental preschool. That means your child will be involved in a variety of active learning experiences. You will not get a craft sent home every day and some things that are sent home may make you wonder, "What is this for?" Be assured that we are using age-appropriate methods of instruction to help your child build a strong foundation for learning.

The preschool staff has been praying for your children as they have been preparing their classrooms, newsletters, and lesson plans. We've attached a back-to-school blessing tag to each child's bag (unless you

attend Arcola Church and already got one from the Sunday school drive-thru kick-off) to remind them that the people of Arcola Church and the staff of the preschool have and will continue to pray for them.

I've attached a couple things to this newsletter. First is the **Health Survey**. There should be enough copies for each day this month. I suggest keeping them in your car so you can have one ready to hand a staff member each day at drop off. Second is some information about typical childhood development that many parents view as a good resource. If you would like to discuss any of it, please let me know.

My children are grown, but I remember their preschool days fondly and hope you will do the same one day. My grown son works and lives close by and my daughter is a senior year at James Madison University, so I feel especially blessed to fill my days around your joyful little ones!

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

*Barbara*

[BarbaraL@ArcolaChurch.org](mailto:BarbaraL@ArcolaChurch.org)

703-327-7878 x222

### NEW Procedures

Many of you are returning families to ACP or chose our preschool under "normal" circumstances. As you know, the pandemic has forced us to put some new measures in place. These include:

- All families must use the Carline
- Health Survey and Temperature check at drop-off
- No parents/visitors allowed inside the building
- All staff will wear masks
- All children will wear masks at drop-off and pick-up, at a minimum
- One-way hallways during the school day
- Extra outdoor time (you'll notice the tent on the field for extra shade on warmer fall days)
- ACP will provide snack
- Children are asked to bring a small water bottle (around 12 oz) that we can refill as needed. (Water only!)
- Days are structured a little differently to allow for social distancing when possible and more outdoor time – two things experts say help prevent the spread of the virus

## **Admin Notes**

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. We are a non-profit and rely on your timely payments to pay our staff and purchase supplies.

### **Parent Orientation**

It was nice to see those of you who attended our Zoom Parent Orientation. Most of the information that was discussed can be found in the Parent Handbook. Our goal is to provide a joyful first school experience for the children and prepare them for further schooling by exposing them to many different developmentally appropriate and active learning opportunities. If you missed the orientation or have questions about this, please don't hesitate to e-mail or call me.

### **Rosters**

I will e-mail you an updated copy of your child's class roster next week. Don't forget to let me know if you've noticed any errors so I can get those corrected before resending the rosters. These can be helpful for setting up play dates, sharing information, etc. Please remember that these rosters are for preschool use only and the information is not to be used for your business purposes.

### **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.

## **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 refill as needed.

### **Masks**

All children must wear a mask during drop-off and pick-up at a minimum. It might be helpful to have an extra in their school bag just in case.

### **Outdoor Time**

We plan to spend extra time outside this year so you may want to apply bug spray and sunscreen on your child before leaving home.

### **Clothing**

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

Please send in an extra set of clothing to be kept at school for your child. Occasionally, accidents and spills happen.

### **Socks and Sneakers**

Those flip-flops are adorable.  
Your sandals are so cute.  
And you look very stylish  
In your clogs and cowboy boots.

But when you're on the playground,  
Where there's dirt and mulch and rocks,  
The safest things for you to wear  
Are sneakers and some socks!

The mulch can scratch your ankles.  
The rocks can stub your toes.  
You might take a tumble  
And bop your little nose!

Your teachers want to keep you safe.  
We think you're very sweet.  
So please wear socks and sneakers  
To protect your little feet!

## **Arrival and Dismissal**

All families must use the carline this year. We will begin the arrival carline at 9:25 each morning. Dismissal carline will begin at 12:15pm.

There is a map of carline on the back page of the online [Parent Handbook](#). Please keep the following in mind to help our carline run smoothly and safely:

- Stay in your car
- Do not use your cell phone
- Turn off electronic devices when you get in line (movies, games on phone or iPads, etc.)

Upon arrival, staff will open your child's door, you will hand them the completed health survey and they will take your child's temperature before helping them out to walk into their class. Please do not pull away until their temperature is taken.

It is best if preschool children are on the passenger side of the car so our staff can easily unbuckle them or if they can easily get to the passenger side to get out of the vehicle.

For dismissal, please hang your carline sign from the rearview mirror with a pant or skirt hanger so it is easy for us to see throughout the entire pickup process.



Staff will put your child into your car; **however, it is the responsibility of the driver to fasten safety belts.** If a child requires assistance in fastening his/her car seat belt, please pull into a vacant parking space to secure him/her properly. This helps keep the carline moving smoothly. Thank you for your cooperation. Please make sure to share our carline procedures with anyone who transports your child – nannies, grandparents, friends, etc.

## Scholastic Books

Does your child love books? Reading to your child is the most important thing you can do to help them succeed in school. If you would like to purchase books for your child and help our school earn FREE books with every order, go to [www.scholastic.com/readingclub](http://www.scholastic.com/readingclub). Each month, new flyers will be posted. Please take a few moments to explore the selection together and let your child help choose books he or she is excited to read. Our school deadline is posted, and you can safely order online. Thank you for supporting your child's reading both at home and in the classroom! Your books will ship directly to our preschool and we will send them home with your child.

PS: Please let me know if your order includes a surprise for your child, and I will contact you when it arrives instead of sending it home with your child!

**September order due date: 9/18/2020**

**Web address:** [scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://scholastic.com/bookclubs)

**Class Activation Code:** GZVWY

### **Arcola United Methodist Church**

**Pastor:** Chris Riedel

**Web site:** [www.arcolachurch.org](http://www.arcolachurch.org)

**Sunday livestream worship:** 8 & 11:00 am

**"Stories in the Field"** – Outdoor gathering for all ages @ 9:45am beginning September 13

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](mailto:BarbaraL@ArcolaChurch.org)) and I will have you added to the church newsletter e-mail distribution list.