



Arcola Christian Preschool

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

November 2020

Director's Note

I'm smiling at your children and you all the time! ☺ We are so happy to spend our days with your children, but I know you can't see that happiness at drop-off and pick-up because we are wearing masks to keep everyone safe. I hope you can feel it though!

We've made it to November! During this month of Thanksgiving, I want to thank you all for your support and cooperation to help this unique school year operate smoothly. We realize things don't look the same as they always have but one thing that hasn't changed is that we put the needs and safety of your children first. We appreciate your flexibility!

This is such a special month. The colorful fall trees, blue sky, and cooler weather remind us of God's amazing creations. It is fun to watch the children take every opportunity to hear the "crunch" of the fallen leaves and it's wonderful to see how they are enjoying many new experiences and making new friends. They have adapted well to their classes and new routine.

I've attached two great fliers for you. "Spending Time Outdoors with Your Child" and "Everyday Shapes" both give examples of how to incorporate learning into your everyday experiences with your child.

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

Barbara

BarbaraL@ArcolaChurch.org
703-327-7878 x222

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Due to the restriction on visitors entering the preschool, we will not have our typical fall parent/teacher conferences this year. Instead, the teachers will write an individual update for each child and send it home in their school bag during the first week of November. If you feel like you need to talk to your child's

teacher, please let her know and we can arrange a time during the preschool day for her to call you.

Snacks

Now that we have settled into the school year, we'd like to invite families to resume the usual snack rotation beginning this month. Please see the details on the next page. Unsafe and unacceptable snacks will be returned home.

Please continue to send a small, reusable, empty water bottle each day. We will fill it with water.

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 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.

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, November 6** (so they'll arrive before Thanksgiving). 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: 11/6/2020

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.



Snack Guidelines

Now that we've settled into the school year, we'd like to invite families to resume the usual snack rotation beginning in November. Your child's teacher will send home a snack schedule with their newsletter each month. If you are unable to participate, please let me know and we will provide a back-up snack on your child's assigned day(s). We always have back-up snacks available in the case of an absence.

Important Notes –

- Snacks need to be in a sealed bag/package with a label we can read, or be fruit we can cut up. Individual bags are not necessary; we will send leftovers home.
- We are a PEANUT and TREE NUT FREE preschool. We cannot serve items that contain nuts or have been manufactured or processed in a facility that also uses nuts.
- We will wash and cut-up any fruit, so please do not do that at home.
- We typically serve a carb & a fruit or cheese
- Snack is currently 'picnic style,' so please stick to the following list (nothing that requires spoons/forks) when choosing what to send:
 - Goldfish
 - Pretzels (double check the label, some brands are tricky)
 - Crackers (Club, Ritz)
 - Pirate's Booty
 - Veggie Straws
 - Scooby Snacks
 - Teddy Grahams
 - Cheese-Its
 - Non-juicy 'finger' fruits (apples, oranges, clementines, mandarins, pears, strawberries, bananas)
 - Applesauce pouches (not cups)
 - Cheese (Babybel, string cheese, cheese sticks)

The children always look forward to sharing their favorite snacks with their classmates, so we look forward to the return of this routine. If you have a question about something not on this list, please check with your child's teacher.

Spending Time Outdoors with Your Child

Add a short walk to your evening routine. After dinner and dishes, hit the pavement. Look up at the stars, keep an ear out for sounds of the night, tell a story about when you were young, and listen while your child tells you about his or her day.

Plant, tend, and harvest flowers or vegetables. You can plant seeds or plants in a container (pot, window box, bucket, or even a trash can) in your yard or a neighborhood garden plot. Your preschooler will enjoy digging, weeding, and watching the plants flourish. You could grow salad—cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, and lettuce—or plant flowers that grow to different heights, like marigolds and sunflowers.

Enjoy all kinds of weather. Try to go outdoors, regardless of weather conditions. Plan short activities when it is very cold or hot; enjoy more outside time when the weather is fine. Preschoolers love walking in the rain; just be sure to wear waterproof boots and hooded raincoats. Layers are important on cold days—as you get warmer you can take off a jacket, hat, or mittens. In summertime be sure everyone wears a sun hat and sunscreen and drinks plenty of water.



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Our class goes outdoors as often as possible. The children run, swing, climb, ride trikes, pull wagons, go for walks, and kick and throw balls. They also do many of the activities we enjoy inside, like reading, painting, doing puzzles, eating snack, and making music. We believe that almost anything children do indoors can be an outdoor activity too. Family time outdoors benefits children and parents.

Play games. Share the games you played when you were a child, like hopscotch, jacks, Simon Says, and charades. Play board games on a picnic table or blanket. Introduce skills preschoolers will one day use to play sports, such as kicking or dribbling a ball or hitting a foam ball back and forth using light rackets.

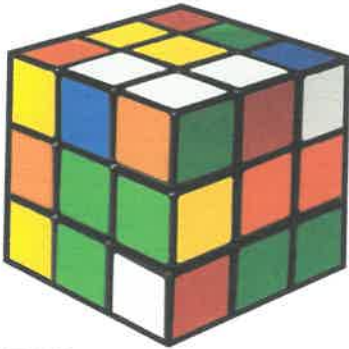
Enjoy the nature all around you. Whether they live on farms or in apartments, children need experiences in the natural world. Point out the nature all around you—new leaves on trees in the spring, bugs living under a rock or in a decaying tree stump, birds flying from bush to bush. Go strawberry or apple picking or visit a park, nature center, or farmers' market. Bring along nature guides, paper, crayons, measuring tools, containers, a magnifying glass, and binoculars so you can help your child become an enthusiastic nature investigator.



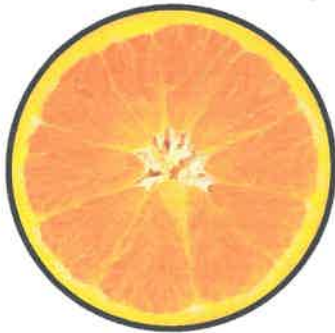
Tell us about the fun and learning you and your child enjoy outdoors.
We will share your ideas with our classroom community.

A message from your child's teacher

Everyday Shapes



In our classroom the children learn about shapes in many daily activities. You can help children identify, create, name, and take apart shapes during your regular routines, activities, and discussions at home. Here are some ways to help your preschooler focus on what makes shapes alike and different.



On the road

When you see a yield sign, point out that it has three sides. When you see a school crossing sign, invite your child to count the sides (there are five). Look for other shapes, such as rectangular doors and round manhole covers.

At home

The recycling bin is full of things you can use to talk about two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes. *What shape is the paper towel roll? You're right, it's a cylinder. We flattened the cereal box so now it's a 2-D shape. When it was still full of cereal, it was a 3-D shape. How would you describe the oatmeal container?*

At the store

Soup cans are cylinders. Oranges are spheres. What holds ice cream? *An ice cream cone!* You and your child can play a game while grocery shopping: How many different shapes can you find? Have your child help place items on the conveyor belt, then compare the items you're buying. *The cheese and the bag of carrots are both orange. Which one is shorter? We got a watermelon and a kiwi. How are they alike? How are they different?*

Making shapes

Provide playdough (find a simple recipe online) and tools your child can use to make all kinds of shapes. Your child can turn a long rolled snake into a square or a triangle. Count the sides together. Next your child can make a ball—or in math terms, a sphere.

A message from your child's teacher _____