



Arcola Christian Preschool

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

October 2018

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. In the classrooms we will begin to discuss the changing seasons which always reminds us of God's many blessings.

As I walk down the hall each day and pop into the classrooms, I get to hear the children's excited voices and they can't wait to show me what they are doing. I hope you are taking 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!

Check out *A Letter to Parents on Blocks* attached to this newsletter to learn what kind of skills your child is learning from playing with blocks and how you can support their learning.

Remember to check your child's school bag each day for notes or special projects they may bring home. There are a lot of fun events coming up. Fall field trip information is attached to this newsletter.

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. 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 to 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!

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

Barbara

BarbaraL@ArcolaChurch.org
703-327-7878 x222

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 inform 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

Halloween Parades

All classes will participate in our annual Halloween parades on October 30 & 31.  Please bring your child to preschool at the usual time of 9:30am (morning classes) or 12:45pm (afternoon classes) in their costume (**no pretend weapons – guns, knives, swords, etc.**). You can use the carline or walk in for drop off that day. Parents will proceed to the Great Room and the parades will begin promptly at 9:45am and 1pm. Following the parade, we ask that you help your child out of their costume and take it home with you so we can resume a "normal" preschool day. It is not unusual for some children to be overwhelmed by the schedule change and the parade. If your child gets upset and would rather sit with you to watch, that's perfectly fine.

Snack

All snacks must be nut free – that includes peanuts and tree nuts. **This policy applies to all snacks to be consumed at the preschool, including those brought in for celebrations, as well as items to be sent home with the children in goody bags.**

We cannot serve items that have been processed or packaged in a facility that also processes or packages peanut products. Snacks must be store bought with labels we can read and be unopened. We will send home the leftovers, but we have no way of knowing if the items inside have come into contact with nuts if the package is open. Since this can be an airborne allergen, we need to be as cautious as possible. **Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all our students safe.** We will send home any snack that doesn't meet our guidelines.

We serve water to drink so there is no need to send in any other beverage. Due to the choking hazard, we prefer to not serve grapes (cutting them into safe sizes can be time consuming).

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 dash board.**



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 12.** 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: 10/12/2018
Web address: scholastic.com/bookclubs
Class Activation Code: GZVWY



Upcoming events at Arcola Church



Check out our church website for more information about Arcola church as well as upcoming groups and events. We would love to see you!

Moms with Littles

Join us for "Moms with Littles" [on Thursday, October 4 at 9:30am](#)! This is a group for moms of babies through preschool age children. We'll drink coffee and nibble on snacks, discuss scripture and pray for each other. This year we will also follow along with the devotional book [Pressing Pause: 100 Quiet Moments for Moms to Meet with Jesus](#). Come meet other Arcola moms and share the joys and challenges of motherhood! Register [online](#) and contact [Rachel Kears](#) with any questions.

Refill Wednesdays

This year the Arcola Diner will transition to Refill Wednesdays, an opportunity for our congregation to gather together in community! There will be a prepared meal served by an Arcola small group the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month starting October 3 at 6pm. Please **Register Below by Monday** before the event so that we can plan accordingly. All are welcome!
<https://arcolachurch.org/event/1163991-2018-10-03-refill-wednesdays/>

Dates with a Purpose

Go on a date with your spouse the third Saturday of each month. (Saturday, October 20 this month.) Before you go, join a group at the church at 6pm for a 20 minute discussion on ways to improve your marriage. Childcare is available with reservation. Go online for more information and to register.
<https://arcolachurch.org/event/819836-2018-10-20-dates-with-a-purpose/>

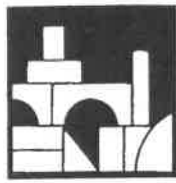
Arcola United Methodist Church

Pastor: Chris Riedel

Web site: www.arcolachurch.org

Sunday worship times: 8:00 (beginning Oct. 7),
9:15 & 11:00 am

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.



A Letter to Parents on Blocks

What We Do and Why

Blocks, the hard wood units that come in proportional sizes and shapes, are one of the most valuable learning materials in our classroom. When they build with blocks, children learn about sizes and shapes, spatial relationships, math concepts, and problem solving. When children lift, shove, stack, and move blocks, they learn about weight and size. Each time they use blocks, they are making decisions about how to build a structure or solve a construction problem.

When children build with blocks in the classroom, we encourage them to talk about what they are doing. For example, we might say:

- “Tell me about your building.”
- “How did you decide to put those blocks together?”

We also ask questions that help children extend their thinking about their block play. For example, we might say:

- “You built a tall apartment house. How do the people get to their floor?”
- “How many blocks do you think it will take to fill up that space?”
- “Where do people park their cars when they come to visit the shopping center?”

These questions and comments are designed to help the children become aware of what they are doing and think of ways to extend their work.

What You Can Do at Home

Hardwood unit blocks are expensive, but there are several other types of blocks you might want to have at home to support your child’s learning. For example, you might wish to purchase table blocks, colored wooden cube blocks, or cardboard brick blocks.

Small blocks can be stored in shoe boxes or plastic tubs and containers. You can put a picture label on the container so your child knows where these materials belong. Identify a place where your child can build and play with the blocks, either on the floor or a table. As your child builds with the blocks, you can talk about the structure and ask questions. Props such as clothespins, small plastic animals, and cars and trucks will extend your child’s play and inspire new ideas. Playing with large or small blocks, your child can learn to:

- judge distance, space, and size,
- create scenes for dramatic play,
- stack blocks carefully (using eye-hand coordination and small muscle control),
- compare and sort by size and shape, and
- use words to describe a construction.

Perhaps the most important contribution you can make to your child’s learning through blocks is to take an interest in what your child does, both at home and at school. We welcome you to visit the classroom at any time so you can see for yourself how much your child is learning.