



Jacob's Ladder Cooperative Christian Preschool
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August 1, 2011

Dear Families,



Director's Ditty: *Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you: were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.* (Psalm 40:5)

Having just returned from a mission trip to Guatemala, I can honestly attest to the feelings expressed in this verse. My mind is still trying to wrap itself around the two weeks of relationship building with Mayan youth, Guatemalan families, and our own team members. Our team will be gathering in the next few weeks to process "lessons learned," but I am ready to share the top of my list: "Acts of faith left in God's hands will progress according to God's plan in God's time, in ways far beyond our wildest dreams."

This is the time of year when serious work begins for the preschool year: class assignments are being made, goals set, curriculum ordered, lesson plans written, budgets aligned, and events calendared. Our families and staff have pre-conceived ideas of how the year will unfold and they have extended great trust in each other. But experience has proven over and over that we can never anticipate the love and grace of God as He miraculously meets the individual needs of our children and those who love and work with them.

We are thankful for the opportunity to be in partnership with you, Nolensville First United Methodist Church, and God as we lay plans, move forward in trust, and put our faith in Him. Let us commit together to pray for the preschool, our families and our staff.

Terri



School Notes:

August 1 - Immunization records are due. We require a current medical form at the start of each school year. Please ask your pediatrician for their official form. Students must have this form in their file prior to the start of classes! This is a state requirement as well as our own Board policy. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation as we safeguard the health of our students and staff.

August 17 – Parent Information Evening, 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. This meeting for adults only is extremely important as we will be reviewing the Parent Handbook. We ask that one or both parents attend. The handbook is on line, and may be downloaded by going to www.nolensvilleumc.org and then click on the Jacob's Ladder logo. Under the prompt for application is a prompt for handbook. The updated 2011 handbook will be available on line after the 1st of August.



August 23, 24, 25 – 9:00 to Noon Meet Your Teacher Days. Appointments for your family will be set during Parent Information Evening so that each family

will have an individual time with their teacher. We ask that only the parent and the Jacob's Ladder student come to Meet Your Teacher. Beginning school is such an important milestone for 3-5 year olds, and we want it to be special.

Backpacks will be provided for children the first day of school. This year we have dyed cloth bags and imprinted them with the Jacob's Ladder logo. They are just the right size for their file folder, and will be easy for them to handle.



Each year I reprint this article to help parents help their child be emotionally ready for the first days of school:



Pediatric Ponderings Separation Anxiety

Starting preschool is a rite of passage that can be anxiety provoking for both parents and children. Separating from their parents can be frightening for some young children but at the same time is an important skill to master in order to develop autonomy and self-identity. Preparing your child (and yourself) for this adventure is important for success.

Begin by talking about the school your child will attend and the different activities that will take place. Tour the school beforehand and let your child meet the teacher. Discuss drop-off and pickup, reassuring your child that you will return for him/her. Try to have some "practice" play dates without you present so your child will develop confidence about being left alone and being picked-up.

On the first day of school, take your child into their classroom, or go through the school drop off procedure; reassure him or her that you will return to pick them up, kiss them good-bye and then LEAVE. Try not to look back, and above all do not go back if (when) your child begins to cry. If you return to the class it will just prolong the crying. Trust the teachers to be able to handle these difficult moments. Most of the time the crying last just 5-10 minutes and then the tears tapers off. Be prepared for crying at drop-off for 2-3 weeks but it will diminish and soon your child will enter the classroom excitedly and full of confidence.

We thank Dr. Phyllis Townsend, of Pediatric Associates of Franklin, for contributing this timely article to our newsletter.

And now that we have given some very useful and practical advice for helping your child cope with the first day of school, let me invite moms to a **"Boo-Hoo" Breakfast** on Tuesday, August 30, at 8:45. We offer this time of fellowship so that moms who are new to the program can feel the support of those who have experience with our program. There will be a sign-up sheet in the classrooms during Meet Your Teacher Days.

