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**March 2018**

*“He is not here. He is risen!” Matthew 28:6*

**Read Across America!:** On March 1st and 2nd, we celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday with a special event called “Read Across America”. On Thursday, we had guest readers who shared a new book with each class. These books became part of the CCPA library. On Friday, our staff came dressed as favorite children’s storybook characters. You may have seen the likes of Pete the Cat, Madeline, the Rainbow Fish, and lots of others! We had a great time reading with your children! What a fun day!

Did you know that one of the most powerful skills beginning readers can develop is the ability to “read” the pictures? Encourage your child to tell a story by looking at the pictures of a storybook. After they have told you the story, go back and read the book together, noting the similarities and differences. Beginning readers use pictures to help decode language and to learn clues about the context of the story.

**Pastries for Parents:** We would like to invite you to join your child on March 15th or 16th for a special breakfast--honoring you! We will be having our Pastries for Parents breakfast on the 15th and 16th at 9:15 a.m. in the FLC (big gym). The children will sing a song for you, share some gifts, and welcome you to a breakfast of pastries, fruit, and coffee or tea. Your child’s teacher has all the details—please RSVP with your child’s teacher so we can plan appropriately. Thank you!

**Chapel News:** We are entering a busy time in chapel! We will be talking about the Easter story over the next few weeks. You may know that we have a special Palm Parade in chapel the week before Palm Sunday. As we approach Easter, we will be focusing on how wonderful it is that Jesus brings new life, and that everything is possible with God.

We have also begun to work on a two-month outreach project that will end at the end of April. As many of you know, CCPA sponsors a child in Africa. Our sponsored child, Roseline, lives in Burkina Faso with her family. The children will be learning a bit about Roseline’s life, how we can help her, and creating a Family Fun Day, scheduled for 10-12 p.m. on April 20th, to raise money for Roseline’s sponsorship. We will be brainstorming with the children regarding the types of activities they would like to plan, create, or participate in to raise money for Roseline. Family Fun Day is a highlight of each year, and we look forward to sharing this outreach with you!

**Upcoming Practice Drills:** Social services regulations require licensed preschool programs such as ours to complete a yearly “shelter in place” drill, where we practice what to do in a severe weather situation, and an intruder drill. These drills assist us in making sure everyone in the school is prepared for emergency situations.

Unfortunately, it is necessary for schools to practice an intruder drill. The procedures of this drill are fairly simple and involve the staff covering windows, locking doors, and gathering children quietly in a safe corner of the room for a couple of minutes. Prior to this drill, your child’s teacher may speak to him or her about the purpose of the drill (to keep us safe no matter what). It is our goal that every child feels safe at school. We will do our best to keep these conversations appropriate and NOT scary. However, we feel it is important for you to be aware these conversations will be taking place and this drill will be happening, so that you have all the information to talk with your child should they have any questions or bring up this topic. Our intruder drill is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21st, at 9:15 a.m.

Our shelter-in-place drill will occur on Wednesday, March 28th, at 9:15 a.m. This drill allows us to practice for taking shelter in safe spaces during severe weather. Since spring is upon us, I would just like to take a minute to remind you that if there is a severe weather warning, it is **critical** to take shelter immediately. Warnings indicate that there is a tornado on the ground nearby. Should a warning occur at dropoff or pickup, everyone in the building will be expected to enter a safe sheltering area and stay there until the warning is over. Please know that during a warning we can NOT greet or dismiss children; all teachers, children, and parents present will be sheltering in a safe space until the warning expires. If you arrive during a warning, and the preschool door is locked, please enter through the church handicapped door and take shelter in one of the restrooms just past the preschool door, to your left. We will resume greeting and dismissing children when the warning has expired.

**Why are Preschool Programs CLOSED this Friday, March 9th?** Did you know that social services requires your child’s teacher to receive several hours of professional development each year? One of the opportunities offered to our teachers is the option to attend the statewide conference for early childhood education, known as vaaeyc. Several of our teachers will be traveling to Fredericksburg to attend a day of the conference on Friday. This year, two of our teachers, Ms. Melissa and Ms. Roberta, will be presenting information to other teachers about the academic and developmental benefits of outreach projects. It is an honor to be chosen as a presenter, and we are thrilled for them to have this opportunity! We all look forward to coming back with some new ideas and knowledge about great teaching practices. If you would like to learn more about vaaeyc or the conference, please see www.vaaeyc.org.

**Help Keep Us Healthy:** Help everyone stay healthy by following DHS licensing regulations for sick children. If your child is running a fever, vomiting, has diarrhea, a rash, or colored drainage/discharge, please keep your child home from school. *This is one of the best ways to help everyone stay healthy!* Children can return to school when they have been symptom- and fever-free for 24 hours **without the aid of medication.** As a reminder, if your child appears to be not feeling well and is unable to participate in regular activities, we will call you to pick him or her up as well. Please remember that, as stated in our handbook, sick children should be picked up within the hour. We truly appreciate your cooperation with this issue! In addition, we will happily accept donations of sanitizing wipes, Clorox anywhere spray, tissues, hand sanitizer, and Lysol. Thank you so much for considering us.

**Summer Camps**: It’s hard to believe, but summer camps are around the corner! Our preschool summer camp is fine arts camp that is tons of fun! We focus on a variety of children’s authors and illustrators as we explore different artistic styles and good ole summer experiences! Summer camps begin on June 4th and will run throughout the summer. Our camp themes will be two weeks, but you can register for just a week if you would prefer. Preschool camp hours are 9:00-12:00, Monday through Friday, with extended care hours running from 7:00-9:00 and noon until six p.m.

Do you have a school age child? We are offering a fine arts camp for young elementary students as well! We will be drawing inspiration from authors of chapter books appropriate for this age and exploring a variety of techniques!

Registration for summer camps will begin on Monday, April 16th.

**Church Happenings:**  As we are in the season of Lent, we have several events coming up to prepare us for Easter! There is an Easter cantata at the 11:15 service on March 18th. Breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt are scheduled for March 24th, at 9 a.m. Holy Thursday service will be at 7 p.m. on March 29th, and there is a Good Friday service at 7 p.m. on the 30th. Easter services include a sunrise service at 6:30; traditional worship at 8:30; and contemporary services at 9:45 and 11:00 a.m.

**Important Dates:**

March 9th Professional Development--CCPA Preschool Programs CLOSED

March 15th & 16th Pastries for Parents @ 9:15

March 18th Easter Cantata, 11:15 service

March 19th & 20th Picture Viewing – 8:30-10:00 & 12:00-1:00

March 21st Intruder Drill, 9:15

March 24th Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt @ 9:00

March 25th Palm Sunday

March 28th Shelter in place drill, 9:15

March 29th Holy Thursday service, 7:00 p.m.

March 30th Good Friday—CCPA Programs CLOSED

 Good Friday service, 7:00 p.m.

April 1st Easter Sunday—services at 6:30, 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00

April 2nd-6th Spring Break—NO PRESCHOOL—Extended Care ONLY

April 16th-20th Week of the Young Child

April 20th Family Fun Day, 10-12; NO PRESCHOOL—Extended Care ONLY