



412-963-8885 ext. 302 www.stjosephohara.com

ST. JOSEPH PRESCHOOL

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2019

WELCOME!

Welcome back to all of our returning students and a warm welcome to our many new children. We are ready to provide a warm, nurturing environment with many opportunities for exploration and growth for your children.



One of the many rewards of working at St. Joseph's is the opportunity to get to know the children and their families. We welcome your involvement and suggestions. If there is any way we can help you, or if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask.

PRESCHOOL STAFF

Director – Nancy M. Whistler

Teachers – Nancy M. Whistler, Ann Jeffrey (Shooting Stars); Alison Ritter (Blue Big Dippers); Monika Culleiton (Red Big Dippers, Little Dippers)

Teacher's Assistants – Ruth Hidek, Anne Clump, Kara Agens, Denise Robertson, Cindy Gray, Erin Modena & Lacey Martinez

Professional Assistant – Terri Weir

OUR CLASS NAMES

Two Year Olds – Little Dippers

Three Year Olds – Red Big Dippers (two-day class)

Three Year Olds - Blue Big Dippers (three-day class)

Four Year Olds – Shooting Stars (Mrs. Whistler, Mrs. Ann)

SEPTEMBER THEME

Our main objective this month will be to help the children become comfortable at school and familiar with routines. All of our classes will follow the themes of "Making Friends", "I Am Special", and "Families and Friends".

The Big Dippers will also discuss the concepts of big and little, and enjoy some favorite nursery rhymes.

The Shooting Stars will talk about apples and the letters A, B and C. Both the Big Dippers and Shooting Stars will also celebrate the birthday of everyone's favorite Big Red Dog, Clifford.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

On Tuesday, September 18 (Red Big Dippers and Shooting Stars) and Wednesday, September 19 (Little Dippers and Blue Big Dippers) the children will have the opportunity to have their portrait taken. Proofs and ordering information will be sent home approximately two weeks after picture day.

CHANGE OF CLOTHES & BACKPACKS

We would appreciate it if you would send in a change of clothes for your child. If an accident or spill should occur, your child will feel more comfortable in his/her own clothes. Please send them in a bag marked with your child's name. Parents of the Little Dippers who are not potty trained should send extra diapers. Please bring your child to school in a clean, dry diaper or pull-up. If your child uses the potty, please encourage them to use the bathroom at home prior to arrival at school.

It is also very helpful if your child brings a **full-sized** book bag or backpack to school each day. Please be sure to label the bag with your child's name, and check the bag daily to remove projects and other information we may send home.

ST. JOSEPH PRESCHOOL T-SHIRTS

Our Preschool T-shirts are available for \$9.00 for children's sizes and \$11.00 for adult sizes. The shirts will be imprinted with our preschool logo. The color will be turquoise. Please note that the shirts are **optional**; there is no obligation. You may still use the green T-shirts if previously purchased. The Big Dippers and Shooting Stars wear them on field trips, but it is not required. Order forms are available in the office. Deadline to order is **September 12**. We anticipate delivery prior to our first field trip.

TUITION

Tuition should be paid PRIOR to the start of the month (Oct. due **by** end of Sept., etc.) Checks should be made payable to **St. Joseph Parish**. You may send in the tuition (in an envelope) with your child in his/her backpack, or give it to any of the preschool staff.

HANDBOOK

All families should have received our handbook. Please read it carefully. The book contains important information about our program, including special dates, weather cancellation policy, etc. If you did not receive a handbook, please contact the office.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB
September orders are due on or before
September 19.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL (Big Dippers & Shooting Stars)

Beginning on **Wednesday, September 4**, we will use our drop off and pick up procedure. Please bring your child promptly at his/her class time. When dropping off your child, please proceed halfway down the driveway and turn left towards the front school doors (second left). A staff person will open the car door (passenger side) and escort your child to their 'cubbies' where they will hang their backpack, etc. If your child has a hard time separating and will not leave the car safely, please pull around and park in the *parking lot* and escort your child into the building. ***There is no parking in the fire lane (yellow curbs).***

At dismissal, please follow the same procedure; display your child's name card (distributed at student orientation) in the front passenger window of your car. As you drive up to the doors, we will escort your child to your car. ***Do not leave your car while in the pick up line.***

Please let us know if someone other than yourself will be picking up your child.

Little Dippers – As your child becomes familiar with the routine of school, you may advise us if you would like to utilize the drop off and pick up procedure. Otherwise, please park in the parking lot and accompany your child into the classroom.

THANK YOU...

- ★ To all who signed up at Orientation to help with cutting materials, fundraising and making playdough.

SNACKS AND PAPER PRODUCTS

When it is your snack day, we hope that you can stay as our parent-of-the-day. You will need to provide a snack and drink for the entire class*. Please provide peanut-free snacks. Presently, the number of children in each class is as follows:

Little Dippers - 10

Blue Big Dippers – 15

Shooting Stars: Mrs. Whistler – 12 / Mrs. Ann - 12

**Not applicable for Red Big Dippers, as they bring their own lunch. There are 8 children in the Red Big Dippers.*

We would appreciate it if each **family** (not per child) would make a **one-time donation of \$8.00** to help defray the cost of napkins and other supplies for the year. Please send this money **in an envelope marked with your child's name and labeled "paper products"**. Extra donated snacks are always welcome. Thank you!

Occasionally, the snack may be determined by the theme of the day. On these days, we may be cooking or baking in class. You will receive advance notice of these days, so that you can provide the ingredients for our treat, along with a drink, rather than a prepared snack.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We wish the following children a very happy September birthday:

Samantha Bowles - September 2

Sienna Bonaroti – September 12

James Bamberg - September 18

Bruno Conte - September 22



EXTENDED DAY WEDNESDAYS

Our first Extended Day Wednesday will be **September 11**. If your child will be staying, please let us know by Monday, Sept. 9. The cost is \$20.00, 11:30am-2:00pm.



PITTSBURGH ZOO FIELD TRIP

The Big Dippers will be taking a field trip to the Zoo on Tuesday, October 8. They will be attending a 45-minute hands-on class at the Zoo, after which we will tour the rest of the zoo. The fee is \$10.00 per person. Permission forms will be sent home later this month.

FIELD TRIP TO HARVEST VALLEY FARMS



We have made arrangements for our Shooting Stars to visit Harvest Valley Farms on Tuesday, October 8. We will visit the pumpkin patch, see and pet the animals, and enjoy other fall activities. We will meet at Harvest Valley Farms at 9:45am. We will dismiss from the Farm around 12:00pm. Please wear your St. Joseph Preschool T-shirt, or any blue or green T-shirt. Be sure any other clothing and footwear is appropriate for a hayride and picking pumpkins in a field. The cost of the trip is \$8.00 per preschooler and sibling; adults and babes in arms are free. Permission slips will be sent home soon.

KIDSTUFF COUPON BOOK

We are selling KidStuff Coupon books, packed with hundreds of coupons for area retailers, services and more. The books will sell for \$25. There is also an app that is included in the purchase price. We will also be emailing you our unique link that you can share with family and friends to order online. Our preschool will get 50% of each book sold. There is no obligation - simply return the book to preschool if you are not interested.



Welcome To St. Joseph Preschool!

SHOOTING STARS INFORMATION:

COLOR AND LETTER DAYS - Each month you will see a color day indicated on the calendar. If possible, please encourage your child to wear the designated color on that day. On Letter Days, please have your child bring an object or picture beginning with that letter; for example, Letter A Day –Airplane. Items are returned the same day.

BOOK OF FRIENDS - The Shooting Stars will be creating a “Book of Friends”. We will ask each child to draw a self-portrait and tell us something about himself/herself. When we have the book completed, the children will have the opportunity to take it home and share with his/her family, and then return for the next child to share.

SHARING BAG - We will be sending home a small tote bag on a rotating basis with the Shooting Stars. When your child brings home the bag, please help him or her to choose 1 item to bring to show to his/her classmates. The item will be returned the same day.



SAM THE BEAR - Each of the Shooting Stars will have the opportunity to take home our class bear on a rotating basis. Sam travels with a suitcase of clothes and a journal. You are encouraged to write an account of Sam’s visit to your home in your child’s own words. A few sentences are sufficient. You might encourage your child to draw or write their own message, or take a photo of him. When your child returns Sam to school, we will read the journal. This helps to reinforce the home-school connection, and encourages your child to express their thoughts through drawing or “writing” and public speaking. Please use only one sheet of paper per visit, as the papers will be sent home at the end of the year.

RED & BLUE BIG DIPPERS INFORMATION:

STAR OF THE WEEK (All Big Dippers) - The Big Dippers will take turns being the ‘Star of the Week’. The chosen child will have a bulletin board display detailing his/her favorites – color, foods, etc. - along with a picture of the child. All of these activities will be done in school.

GYM DAYS (All Big Dippers) - Gym Days will be noted on our monthly calendars. On Gym Days, please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for physical activity – i.e. no dresses, sandals, etc. We also ask that you send in a case of small water bottles for the year.

COLOR AND NUMBER DAYS (All Big Dippers) - Each month you will see a color day indicated on the calendar. If possible, please encourage your child to wear the designated color on that day. Big Dippers should also bring a **small, non-returnable** picture or item of that color, which will become part of our class collage. On **Number Days**, the Big Dippers should bring in the amount of objects (of a similar type) for the number that we are studying; for example, on Number 5 Day, he/she could bring in 5 Matchbox cars, or 5 coloring books. The items will be returned the same day.

Additional Information - RED BIG DIPPERS

Special Treat Days - Occasionally, we may be baking or creating a treat in class based on our theme of the day. If you are scheduled as parent-of-the-day on one of these days, you will be asked to provide the ingredients for the treat. A note will be sent home with your child in advance when this is the case.

Birthdays - On the day your child is celebrating his or her birthday, you are welcome to bring in a special treat for the class, if you wish.

Extended Day Wednesdays – Your child is welcome to participate in our Extended Day Wednesdays program, even though they do not attend school on Wednesdays. You may drop off your child at 11:30am at the preschool entrance; pick up is at 2:00pm. The fee is \$20.00. If your child would like to participate, please let us know by Monday of the week your child is staying.

Parties – On party days (Halloween, Christmas, Valentine’s and Easter) the time of the parties will be announced prior to the party.