

Stargazer

January 2025



We would like to welcome all our preschoolers and their families back to preschool after an extended winter break! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a great start to 2025. It is so hard to believe that the first half of the school year is already over. We are looking forward to the rest of the school year filled with lots of fun and learning.



Chapel will be held on Wednesday, January 15th at 9:15 AM for the W/F Caterpillars, Bumblebees, M/W/F Butterflies and AM Dragonflies. The PM Dragonflies will attend chapel at 1:00 PM. The T/TH Caterpillars, T/TH Butterflies and Fireflies will attend chapel on Thursday, January 16th at 9:15 AM. This month the children will hear the story, "If Jesus Came to Visit Me." What if Jesus came to visit - just for a day? This delightful book supposes just that and reflects on the ways in which young children might interact with Jesus. What would they say and how would they act. Pastor Robert will tell the children the Bible story about Zacchaeus.



Preschool will be closed on Monday, January 20th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Preschool Registration



Registration for the 2025-2026 school year for returning students and siblings will begin on Monday, January 13th and conclude on Friday, January 17th. Registration information regarding fees, tuition and schedule of classes will go home on Monday, January 13th.



Thank you so much for your generous toy donations to Cole's Closet. Each year Cole's Closet in partnership with LCSO fills "closets" for children at local hospitals.

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."
Hebrews 13:16



Parent-Teacher conferences will be held in February. You will be able to sign up via Signup Genius in a few weeks. Conferencing allows parents and teachers to meet face-to-face. Most people can express themselves more completely and openly in person because misunderstandings and misconceptions can be more quickly clarified in face-to-face meetings by asking follow-up questions and elaborating on specific points. We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and learn how your child is developing.

Here is the schedule:

Monday, February 3rd - M/W/F Butterflies
Tuesday, February 4th - T/TH Butterflies
Wednesday, February 5th - AM Dragonflies
Thursday, February 6th - AM/PM Dragonflies
Friday, February 7th - W/F Caterpillars & Fireflies
Tuesday, February 11th - T/TH Caterpillars & Bumblebees



Thank you so much for the fun Christmas parties that you planned for us last month. The children had a great time. Our Valentine's Day parties are scheduled for February 12th through February 14th. Check with your child's teacher regarding the day for your child's class party.



Bare branches, swirling snowflakes, and early darkness. Warm boots, snug hats, and bright mittens. Holiday celebrations, sledding, and football. Winter is here!

Young children will best understand winter as a time when certain changes take place around them and particular events, activities, and holidays occur. This month the children will learn that:

- Winter is the season between fall and spring.
- In winter, the weather turns colder. It snows in many places and rains in others.
- Animals adapt to the cold weather by hibernating, migrating, growing thicker fur, or storing food.
- To prepare for winter, some plants drop their leaves. Others die back to the roots or die completely.
- People wear warmer clothing and heat their homes and cars.
- People enjoy a variety of activities, sports, and holidays during winter.



Each January Celebration Preschool holds an Open House for parents who are interested in learning more about the preschool and the registration process for the following school year. This year's Open House will be held on Wednesday, January 15th at 6:30 PM. Parents will be able to tour the preschool and the teachers will share a little bit about all of the exciting activities that happen in their classrooms. I can also give tours of the preschool if parents prefer. If you know of anyone who might be interested in learning more about Celebration please tell them to visit our website at www.celebrationpreschool.net or email the preschool office at bshapbell@ashburnpresbyterian.org for more information.



BOOKS TO KEEP YOU WARM

Early reading experiences prepare children to become lifelong readers. Your child will enjoy these wonderful books that describe the winter season.

The First Day of Winter by Denise Fleming

This book follows the same pattern as the holiday song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," only in this version, it repeats, "On the first day of winter my best friend gave to me" It's told from the snowman's point of view, and at the end of the book, the snowman is finished and ready for winter.

Winter Lullaby by Diane White

This story is about a little bear questioning why it needs to go to bed for the winter when all the other animals appear to be awake and up. But, gently mama bear explains that each animal will find shelter for the winter and they need to do the same. For when it is spring, they will wake up together.

Tracks in the Snow by Wong Herbert Yee

This is a simple story of a little girl following the tracks in the snow. Who do they belong to?



Our annual International Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, January 23rd at 5:30 PM. This is a potluck dinner that is always a lot of fun. Invitations will go home in a few days. We ask each family to provide a main dish, side dish or desert to share with another family. Your food item can represent your family's culture or something that your family enjoys eating. A sign-up will be posted by your child's attendance book starting on Monday, January 13th.



Providing opportunities for gross motor play is an important component of our daily schedule. Gross motor skills are movements that involve using the large muscles of the body. As children age, their gross motor abilities continue to develop and improve. Children rely on gross motor skills to engage in physical play. We are very fortunate that we have Pickell Hall to use on days when the weather is not conducive for outside play. There are some weather conditions that we consider before taking the children outside. The "feel like" temperature must be above 32 degrees. When we have extended periods of rain or melting snow the playground becomes quite saturated as the ground covering is mulch. Sometimes we have to let the playground "dry out" in order to provide our preschoolers with an environment that provides for their health and safety.

When to Keep Your Child Home from Preschool

When children spend time close together, germs can spread between them. Knowing when to keep your child home sick from preschool helps protect other children from illness. It can also give your child a chance to get extra rest they may need to recover.

Viruses responsible for colds or the flu cause the most common sicknesses in preschool. Even through your child has had immunizations, they can still get sick with colds, sore throats, coughs, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Any child with respiratory illness symptoms (cough, runny nose, or sore throat) and a fever should not attend preschool. Our sick policy states that children need to be free of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine), vomiting, and diarrhea for 24 hours before they can return to preschool.

Our expectation is that children should feel well enough to participate in classroom activities. We are unable to exclude anyone from the daily activities. We appreciate your understanding as we work together in keeping all of our preschoolers and staff safe and healthy!