

SEPTEMBER 2011

SONSHINE TIMES

Sonshine Christian Preschool
Harvey Oaks Baptist Church

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Welcome!!!

We welcome you and your children to the start of the 2011-2012 school year, it's going to be a year full of fun and exciting learning experiences!

With our first few weeks underway, many parents have questions regarding separation anxiety. This is actually the number one concern most parents have, so know you are not alone :) Believe it or not, separation anxiety is natural. It is a sign that your child has developed a healthy attachment to you.

Here are some tips to make it easier, the 3 "C"

Be Confident: If you are nervous about leaving your preschooler they will sense it and your anxiety will heighten their fear, stay calm and reassure them that they are safe.

Be Consistent: Doing the same routine every time you drop your preschooler off at preschooler will teach them to trust the routine, easing the fear of the unexpected. A quick hug/kiss and an "I Love You and I will see you after school" is a great way to say goodbye!

Cries Happen: Most of our tears last only minutes after you leave and stop altogether by the first month. Your child will soon learn that each goodbye is followed by your happy return. It won't be long before "I don't want to go to preschool" turns into "I'm not ready to leave!"

Going Green

In an effort to become more environmentally friendly, we will reduce waste by limiting the amount of hard copy handout, letters, flyers; expect to see communication via website, emails, and yes, even, facebook!

Need to contact a teacher directly, use our new email addresses...

Office: Sonshinecp@gmail.com

Mrs. Huntington: Huntington@sonshinechristianpreschool.org

Ms. Rishel: Rishel@sonshinechristianpreschool.org

Mrs. Dickens: Dickens@sonshinechristianpreschool.org

Mrs. Waller: Waller@sonshinechristianpreschool.org

Mrs. Logan: Logan@sonshinechristianpreschool.org

Please make sure all enrollment forms are filled out and returned to the office by September 30th. All immunization records must be filled out by hand. You can find all these forms on our website under the registration tab.

Scholastic Book Orders are now Online!

One of the greatest gifts you can provide to your child is the gift of reading!

Scholastic offers a great selection of books for every reading level! Every time you order a book online, Sonshine collects points to purchase books for our library here at school. Just click on the link on our website and register. Use the code H6LN9 to link your account to Sonshine. September's deadline is the 28th.

Smart Real Food Snacks

“Food impacts how well a child’s brain works, affecting their moods and abilities... In a child’s brain junk food can cause neurotransmitters, which pass along information, to function improperly. Smart foods, however, allow information to be processed correctly and help the child function at their optimal level.” -Dr. Sears.

Here is a great list of safe nut-free snacks for school...

fresh fruits and vegetables

triscuits

cheese

yogurt

applesauce

raisins

dried fruit

rice cakes

wheat crackers

whole grain cereal

These are just suggestions, so be creative!

And of course, cupcakes are always welcomed when celebrating birthdays :)

September Calendar...

September 21: Bike Day (MWF and 5-Day)

September 23: Bag-n-Save field trip (5-Day)

September 23: B is for Breakfast, wear your PJ's (MWF class only)

September 30: B is for Breakfast, wear your PJ's (5-Day)

Look ahead to October...

October 3-5: Picture Day... SMILE

October 5: C is for Costume (5-Day only)

October 11: Bag-n-Save field trip (5-Day) shhh ;)

October 12-14: No School

October 27-28: Fall Festival 10:30-11:30

October 28: Date Night with Daddy (MWF and 5-Day)

A CLASSROOM GLANCE!

The **Wednesday** toddlers were ready to go and it has been a lot of fun. They've made some real feasts in the kitchen and our babies have gotten to go on lots of walks in the strollers. We read D.W.'s Guide to Preschool at circle time and saw many of the same things we have in our own school! D.W. got to make a macaroni collage in our story, and we did, too. The children insisted they get to squirt their own glue and did a great job getting it all over their papers before adding their pasta. This activity lasted a long time, and everyone worked very deliberately on their pictures. This week as we learned God created everything, we made day and night pictures. Looking ahead, we will be focusing on the color red, apples, knowing that God made us special, and our favorite books. We'll get to do a lot of painting this year and it's always fun to use new and different items to paint with. We'll use large brushes as well as rubber worms in the coming weeks. We'll learn the song "Yum Yum, Don't You Know I Love Apples" and we'll be using the flannel board at circle time as well as having it available in our book area.

Some reminders: Picture day is Oct. 5. We will keep our messes to a minimum, so feel free to have the children wear their picture clothes. We are going to try to spend time out on the playground until it gets too cold, so please make sure that you send your child's jacket with them and label them with their names so we can keep track of them. Thank you!

Our **Tuesday** toddlers are off to a great start! They have done a lot of exploring and not one toy has gone un-played with :) The weather has been great for lots of time outside and it has been fun to watch as the children dump and pour in the sandbox, climb on the tower, and rock on the horses. We had our first Tuesday art project this past week. Everyone took a turn painting "water" with blue and green and "land" with brown paint made bumpy with the addition of sand. We love to display the children's art, so if you don't see something come home, check to see if it is decorating our room or halls, as this project is! In the weeks ahead, we will be talking about the color red, apples, how God made us special, and some of our favorite books. Painting was a big hit with this group and we will plan on painting our own apple tree as well as painting with glue when we make our red collage. We will get some additional small motor practice when we color with crayons. The kids already have some favorite songs (the better!) and we will be adding "The Rainbow Song" and "I am Special" to the catalogue soon!

Some reminders: Picture day is Oct. 4. That's the morning we're sticking to crayons, so feel free to wear your picture clothes. Also, we will be trying to get onto the playground as long into fall/winter as we can, so make sure you send a jacket with your child those chilly mornings. Especially early in the year, not everyone recognizes their coats, so please make sure they are labelled with their names for us. Thanks!

The **Thursday** toddlers seem to be having a lot of fun at school! We celebrated the first day of Thursday class by singing "The Wheels on the Bus" and then making our own school bus collages. We didn't get to see any buses when we were out on the playground, but it was very exciting to hear the trains and see the motorcycles, planes and trucks that went by school. The children have seemed to enjoy Dillon's house. Going in and out the doors, relaxing on the rocking chair, and looking though all the toys housed inside has kept them very busy! We love having the children come up to us to show us the new, fun things they've found as they play. Fall is just around the corner, but it was great to have some warmer days to get to play in the water table. Filling, pouring and splashing has made for a lot of smiles!

Our Thursday crew can look forward to painting with red as we learn about September's color of the month. We will continue working with the children to come together for circle time for our songs and stories. It will be fun to discover what their favorite books are and see what songs and poems they are most excited about. We will be singing songs with the children's names when we are talking about how God made us special. They'll also get to talk about their favorite colors, foods and other things that make each of these kiddos the special people that they are. We are looking forward to getting to know even more about our friends!

MONDAY/FRIDAY CLASS

I can already tell that the Monday/Friday preschool 3 class is going to be a lot of fun! Everyone seems to be getting along quite well and they all have a lot to say. It seems that whenever someone starts a story, it reminds someone else of a story of their own! It was fun to start our mornings out on the playground, and we will try to make the playground a regular part of our day for as long as we can, so make sure to send those jackets on chilly fall mornings.

In the weeks to come, we will continue to be very busy in our class. As we learn that God created the World, we will be taking a "creation walk," looking for the things that God made. For dramatic play, the children will have the opportunity to dress up in seasonal clothes, reminding us that God made each season different. Finger painting is the plan for Sept. 23rd. Children approach this activity differently; some may want paint up to their elbows, while others don't wish to get their hands in the paint at all. This is a wonderful sensory activity and we will encourage the children to use their own "techniques". Please dress for a mess!

The last week of September, it will be apple time. We will be using most of our five senses to learn all about them as well as reading an apple story and doing some apple poems. Please see me if you would be willing to donate apples to our class for us to use this week.

October will bring talk about the Garden of Eden as well as how we are all different and special. We will be using magnifying glasses to look at our finger prints and stethoscopes to listen to our hearts! We will learn about prayer the following week. Watch for a special project to come home with your child that they can use each night as they say their prayers. We will also have a fun fall art project using the leaves that are sure to be falling by then!

Picture day will be Monday, Oct. 3. Thanks!

TUESDAY/THURSDAY CLASS

We made it through our first week of preschool! We painted, made playdough and thoroughly checked out the playground(=) In the coming weeks, we will be planting some vegetables to watch them grow and checking out some different seeds. Our first Bible story is about God and the things he created on this earth. We will be using all our sense to explore God's world and nature! Cooking in the kitchen will be keeping us busy as we make apple crisp and maybe even paint a picture with an apple or two. Each of us is different in our own special way and we will find out what those things are from our fingerprints to what we like to play. I am looking forward to an exciting couple of weeks! Thank you so much for making the first week of school a great one!

MWF CLASS... MRS. DICKENS

Whew! That week just flew by! I am so thankful for every little personality in my class! We have so many fun things coming up in the coming weeks. We begin our Alphabet adventure with the letter "A". We made applesauce and took a trip to the store to buy our own apple. I always love to see their look on their faces when they find out they get to choose their OWN apple and pay with their own money. Bats, Buckets and Buddy's fill B week. We will learn what it means to "fill someone else's bucket." Kinds words for our friends and what it means to be a good friend. Chicka Chicka Boom Boom also makes a visit to our room during "C" week. We will be experimenting with colors and what happens when you mix them. Watch for those Mouse Paintings! We will also spend a week going camping...making our campfire and smores. You just cant beat that!

I also wanted to introduce our guinea pig Mach. His cage is open all morning and he loves the attention he gets from our class. He can also come visit your home over the weekend or over holiday breaks. He is pretty easy to care for...just loves a scratch on top of his head and a few fruits and veggies. Watch for a sign up by our classroom door!

Thanks you so much for a great first week!

Mrs. Dickens

MWF CLASS... MRS WALLER

We have begun our alphabet adventure this week talking about the letter Aa and words that start with it. Like apples, aah-choo and antlers. We have read some wonderful stories and will finish out the week making applesauce and taking our first field trip to the grocery store to buy our very own apple. We also have been busy making new friends and exploring our school. This week we went up to chapel where we sang some fun songs and Mrs. Carey read a bible story to us.

We have really enjoyed playing outdoors in the beautiful fall weather. The children have been practicing pouring their own water in their cups at snack time and we continue to learn new songs. We are using a picture schedule to show the order of our activities of the day. Everyone has caught onto this and the class enjoys reminding me where we are at in our daily schedule. In the weeks to come we will continue our alphabet adventure with the letters B, C and D. Some of the highlights are balloon painting and reading a great story called Fill a Bucket by Carol McCloud. The book encourages kindness and being considerate of others and is one of my personal favorites. For C week we will be having some fun with Colors and doing some painting with the easel. For D week we will be talking about the dentist and making some tooth pictures in art. We are going to read some other wonderful stories like Duck on a Bike and Froggy Goes to the Dr. As we learn each letter we will be learning the American Sign Language sign for that letter and talking about the sounds that letter makes.

I have enjoyed getting to know you and your children these past few weeks and I am so excited to get to watch your children learn and grow this year!

5-DAY... MRS. LOGAN

What a great couple of weeks we have had! It's been such a treat to watch your children as they develop new friendships and discover new experiences! I think everyone is ready for a year full of fun and learning!

We started the year off camping, and boy did our imaginations soar! We read The Lonely Firefly and "caught" fireflies as they flew around our room! We read an awesome picture book about the three bears where the children dictated the story! They did a great job! Last week we started our alphabet adventure, focusing on lower case letters. Everyone is doing a fabulous job with our early writing skills, our motto is... "it's not I can't, but I'll try." As we work on writing, you'll often hear us sing "left to right, left to right, that's the way we read and write."

Starting this week, we will be focusing more on each letter individually, starting with the letter A. Friday, Sept. 23rd we will be walking to Bag-n-Save to purchase our own apples and it looks like the weather will cooperate! September 30th we be B week, breakfast being the theme. You can bring your child in unfed and still in their pj's without feeling bad :) October 5th we will be reading George Goes to a Costume Party, which, of course, means we'll be having one too. Be creative with this one, it will be a blast!

Thank you for sharing your most precious gifts with me, I could not think of a better way to spend my day :)

As an unknown author has said... **"A child reminds us that playtime is an essential part of our daily routine."**

5-DAY... MRS. WALLER

We loved making fruit salad and taking about our recipe for fruit salad. The kids even thought our recipe should include artichokes and ice cream, after eating the fruit salad, they decided it was good we left those ingredients out. Science has been a lot of fun. This week we experimented with baking soda and vinegar with food coloring in it. The children used eye droppers to drop the colored vinegar into a tray of baking soda, I think they could have spent the whole day doing this and they continued to ooh and aww over the bubbly reaction that occurred. We also made a volcano using our baking soda and vinegar and discovered that when we used water and vinegar we did not get the same reaction. The children are really using their communication skills to make a hypothesis about what might happen when we are doing science.

In the coming weeks we will be cooking an apple pie and experimenting with apples and lemon juice. For B week we will make beans on toast and for science we will read a great book called I'm a Booger Treat Me with Respect. We will spend some time talking about good hygiene after this story. We will be baking cookies and decorating them for C week, I will send a note closer to this time asking for ingredients and decorations. On October 11th we will be taking a field trip to Bag and Save for a donut (please keep this one a secret!!) and will be doing some dinosaur bone digging for science. If you could please start saving any chicken bones or other type of bones you might have left from family meals it would be appreciated.

It has been fun watching your children make new friends and discover together. I look forward to the rest of the school year!!