



First English Lutheran Preschool



January 2017

Upcoming Events

- *January 9 and 10:**
Return to school days
- *January 16:**
NO SCHOOL
Martin Luther King Jr. birthday observation
- *January 27: 7-10pm**
First English Church Trivia night
- *February 2: 5:30-7:30pm**
Groundhog's Day Open House-family/friends can come through school and learn more about our program and church.
- *February 3 and 4: Dental Health Visitor**
- *February 13 & 14: Valentine Celebrations**
- *February 20**
NO SCHOOL
President's Day



From the Director



Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed some wonderful family time over the Christmas break. The start of the New Year brings us back to school, and back to fun and learning. Our themes for the first part of the month will be Winter and Snow and then we will continue planning around the children's interests. We hope to have some snow so that we can plan outdoor play times or inside snow activities in the next few weeks. The children will continue to work on state standards as we explore our themes and go through our school day routine. These early learning foundations can be found in bold print from our monthly classroom curriculums. The first part of the year is over and now it is a good time to evaluate our program. Please take some time in the next weeks to complete the NAEYC survey in your child's cubby and return it to the parent board located near the kitchen doors. Thanks so much for your honest evaluations on what we can improve on! We have included a more personal program survey as we will begin planning for next school year soon as well. Any questions or concerns, please call or email,

Tracy Gleissner
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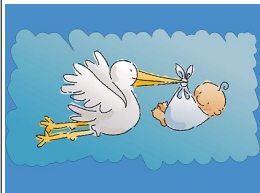
Silent Auction Donations

It is that time again to start thinking about our Fall Fun Fair and Auction. This is our biggest fundraiser and we use the funding from this to event to help with tuition scholarships, purchase items or supplies for our school as well as provide training opportunities for our staff; this past event we raised over \$3000 for the church's heating/cooling loan. We need **your** help to make this event successful! We would like several adults to help us solicit businesses in the next months for donations. We do have a letter that we can use but if you personally know someone at the business then feel free to approach them and ask for an item or certificate for their service that we can auction off. If you have a little extra time or have a lot of business connections then please consider helping us in this endeavor. If you would like to be on the Silent Auction Donation Committee please see Mrs. Gleissner! We are also exploring the addition of a "Live" auction for the 2017's event! We have not yet set a date but usually it is held late September or early October.



If you would like a record of your 2016 tuition payments for your tax return, please see Mrs. Vinson in the office or Mrs. Gleissner. with any questions.





We love our siblings born this past year...congratulations to **Ava Miller** who became a big sister to a baby brother born in December. Our other Fall babies were born to the Moretti and Kaser families. **Olivia Kaser** and **Calvin Moretti** both from the 2/3's class welcomed brothers also. Wondering if we will have any spring or summer babies to announce besides Mrs. Gleissner's 2nd grandchild to be born June 2017 and Mrs. Andrews' first grandchild to be born July 2017?

Church Fundraisers and Functions:

Trivia Night: Keep Friday, Jan. 27 from 7-10pm open for some Preschool families and staff challenging teams from First English Lutheran Church in trivia knowledge. FELC is hosting this fundraising event so prepare your teams of "smart" people now or sign up by each classroom to be part of a team.



The Skillet coupons: Another fundraiser selling for \$22 is The Skillet coupons. One coupon will include 8 pieces of Broasted Chicken, 1 pint of mashed potatoes, 1 pint green beans, 1 pint of noodles, 1/2 pint gravy, 4 biscuits with an 8 " pan of chocolate brownies. Coupons can be

purchased during office hours (8-12pm M-F) during January and February.



One new face Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the preschool building belongs to Mrs. Jill Hoopingarner. She comes to us with a Master's Degree in Special Education and we look forward to using her resource and knowledge as we help all of the children develop for the rest of the year.

Scholastic Book Orders



Ordering children's books from the Scholastic order form is a good way to add to your library of children's books and expand their world. Orders and payments are due on **January 27th**. You can order books online at www.scholastic.com/bookclubs. Please enter the one-time class activation code: **N86ZR** as it ensures that your order is sent to our school. If you prefer, you can bring the order forms to the school and make checks payable to Scholastic Book Clubs. When you order books for your family the school receives points that we use to purchase books and resources for gifts and the classrooms. This month there are flyers available to order books written in Spanish.



Winter Weather



We will try to schedule some special snow days during the winter months when the children may not go outside much because of the cold weather. Kids do love snow! Classes will individually schedule snow days for the children to go outside. On those days, the children should bring their snow boots, mittens, hats, and snow pants. You will receive advance notice of these days. Often, we cannot schedule too many days ahead due to uncertain weather conditions.

School Closing Information

As we saw in December, Michiana can be hit with severe weather and our school may need to close. We typically close when Penn-Harris-Madison schools close, since we are in their district. Please refer to WSBT or WNDU for school closing information. We will also post the closing on Facebook and we will send an e-mail alert to parents. Thanks for staying aware as we head through these winter months

January 2017

Dear Parents and Friends of First English,

This letter comes to you as a reminder regarding our Annual Auction to benefit the preschool and held in the fall along with the Fun Fair! We would like to present this opportunity for your business to donate items or services to benefit First English Lutheran Preschool/Church during this fundraiser.

If you, or someone you know, has an item or service that you think would be beneficial to our auction, please print and fill out the form below and return it to Mrs. Gleissner. The item does not have to be physically on site until the beginning of September. All donations are tax deductible, please include the value of the donation. You will receive a letter of confirmation for your donation!

We are excited about this event, as last year's Friday event was great fun, well attended and very successful, even with the rain. We hope that everyone will participate in some way (either through donation of item or service, volunteering, or in attending the event and bidding). Thank you for your consideration!

Tracy Gleissner, First English Lutheran Preschool Director

Auction Donation Slip

Name _____

Address _____

Item or service to be donated for auction _____

Value of item or service _____



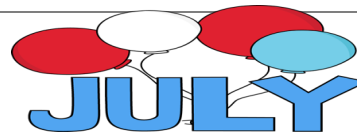
Birthdays

Aubrey Szalay

4th birthday on January 5

Hudson Compton

4th birthday on January 18



Birthdays

Nolan Swank: 3 1/2 years on January 17

Max Shook: 5 1/2 years on January 20

Lauren Miller: 4 1/2 years on January 21

Trey Gleva: 3 1/2 years on January 25

Grace Austin: 2 1/2 years on January 29

Fiona Sessions: 4 1/2 years on January 29

Jacob Turner: 5 1/2 years on January 30

Ean Milovich: 5 1/2 years on January 30



Remember to keep checking out our new website:
<https://FirstEnglishLutheranPreschool.org>

Our PQA and CLASS evaluations from Family Connections will continue for Mrs. Barnes and Mrs. Fraser this month. There will be a few days when an extra adult will be observing in their classrooms. So far the feedback has been positive about the teacher's responses to children's needs. Our program is close to being certified in High Scope methods

NAEYC family surveys are due January 31. Please take some time to evaluate our program and how we do preschool. This is an important part of our reaccreditation process and we need 100% participation from our families. The additional survey will help us as we begin to plan for programming for next year (and beyond). Thank you for your attention to this official task.



Five things to do this month with your child:

Indoor skating...use wax paper and rubber bands or even waxed paper plates to skate around the house.



Make puffy snowflakes: mix equal parts salt and self rising flour (with or without food coloring). Then add enough water to make it the consistency of pancake batter and put into squeeze bottles. Explore designing on paper then microwave finished product for 30 seconds (may vary!) for dry and super puffy results.

Attend the downtown Niles, Michigan Hunter Ice Festival January 20-22.

Explore some area businesses: Sky Zone, Hannah Lindahl's Children's Museum, Healthworks, or even South Bend Chocolate Factory (for a tour).

Do a good deed for someone else...make a feeder for the winter animals or dinner for a neighbor. Teaching your child to show kindness to others along the way!