



# First English Lutheran Preschool

## February 2022 Newsletter

### Upcoming activities

**\*Feb. 14/15** Valentine Celebrations (see specific class info)

**\*Feb. 21** NO SCHOOL- President's Day

**\*Feb. 24 and 25-School field trip to:** South Bend Children's Museum

8:30-10am Pre-k class

10:30-noon 2's/2 & 3's 3/4's class)

**\*March 1:** registration begins for current/previously enrolled families (due March 25)

**\*March 3/4 NO SCHOOL** Parent/Teacher conferences

**\*March 30** NEW families register via website forms

**Feb. Food Pantry donations:**  
**instant/scalloped potatoes and dish soap**

*From the Director's desk:*

*We have made it through January's winter month but seems like winter just hit with the start of February! Hopefully, your family will continue with good health as we navigate through the remainder of the season.*

*We do appreciate the transparent notification when a child has been exposed or families contract any illness. We appreciate that families respect the quarantine time off as well. We are hopeful towards the downward trend of COVID cases!*

*We have been getting requests about next year's registration with tour information and typically new families are letting us know that a current family recommended them to FELP. Thank you for your word-of-mouth advertisement! Registration for 2022-2023 school year will be available the first part of March for current/previous families. New families will register online on anytime from March 30<sup>th</sup> until classes are full.*

*Wishing you a happy February!*

Mrs. Tracy Gleissner ([gleissnerfelp@gmail.com](mailto:gleissnerfelp@gmail.com))

School 255-4234 Home 343-2918



2/3's class: Feb. 20 Landon (#3) Pre-K class: Feb. 2 Kate (#5)



August (1/2) birthdays:

2's class: Feb. 6 Savannah (#2 ½)

2/3's class: Feb. 17 Caroline (#3 ½)

3 /4's class: Feb. 7 George (#4 ½)

Feb. 11 (Mrs. Potts)

Feb. 15 Rhett (#4 ½)

Pre-K class: Feb. 16 Zeke (#5 ½)

Feb. 30 (oops!) Frederik (#5 ½)



**Family Survey:** Thank you to the families who returned the paper copy of the family survey. If you still have your copy, then please consider returning it by next week so we can tally the information. We will compile a list of responses and share them soon.

## Valentine's Day

**Celebrations:** Classes are celebrating all the 'friendships' in the classroom on Monday, Feb. 14 and Tuesday, Feb. 15. Families have been asked to donate some supplies as well as healthy snacks (depending on the birthday calendars) to make the celebration fun, festive, and 'filled' with finger foods.



**Valentine Cards/Mail:** Children can bring an unaddressed card to mail to their classmates; putting others' names on them makes it challenging to match up and slows the mail delivery system. Please allow sometime this month for your child to 'write' their name on their own card. A single mark or first initial letter is acceptable for younger children. Pre-K children should form most of their own letters using top to bottom strokes going left to right. Working on a few each day will ensure that they are completed by celebration times! Children will make a valentine container (at school) to hold their cards then bring all their mail home at the end of the celebration day. Children are excited to just receive the valentine card and so adding treat bags, small prizes, candy, etc. really is not necessary! However, if you choose to do something, make sure it is attached securely so it can be "mailed" with the card.



**School closings:** As we have had great practice this past week, remember to watch the TV news channels of WSBT, WNDU and ABC 57 for our preschool closing. We could be listed along with area child-care facilities. We follow PHM with CLOSING for the day but not with any delays! We also post on our Facebook page as well as send emails out to families prior to the school start time.



**Playground play dates:** It will be time again to gather any families/children who wish to socialize with others on the FELP playground. We will wait until the weather warms up and begin offering specific dates and hope families will want to participate. It did not seem like we had much response this fall but several survey responses requested to bring this activity back. We will try for the fourth Fridays from noon to 1:30pm. Friday, Feb. 25 (field trip in morning but might be fun to have a mid-winter picnic lunch afterward), Friday, March 25 and then Friday, April 22, then Friday, May 20 (before last week of classes)



**Parent/Teacher conferences:** Each teacher will make a conference schedule and share it with families. If you feel you have enough insight/teacher information into your child's development and do not have any concerns/questions, then you might wish to forego a conference at this time. If you would like your child's teacher to share information closer to the end of the year that could be arranged. We typically set the SPRING conference time as option so that families who want/need a conference can have the opportunity. There will be NO school Thursday, March 4 and Friday, March 5 to allow time. There will also be NO babysitting onsite but phone or Zoom conferences can be made available if you desire.



**Visitors:** This month and into March specific people will visit our program. We have opened our doors to Bethel University Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education Major students to receive their 30 hours of observation time. Each class will have the same students attending and helping in whatever capacity is needed. We also are offering Pre-K class observations for the Ivy Tech High Scope course students who are in class with Mrs. Smith during this spring term.



**All School field trip:** We have secured two dates to offer “play” sessions at the NEW South Bend Children’s Museum located at 2632 S. Michigan St. (across from Bob Miller Appliance). We needed to group the classes in a way so that adults would be able to stay and play alongside their preschooler as we honored the museum’s protocol. We are requesting that only the preschool child and adult attend this activity (then you can register a return visit with your family in the future.) We will not conduct classes at FELP these days so that we can offer this new opportunity. If your child attends FELP on Thursday and Friday then you may attend both field trip days (cost per ‘couple’/per day is \$5). We have set the time of 8:30-10am as our pre-k class session then 10:30-noon will be for the 3/4 ‘s class along with 2’s or 2/3’s class (2’s on Thursday with 2/3’s on Friday). If you have siblings in other classes, then you might consider attending the separate sessions so each can interact with their own classmates but if that is not feasible then deciding which class best fits your family schedule is the next option. We are so fortunate to have a facility in our area and you will be so impressed with the effort and care that was taken to share the love of imagination, creativity, and the introduction of science concepts inside this building! A museum permission slip is needed (along with a COVID form filled out that morning before entry). Children/adults are asked to wear SLIPPERS and MASKS at all times! Forms and fees are due Friday, Feb. 18, 2022.



**2022-2023 Registration:** It is hard to believe that we will be heading into another registration year shortly. As usual families who are currently or previously enrolled can register for the days/times they wish on a first come/first serve basis. Registration Forms will be placed in cubby boxes March 1<sup>st</sup> and due by March 25<sup>th</sup>. This form with the \$95 fee will need to be returned to reserve a space, however. We typically, can place all these children with appropriate class schedules. Families who are NEW to our program will register via our website on/after March 30. We are conducting tours in the afternoons on Wed/Thurs/Fri if you know of someone who expresses interest in our program. Our website will be updated to reflect this change.



**3/ 4’s class STAY and PLAY:** As this year we are not offering any extended days for the children enrolled in the 3/ 4’s class we would like to offer a “stay and play” option. The Cost is \$35 to participate in all THREE sessions for the specific day your child attends (Wednesday or Thursday). The children will bring their lunches with drinks and then eat lunch together as well as enjoy some extra school activities until they are dismissed at 2:15pm. This is an optional activity so dismissal at noon will still occur for those children not registering for the stay and play! Please let Mrs. Gleissner, Mrs. Potts or Mrs. H know if you are planning on this for your child, then we will get the form to you. The dates we have chosen for Wednesday class are March 16, April 20, and May 18 while Thursday sessions will be March 17, April 21, and May 19.