

# CHILD CARE CHATTER

Center is CLOSED on Monday,  
February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for Staff  
Training!

CELEBRATING 26 YEARS OF SERVICE FOR CHILDREN, Families & Staff!

[childcare@stjamesgettysburg.org](mailto:childcare@stjamesgettysburg.org)

February 2017

## Important information about school closings and delays:

*All delays and closings will be posted on the website and emailed to you. If you are afraid that you are not on our email list, please send an email to me at: [childcare@stjamesgettysburg.org](mailto:childcare@stjamesgettysburg.org) so I can add you to the listserv.*

Dear Friends & Families,

As the month of January is coming to a close, many of us are trying to chase our winter blues away. On Tuesday, February 14 we invite families and students to join us for our Annual Fitness Fair for Healthy Hearts! Our school – age program will plan activities that would improve our hearts physically and emotionally. It is our hope that you will join us on Valentine’s Day from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. to have a day learning how to make our hearts healthy!

Looking forward to the months ahead, planning has already begun for the Week of the Young Child Celebration in April from the 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Mark this week on your calendar! We are planning special activities all week to take place at the center. Then on Saturday, Center Directors from all over Gettysburg and Adams County are planning a culminating event together for April 29<sup>th</sup>. Location will be announced at a later date. At this event, we will once again be adopting the 2017 PA One Book selection for the theme, *Daniel Finds a Poem*, by Micha Archer. There will be many hands – on activities, food and fun to celebrate the wonders of childhood as we venture through the park with Daniel.

The center is closed on Monday, February 20, 2017 for a staff training day. This year, the staff will participate in a disaster and safety training, Ethics – Our Responsibilities as well as training presented by certified trainer Krista Girard, “Intentional Teaching: Use Your Knowledge, Judgement & Expertise to Organize Learning Experiences for Children”. I hope you will all join me in thanking the staff for their continued commitment to learning and professional development.

Looking forward to spring and the warm weather it brings!

**Staff Updates:**

As I am sure some of you have noticed, I have been opening in the mornings for Miss Kathy. She needed to take a leave of absence to repair a herniated disc in her back. Her initial surgery did not go as expected and she had to have a second surgery. Her leave will continue until at least April. Please keep in mind that my hours begin at 6:15 a.m. so most days I will be leaving around 3:30 – 3:45 p.m. I have decided to open so that it can cause the least disruption to all of the classroom schedules. Please be assured, if you need my availability in the afternoon, I can schedule time. Your children are always my priority.

Additionally, as many of you know, the best laid plans can go astray. As we celebrated Andrea's return to St. James and were prepping her to take over as lead teacher in Preschool, her illness returned. Two weeks ago, she suffered a fall and will be on an extended leave as she undergoes further testing. As a result, we began searching and interviewing for a Preschool teacher as we prepare to transition Miss Steph. Miss Steph will not be leaving St. James, she will just be relocating within the organization so that her daughter who turns 3 in March can move to the preschool room. We were successful in our search and excited to announce the addition of Amy Miller to our preschool staff.

Amy has been working in Early Childhood since 1986 in western Pennsylvania at Meadville Cooperative Preschool in Meadville, PA. which is a Star 4, NAEYC accredited program. She attended Allegheny College where she received her degree in English and Elementary Education. She has been a lead teacher for children aged 3 – 5 years. She is knowledgeable in the Emergent curriculum approach and connecting the curriculum to the children's interests, needs and development.

Amy lives with her husband Bill and has five adult children; Marlo, Nathan, Kate, Cassie and Dylan and five grandchildren. Amy and her husband relocated to Gettysburg this past summer because she loves the Civil War and battlefield. Amy also loves music (especially Bob Dylan), the Titanic and in her free time enjoys walking the battle field, reading and traveling.

We have hired a new assistant teacher, Kylie Gallagher, who will be shared in the preschool and prekindergarten classrooms due to the high numbers in the afternoons. She will be in preschool in the afternoons from 2:00 until 5:30 p.m. and in Pre – Kindergarten on Monday and Wednesday afternoons so that Miss Kim can attend classes at HACC from 11:00 – 2:30 p.m. She is a graduate of the early childhood program at Adams County Vo – tech who interned here at St. James. She is currently attending college at HACC as well and hopes to be a pediatric physical therapist assistant. She is a new mother to a Aiyana who will be joining our infant room.

Both of these ladies have started the orientation process and will begin in the classrooms officially next week. I hope you will join me in welcoming them to the St. James Child Care family!

Finally, after almost 6 years of service, Mella, who is in charge of the child care accounts will be leaving at the end of this month. At this time, I do not have information regarding her replacement. Officially, Mella's position is a position on the church staff whose job responsibilities are shared with the child care program. As soon as I receive information to share regarding her replacement, I will do so.