



# St. James Lutheran Church Early Learning Center



*"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like  
wrapping a present and not giving it."*

*~ William Arthur Ward*

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May 2018

Dear Friends & Families,

It is such a busy time of year when you work with young children. I can hardly believe that we just completed the Week of the Young Child Celebration and the planning for Teacher Appreciation Week has begun. Every year, I challenge myself to come up with new ways to express my gratitude to the teachers and share them with you. In the profession that they have chosen, most staff are under - paid, under - appreciated and often under - valued. I am so grateful that our teachers take the time to connect with the children and build relationships that provides our young children with the foundation for a greater success in the future.

As in past years, I would like to plan something small each day. You may choose to participate one day or several. It is totally up to you! I have tried to come up with ideas that would not add too much stress to your life, however would express your appreciation to the staff and things that they would enjoy.

- ✧ Monday - A Breakfast Buffet is being hosted by the Early Learning Governance Committee for the staff.
- ✧ Tuesday - "Thanks to You, Our Children are Smart Cookies!" - Cookie containers will be provided for you to put a "favorite" cookie for each teacher in.
- ✧ Wednesday - Staff Appreciation Lunch:
  - ★ Infants and Toddlers - Soup or Casseroles
  - ★ Preschool - Fruits and Vegetables
  - ★ Pre-Kindergarten - Desserts
  - ★ Kids Club - Chips, snack foods or drinks.
- ✧ Thursday - Thankful Thursday - nothing is more important than feeling appreciated for your job. Ask your child to help you construct a thank you note, picture or card! Mailboxes will be in each classroom for you to drop the notes off to the staff. Saying thank you goes a long way!
- ✧ Friday - Raffle - Drop off small gifts, gift cards, etc. (last year I even asked local businesses for donations, so never be afraid to ask) that I will "raffle" off to the staff throughout the day until they are all gone. The more gifts the more we can raffle. For the last couple of years, the staff had a blast with this!

I am looking forward to making this week as special for the teachers as they are to each of your children! Your help is appreciated!

Suzan

Finally, it is with sadness that I inform you that Miss Kim from our infant program has been diagnosed with cancer and has begun treatment. At this time, she will probably be out every other week over the next month or so for treatment. During this difficult time, I have adjusted the current staff schedule and staffing patterns to provide for coverage. This is allowing the infants to have the consistent care with staff they already know and love. Miss Montana will be scheduled in the mornings and Miss Kylie will help in the afternoon. Effective, May 21, 2018, Miss Hannah, will be on break from college. At that time, she will be rejoining our summer staff and be scheduled in the infant room. Although, replacing Miss Kim is difficult to do, all these young ladies have spent time training in the infant room under Miss Kim and proved to be very capable. I hope you will join me in welcoming them as we all pray for Kim's comfort and healing. If you have any questions, please direct them to me to reduce the stress for Miss Kim and the other staff.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**



- ✦ **Teacher Appreciation Week – May 7 – 11, 2018** (National Education Association and Parent Teacher Organization). See attached flyer for more information.
- ✦ **Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> – St. James Child Care Center 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Mother's Day Tea Party** at 3:45 p.m. in the dining room. Come join in the fun and festivities as we appreciate Mothers & Friends!
- ✦ Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences are taking place in May/June. Teacher's will have sign-up sheets available in your child's classroom.
- ✦ **Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018** - Reminder – the center will be closed in honor of Memorial Day.



#### **For Your Information & Gentle Reminders:**

- ✦ Now that the weather is warming up we will be going outside every day when weather is appropriate.
  - Please apply **sunscreen** to your child before they come to school each day.
  - Also, remember that children need to have **sneakers** for outdoor play and may need extra clothes to change when they get dirty. Although fun and pretty, please do not send your child in sandals or flip - flops for outside play. They are not safe for climbing or running.
- ✦ **Vacation requests and schedule changes.** Please remember to give **TWO** weeks WRITTEN notice for all other schedule changes.
- ✦ **Vacation Bible School** plans are well underway. This year it will be held at Christ Lutheran Church from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. the week of June 18 – 22, 2018. Children enrolled in our preschool, pre - kindergarten and school - age programs will participate. This year's theme is Shipwrecked and is full of many fun, creative adventures for the children to enjoy!