



# Child Care Chatter

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Dear Friends & Families,

It is difficult to believe that another school year has ended, and the 2018 Summer Program is officially about to begin. As I reflect over the school year, much of my time has been revolved around the schedule of my son who completed his graduate degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution this year. I spent many nights and week – ends “editing” his thesis on the violence in Nigeria.

As his journey as a graduate continued I had the pleasure to attend the thesis presentations of his entire cohort which consisted of twelve students. Each student had the goal of identifying a problem that was met with violence and explore non – violent solutions. Across the board, all twelve students identified treating others with kindness and respect, direct communication and improved education for children and families as solutions to intolerable violence.

It was an eye – opening learning experience for me in many ways. First, that the very ideals and values that we are trying to instill in young children at St. James Early Learning Center could/should and would promote world peace. Second, through education, lives can be transformed. And finally, the tools we teach the children today to solve problems will impact them all for a lifetime.

On Monday, I left Kodie at the airport as he ventures into the last leg of his journey as he left for Thailand to work with refugee children. In the months to come, I am sure that you will hear of his adventures, what he learns and teaches others. But I leave you with this final thought as our summer begins, treat each other kindly and respectfully, what our children learn now will last a lifetime.

Fondly, *Suzan*

## Summer Updates Reminders & Special Events:

We are happy to announce that this summer, we have again been invited to participate in VBS with St. James, Christ Lutheran and Prince of Peace during the week of June 18<sup>th</sup> – June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 at Christ Lutheran for children enrolled in preschool and older. We will be leaving St. James every day at approximately 8:40 a.m. to walk to Christ Lutheran. This year's theme is “Shipwrecked – Rescued by Jesus” with stories and activities of hope, helping and healing. I encourage you to have your children here by 8:30 a.m. each morning during that week so we can be ready to form our “parade” and march to Christ Lutheran. The message to help one another is one that we would like to instill in all children, young and old.

**Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. Doughnuts for Dads** – Come and join us in the classroom for homemade doughnuts and milk to honor the special men in our children's lives!

**Vacation Bible School 2018** – June 18<sup>th</sup> – June 22<sup>th</sup>, 2018. All children preschool through Kids Club will be participating with their teachers as active volunteers. Registration has been completed for children enrolled.

**Sunscreen** –Please remember to purchase a waterproof sunscreen and apply it to your child(ren) prior to arriving in the morning. According to DPW regulations, sunscreen is a medication and cannot be left in cubbies, backpacks or diaper bags and must be stored in an area that is locked and out of reach of children.

**Water Bottles** – Access to water is critical to a young child's brain development. Please provide a water bottle for your child each day that can be taken outside and available to them throughout the day. To ensure the water is cold and refreshing, fill the bottle half way the night before in the freezer and then add water to it in the morning. It helps the water stay fresh and cold throughout the day.

**Vacation Requests/Withdrawals** – Reminder, two weeks written notice is required for all children whether changing schedules or giving notice of withdrawals. After six months of enrollment, children are eligible for one week's vacation per calendar year free of charge with two weeks written notice submitted to the Child Care office.

**Center Closed Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

**Thank You** – for making Staff Appreciation a special week for the staff at St. James! The staff enjoyed a week full of special gifts, food and treats!