



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 2019

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 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 - **Don't Stress, You're the Best!** - Help to create a spa-like basket for teachers with little luxuries such as candles, lotions, sugar scrubs, bath bombs, candy or other items to promote self - care and relaxation.
- ✦ 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 - Visit our Appreciation Station on Thankful Thursday. Supplies will be provided for you and your child to write notes, make cards or draw a picture to express your appreciation to the staff. You may also do this project at home and deliver them to the classroom mailboxes outside of the office.
- ✦ 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

IMPORTANT DATES



- ✦ **Teacher Appreciation Week - May 6 - 10, 2019** (National Education Association and Parent Teacher Organization).
- ✦ **Friday, May 10th - St. James Child Care Center 21st 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!
- ✦ **Monday, May 27th, 2019** - 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 here at St. James from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. the week of June 17 - 21, 2019. Children enrolled in our preschool, pre - kindergarten and school - age programs will participate. This year's theme is To Mars & Beyond and is full of many fun, creative adventures for the children to enjoy!