

# St James Lutheran Church

## Early Learning Center Newsletter

childcare@stjamesgettysburg.org

June 2021

**Outside:** We go outside everyday UNLESS the heat index (feel like) is ABOVE 90 degrees.

### Sunscreen:

Please apply sunscreen to your child before coming to school.

### Summer Shoes:

Sneakers are the best for outdoor play, however if chosen sandals and summer shoes must be closed toe and closed heel. Crocs are okay.

### Water Bottles:

please provide your child with a water bottle for the summer! Clearly label the top and bottom of your child's water bottle. Please take-home weekly to be washed & returned on Monday

### Important Dates:

~June 20th- Father's Day.

On June 18th, the children will have a take home surprise to share with our fathers or friends.

### Drop off & Pick Up

If you are dropping your child (ren) off outside of your contracted hours, please notify use 72-hour prior, so that we can make scheduling changes. We are not a drop off service.

## What is happening in June?

We are here! We have made it through a dynamic "school year", it has had its ups and downs, and learned from it. We are all ready for warmer weather, outside sports, campfires, and pools!

On Thursday, May 13, 2021, the CDC and Governor Tom Wolf announced a new relaxed mask mandate for fully vaccinated individuals. I spent the week – end researching, and so far, the recommendations remain the same for summer camp programs as well as Early Childhood programs.



The mandate is for fully vaccinated individuals.

Children in our program based on age are not yet eligible for the vaccine, therefore, masks will still be required. We do not have the authority to ask individuals if they are vaccinated, so we will continue to ask you to wear a mask when dropping off and picking up.

Ashley and I have spent time talking about this issue, knowing the time would eventually come for changes. It is my hope that when all of this is behind us, that the bias against wearing a mask will change for most people. I have worked in Early Childhood for 35 years and this is without a doubt the healthiest year I have experienced (with the exception of Covid19). Although masks are uncomfortable, children have been healthier this year than ever. Our initial fears of children's language, social and emotional development being stunted has been laid to rest as children continue to learn language, learn to share, problem solve and express their emotions.

I also want to remind you, whatever your feeling is regarding mask wearing, to your children it is normal. The children born in 2020 do not know a different world, and our youngest children only have distant memories of a world without masks.

In the future, as guidelines and recommendations change, be assured, I will update you as soon as possible. If you have questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out!

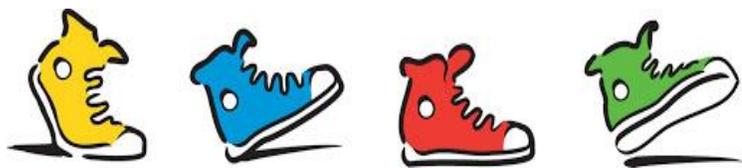
## Teacher Appreciation

Thank you to everyone who made teacher appreciation special for all our staff. The food was delicious, the letters of appreciation and generous raffle items made an amazing week for you devoted staff. THANK YOU!

## Summer Schedule

Schedule changes require a two-week notice. If your schedule is changing, please keep this in mind.

# GOT SNEAKERS!



Kids Club is partnering with GotSneakers, a fundraising center that collects new/old **sneakers** and sends us money! This is completely free for us to do because they send the starter kit, shipping bags, and shipping labels for free (and when we run out, they will send us more for free). All shoes submitted to this program will either be determined for resale (at very affordable price), donation, or recycle/repurpose into new surfaces such as playgrounds, tracks, and roads. All proceeds will go to Kids Club to replace (breaking toys) and buy new toys/supplies for Kids Club.

All we need from you is to donate your old (falling apart and holey), slightly worn, or do not fit sneakers and we will do the rest. After your donation, these shoes will be sent to a facility that will check them over to determine the quality, style, and brand criteria. Once determined, they will send a check back to us. We can make between \$0.25 and \$7.00 per pair of sneakers. Any shoes donated that are not sneakers will not be accepted by the company, but rather will be donated to the Adams Rescue Mission (another great cause in our local community).

Our goal is to submit at least 100 pairs of shoes, but that doesn't have to be where we stop. If you would like to find out more information, please feel free to visit their website at <http://gotsneakers.com/> or talk to Ms. Jess in Kids Club about it. A donation bin will be found by the side door of the center in the next coming weeks. Thank you for your support.

**200  
MILLION**

In the United States, at least 200 million pairs of shoes and sneakers end up in landfills each year.



Shoes in landfills can take 30 to 40 years to decompose.



Harmful chemicals are emitted into the soil and air which pollutes our surroundings.



More than 600 million people worldwide don't even own a pair of shoes.

## Did You Know?

**Most people throw away their used sneakers every 125-200 days without ever thinking about recycling. Since sneakers are manufactured with materials that are not biodegradable, they remain in landfills or are incinerated, which leads to toxic chemicals in our air and soil. The process of manufacturing sneakers produces large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> which contributes to the serious effects of climate change and global warming. Recycling and reusing keeps sneakers out of landfills and reduces the need for manufacturing new shoes and sneakers.**