

Hello parents,

We are off to a great start! What a joy it is to watch your kids learn and grow each day!

1. I have been thinking about all of the families displaced by Hurricane Harvey, especially all of the preschoolers who's life/routine has been turned upside down. The photos are unbelievable. The church is assisting the relief efforts by gathering supplies needed to make "cleaning buckets". You can get the details about how to assemble the 5 gallon buckets here: <http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies/Relief-Supply-Kits/Cleaning>. I will forward you the letter sent out to the church regarding how to help. Please call me, or the church office if you have any questions.
2. I also want to remind you all that should we have a weather emergency, we follow Leon County Schools lead. When LCS closes, so do we. Please refer to the handbook (located online) for more details, and keep Texas and Louisiana in your prayers.. www.tumct.org
3. The Department of Children and Families mandates that we have parents view/receive an informational brochure on the dangers of influenza. I am attaching a copy for you to view; please **do not** print it out. Instead simply sign the acknowledgement form that is located next to the attendance sheet outside your child's classroom.
4. We are excited to be a sponsor of the 5K race coordinated by the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend. The race theme? Run ELC! Race day is October 21, however, I will need your registration no later than October 13. Please check out their website for information, but be sure to sign up with me rather than online. You get a \$5 discount if you register with me, and the school with the most participants wins a prize! <http://www.elcbigbend.org/>
5. "Fun" Fact: If a teacher is caught checking text messages, or talking on her cell phone, when children are in her care, it results in a Level 2 violation against the preschool. (The theory is that if they are looking at their phones, they are not supervising children.) Three Level 2 violations and we are "counseled", extensively fined, put on probation, and/or shut down. DCF takes this very seriously, and so do I. Please do your part and refrain from texting the staff during working hours. If you are trying to locate a teacher, please call the main number (224-8992), and press 1 for the hallway phone, 2 or the nursery phone, 3 for me, and 4 for the resource room. By calling our main number, I can get someone to stand in the classroom, so that the teacher can step out to take the call. If you are having an emergency, please call these numbers first, then the church office at 222-1120. Thanks for your cooperation.
6. One of our goals this year is to work on ways to eliminate plastic from our preschool. We plan on using up the current inventory of utensils, cups, and plastic tablecloths. Once these run out, we will not restock. You can help by sending in utensils with your child every day in their lunch box. (Preferably stainless, which can be purchased affordably at Publix 4 for a dollar.) Once our supply runs out, we will no longer offer a spare for your child to use. We will migrate away from plastic cups to paper cups, and are looking at purchasing, or having made, fabric overlays for our special events such as the Thanksgiving Feast. We know we can't totally eliminate plastic, as we have to wrap dirty diapers in plastic bags before throwing them in the diaper pail. Infant parents, you could help by beginning to potty-train your infants now! That will surely save on plastic use! ☺
7. Speaking of eliminating plastic, did you know that we are now recycling our dried up markers? Not only do we drain the marker of their ink to make our own watercolors, but we send off the actual plastic marker to Crayola. If you have markers (Crayola brand only) that you would like to recycle, please feel free to pass them along to us, and we will take care of mailing them! <http://www.crayola.com/colorcycle>

8. Florida State University faculty and students will be on hand in November to conduct speech and hearing screenings for children in the PK2, PK3, and VPK classes. I will forward you the release form just as soon as I receive it.
9. I send out monthly emails, but also post information and photos on Facebook. Like us on Facebook here, so that you can stay informed: <https://www.facebook.com/Trinity-United-Methodist-Preschool-Tallahassee-FL-442661692478178/>
10. We are selling books via Scholastic Books. By now you should have received flyers with information on how to order. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me, or Mary Katherine Chatelain (extension 4). Proceeds from these book sales are used to purchase books for the preschool!
11. If you ring the doorbell during naptime, or when everyone is outside on the playground, there is a possibility that no staff member will be available to open the door. Please have your key with you daily, and if grandma, grandpa, or the nanny is going to pick up, please either get them a key or give them yours.

September blessing: Let us take a moment, to thank God for our food. For friends around the table, and everything that's good.

September scripture: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Psalm 150:6.

Dates to remember:

September	1	Spirit Day; wear your favorite sports team/TUMP attire
	4	Labor Day Holiday; school is closed
	29	Fall Holiday; school is closed
October	13	Teacher Planning/In-service Day; school is closed
	25	Individual and class photos
	27	Costume party PK2, PK3, VPK classes
November	15, 16	Speech and Hearing screenings

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