

January 2023 Newsletter

Hello parents; I hope you enjoyed your Christmas Break! January is a fun time in the preschool; the kids come back refreshed and ready for routine. We are looking forward to a busy and fun semester. As always, if you have any questions, I hope you will reach out to me any time. Here is your January newsletter:

1. Happy New Year!
Eternal God, You gave us the greatest gift: the gift of life.
In the coming year, help us use it wisely.
May we grow in generosity, kindness and forgiveness, hope, faith and love.
Amen. -Rabbi Evan Moffic
2. Calendar change: the school will be closed on June 19, 2023 in observance of Juneteenth.
3. GroupMe reminder: This app is for school use only and not for play dates and birthday party invitations or notes about your child being sick. You are welcome to privately send messages to other parents or gather their emails to send a message; thank you for your cooperation.
4. Staff updates: In December we said goodbye to Mary Claire Griffith who worked with us for 3 years as a teacher assistant. Mary Claire is finishing up her last semester of school before leaving for grad school in the fall. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Olga and Mr. Howie to our staff.
5. Check out the church website at www.tumct.org. Our Preschool page has a great deal of information on it.
6. For parents in Lisa Hight's (nee' Prasse) PK3 classroom, please note her new email: hight@tumct.org. Her "Prasse" email is no longer active.
7. We will be coordinating a pizza lunch for children in the PK2, PK3, and VPK classes on Tuesday, February 14th as part of our Valentine's Day celebrations. See attachment.
8. Save the date: donuts with Dad – all PK2, PK3, VPK kids together at 9am on the playground; invitation and details to follow!
9. Here is your link to the church newsletter The Tidings: <https://tidings.tumct.org/>
10. Are any of you able to work on a simple sewing project for us? Straight lines only, but a lot of them and we are NOT in a rush. ☺

Learning through play: So much of what we do in preschool is perceived as "play". Do you know how important play is to your child's development? Each month I will highlight an area that defines the benefits of play. This month, we will discuss the benefits of play dough.

Dates to remember:

January	2-3	Christmas Break (School is closed)
	4	Students return to school

	16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday (School is closed)
February	14	Valentine's Day celebrations and pizza luncheon (PK2, PK3, VPK)
	20	President's Day Holiday (School is closed)
March	3	Donuts with Dad 9am (By invitation)
	13-17	Spring Break (School is closed)
	20	Teacher Training Day (School is closed)
April	7	Spring Holiday (School is closed)
	17	Last Day to opt out of Summer Session
May	4-5	Mother's Day Luncheon (By invitation)
	8-12	Staff Appreciation Week
	19	Preschool Graduation (By invitation)
	24	Last Day of 2022-2023 school year and Party!
	25-30	School is closed for maintenance and training
	31	Summer Session begins TENTATIVE
June	19	Juneteenth (School is closed)
July	4	Independence Day Holiday (School is closed)
	28	Last day of summer session

Stacey S. Duggar

Preschool Director

Trinity United Methodist Church Preschool

Tallahassee, FL

850-224-8992 x3

<https://www.tumct.org/grow/preschool/>

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Learning Through Play

Play Dough

- Play dough is a fantastic malleable manipulative that builds muscle strength, perfect to prepare children for controlling things such as pencils and scissors.
- Playing with play dough is a very tactile, sensory activity that promotes fine motor skills by giving the children the opportunities to squeeze, roll, squash, rake, puncture, and poke.
- Playing with play dough can also be a great social experience for children allowing them to build, communicate and share ideas with their friends.
- Playing with play dough can enhance the child's concentration, confidence, creativity, imagination and encourage persistence and patience.

Theorist Link: This learning experience can be linked to Piaget's theories. He believes that children need to be able to see, touch, taste, smell, move, and hear the things they are learning about. This is called 'concrete learning'.

A flyer for a Valentine's Day Party. The background is a light pink gradient. At the top and bottom are decorative borders of overlapping hearts in various shades of pink and red. In the top right corner, there is a small illustration of a red steamship on a white rectangular background with a scalloped border, resembling a postage stamp. The word "Valentine's" is written in a large, elegant, cursive script in a dark pink color.

Valentine's

DAY PARTY

We will be celebrating in the preschool
by exchanging valentines, crafts,
activities and a pizza luncheon!

FEBRUARY 14, 2023

We will gratefully accept donations for the
luncheon. Please rsvp to Stacey if your child
will not eat pizza.