

CHAMBLEE METHODIST KINDERGARTEN

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November 2022

Dear Parents,

As November approaches, we begin a very special season of thankfulness. We will incorporate into our daily plans and activities the feeling of gratitude for our families, homes, churches, friends, food, and school. The children will learn about why we celebrate Thanksgiving and may experience sharing in a couple of ways: some classes may have special Thanksgiving snacks which they will help prepare, and everyone will attend a special Chapel when they may bring food to share with the needy (more about that on the next page). In addition, you will soon receive information about your individual conference with your child's teacher so that you may learn more about how your child spends his/her time while at school.

October was a busy month as we've welcomed autumn and prepared for Halloween. We especially enjoyed the opportunities to chat with many of you at Donuts for Dads in our 3s, 4s, and 5s classes. On behalf of our staff, we pray that you will have an enjoyable and meaningful Thanksgiving season with your families and friends. We are thankful for you and your children and for God's many blessings among our CMK family.

With Gratitude,

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 3 – Chapel (bring canned goods)
Tuesday, November 8 – No School (Election Day)
Thursday, November 10 – School closes at noon for staff meeting (no lunch bunch)
November 14, 15 and 16 – Speech and Language screening (permission form needed)
Wednesday, November 16 – Chapel (bring canned goods)
November 21 - 25 – School Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 – **** new dates** Occupational Therapy screening (permission form needed)
Thursday, December 1 – Chapel (bring a toy, game or puzzle to donate)
Thursday, December 1 – Noon closing for staff luncheon (no lunch bunch)
Wednesday, December 7 – Chapel (bring a toy, game or puzzle to donate)
Saturday, December 10 – CFUMC Breakfast with Santa; Fellowship Hall
Sunday, December 11 – CFUMC Live Nativity; 6:30 pm outside near the activity center
Tuesday, December 13 – last day of school before Christmas vacation (noon closing including Kindergarten, no lunch bunch or enrichment classes)
Wednesday, January 4 – School opens

NEWS FROM MUSIC

The first few months in music we have been singing a variety of classics like "Twinkle Twinkle", "Wheels on the Bus" and "I'm a Little Teapot", as well as CMK favorites like "Good Morning Lord," "All Around," and "Shukuru" which you may have heard in Chapel. In September we were getting to know each other and singing about apples. In October we've leaned into Fall, singing songs of leaf colors, and leaves falling, as well as all things Pumpkins, Spiders and Ghostly. In November, I love playing and singing songs about food, farms and of course giving thanks, and throughout December it won't be long before the sounds of the Christmas season are echoing in our halls.

I have been integrating Spanish language and culture for Hispanic Heritage Month. We've played instruments like Congas, Guiros and the Cabasa, and listened to some various Latin music (the soundtracks for movies like Encanto and Coco are great!). Our older students are learning how to say a few halloween words like pumpkin and spider, and will continue working on counting and singing "Days of the Week" in English and Spanish.

THANK YOU for engaging your children musically at home. I love seeing the spark of recognition when a child recognizes a song from home. You are forming connections in their brains, between their brains and their bodies, and to you! If you've heard snippets of songs from your child but have no idea what you're hearing, here are a few lyrics from popular CMK songs. You can also check out my YouTube channel by searching "WeaverMusicMakers" to hear some of our songs.

Tic Toc

Tic Toc Tic Toc Goes the Big Clock,
Tic Toc Tic Toc Night and Day,
Tic Toc Tic Toc Goes the Big Clock,
God watches over us night and day.

Good Morning Lord

Good Morning Lord, this is your day,
I am your child, show me the way.
Good Morning Lord, this is your day,
I am your child, show me the way.
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen

Shukuru *

Shukuru, Shukuru Yesu
Shukuru, Shukuru Yesu
(x2)

* A Sudanese Arabic song -
Thank you Jesus

NOVEMBER and DECEMBER CHAPEL SERVICES: A TIME TO REMEMBER OTHERS

For many years, CMK has partnered with Chamblee First UMC's food drive that provides families in our community with a Thanksgiving Food Basket including fruits, vegetables, and a wide variety of canned and dried food items. These families are identified with the assistance of our local school counselors and social workers. Our goal this year is to help 200 families in need within our schools and surrounding community! Below are suggested items that can be sent in to help with the food drive. You can drop off food during morning carpool or bring food to one of our chapel services on November 3rd or 16th.

items for collection:

- 16 oz bags of dried beans (red beans, black beans, lentils, etc.)
- 16oz bags of rice
- 24 oz cans or plastic jars of tomato sauce, marinara, canned tomatoes
- 1lb box/bag dried pasta or noodles
- 6 or 8 packs of fruit cups (peaches, pears, mandarin oranges, etc)
- 12 oz cans of meats (tuna, salmon, chicken, etc.)
- 15 oz. cans vegetables (corn, green beans, carrots, sweet potatoes, etc.)
- cereal (oatmeal packets, boxed cold, individual box pack)
- small pop top cans pasta meals (spaghetti-o's or ravioli)
- 28 oz plastic bottle peanut butter
- 16 oz. boxes of mac and cheese
- 8 ct individual box of microwavable cups
- box of cracker packs or granola bars
- 30 oz plastic bottle of jelly

Please bring items in a reusable bag if possible. We will use these for our deliveries to our families.

Our December Chapels will be a time when we partner with Cross Cultural Ministries of Chamblee to provide toys and games to children in the afterschool program (Kindergarten – grade 5.) During our two December chapels we will be collecting new, unwrapped toys and games to be donated. CMK has partnered with this agency for many years and we know that our donated items are going to families in need. More details about this project will be in the December newsletter.

PARENT INFORMATION **Child Development Screenings**

As children grow and develop there are many milestones that we look for when observing children in our preschool setting. While children develop and mature at different rates and stages, our experience with young children can prove to be beneficial when noticing milestones not being met in a timely way given the child's age and development. Each year we partner with outside resources to help us identify weaknesses and challenges that children may be having. Research shows that addressing challenges with early interventions and strategies can arm children with skills needed to be successful in the future. In November we have the opportunity for two professionals to come to our school to screen children for weaknesses in their development. I highly recommend these screenings for children who may be showing weaknesses in some areas. I also encourage you to discuss these areas with your child's teacher as she may have suggestions as well. These screenings are less expensive than a full evaluation and can yield important information for a child's development. Recommendations from the screenings include (1) the child is developing with age -appropriate behaviors, or (2) The child is showing some challenges, but monitor for 6 more months, or (3) More information is needed for this child. A more thorough evaluation is recommended.

Parent permission is required for your child to participate in these screenings. See below for more details about these screenings.

Speech/Language Screening - A speech and language screening is a brief 15- minute assessment of a child's communication skills. The purpose of a speech and language screening is to determine the child's age-appropriateness in the areas of receptive language, expressive language, articulation, social/interpersonal skills, fluency and voice.

Occupational Therapy (OT) Screening – An OT screening is often recommended for children who experience challenges in the areas of sensory input, body awareness, muscle control or weakness, clumsy or awkward movements, high levels of activity or excess fidgeting. Children who exhibit strong emotional outbursts or meltdowns may benefit from this screening as well. Other behaviors could include sound sensitivity, aversion to messy activities or sensitivity to clothing texture, tags or seams.

Parent Permission forms and sign up forms will be sent home during November. Feel free to contact me for more information about these services.