

CHAMBLEE METHODIST KINDERGARTEN

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October 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to October! The tears and uncertainties of September have given way to smiles and eager anticipation of what awaits us in the classroom each day. It will prove to be a busy month of activities and learning.

As we celebrate the arrival of autumn, we'll also be getting ready for Halloween, introducing many of the traditional symbols in an entertaining, non-threatening way by focusing on the fun of pretending, something all children do many times each day. We'll have classroom parties (and we thank all parents who are helping with the preparations); we may carve jack-o-lanterns with circle eyes and triangle noses; and we may make a friendly ghost or two. But the children know it's all make-believe fun. Creating good imaginative fun is so healthy for brain development.

If you are a "party parent" for this first party, please be sure to check with the teacher regarding your plans. If your child's class has any students with food allergies, please be sure you know who those students are so that they will only be served the approved snack. Only the party parents are asked to attend this party, but everyone will be invited to the end-of-the-year parties.

With Gratitude,

Mellie

UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENT

Monday, October 2	Lunch bunch begins for 2 year olds
Thursday, October 5	NO SCHOOL; CMK teacher workday
Fri. and Mon., October 6, 9	School closed for Fall Break and Columbus Day
Sunday, October 8	CMK at church; join us at 10:00am for worship and fellowship
Wednesday, October 11; at 9:15am	Chapel for 2s, 3s, 4s and Kindergarten-parents invited
Wednesday, October 25; 5:30 -7:00	CFUMC Trunk of Treats (see below)
Thursday, October 26 at 9:15am	Chapel in Sanctuary for 2s,3s,4s, K class -parents invited
Thursday and Friday, Oct 26 - 27	School pictures; more details TBD
End of October	Halloween Parties, TBA by classroom teacher
Wednesday, November 1 at 9:15am	Chapel for 2s, 3s, 4s and Kindergarten-parents invited
Tuesday, November 7	School closed for election day
Thursday, November 16; at 9:15am	Chapel for 2s, 3s, 4s and Kindergarten-parents invited
Monday – Friday, Nov. 20- 24	School closed for Thanksgiving Day holidays

CHAPEL

Chapel start at 9:15 in the church sanctuary. After carpool, park your car and come into the building through the breezeway beside the PMO playground. It doesn't matter whether you're dressed for the office, for the gym, or for grocery shopping, you are always welcome. Children sit together with their classes, and we'll have a section of church pews set up for parents. We love having our CMK family together to sing, pray, and listen for God's word.

We welcome our 2 year olds to chapel this month. While these friends are acclimating to chapel the parents of our 2s may want to sit closer to the back to prevent any distraction for your child. Feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or me for more details.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

CFUMC Trunk Of Treats - On Wednesday, October 25, Chamblee First United Methodist Church will host a community Halloween event called Trunk of Treats. This year the church would like to invite the parents of PMO and CMK to participate by decorating a car trunk and handing out goodies (car decorating starts at 5) or attending. Follow this link to sign up to decorate your car's trunk - <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/60B054DA9AA28A4FD0-44563277-trunk>

It is sure to be a fun evening with costumes, treats, and even prizes for the best-decorated trunks. Be sure to find Mrs. O'Keefe and say Hi!

Halloween Parties - If bringing a costume to school for your child's class Halloween party is part of your child's class plans, please follow these guidelines: wear regular clothes and shoes to school since playground and other activities go on as usual; do not bring masks, swords, guns or other weapons; choose positive characters instead of violent action characters; and put the costume in a bag with your child's name on it inside the tote bag. Thank you for helping make this time safe and comfortable for everyone. Individual teachers may send home other suggestions too. Remember only those parents who are signed up for this party may attend. This helps us keep children from getting overwhelmed by too many people in the classrooms.

Speech and Language Screenings - During November we will have speech and language screenings, an optional service that will cost \$30.00 for all CMK students. This service is offered to CMK families by a licensed speech - language pathologist to determine the child's age appropriateness in the areas of receptive language, expressive language, articulation, social/interpersonal skills, fluency and voice. This screening is an inexpensive way to gain more information about your child's language development. This screening might also involve classroom observation time to evaluate the child's expressive and receptive language as well as the child's articulation and vocal fluency when interacting with the teacher and peers. An information form regarding this screening will be coming home soon. Please talk with your child's teacher or call Mellie if you have any questions or concerns.

Occupational Therapy Screenings - Also in November CMK will offer optional OT screenings for all children in our program at a reasonable cost. A child can benefit from this screening if parents and/or teachers have concerns regarding the child's overall development. More information will be sent home later this month about this service and how to give your permission for your child to be screened if you are interested in this service. As educators we rely on these screenings to help give us more information about a child's development and strategies to address any weaknesses that may be observed.

PARENTING CORNER

Reverend Minho and I have been talking frequently about child development and ways we can support parents. He shared a great book with me called, "It's Just A Phase, So Don't Miss It" by Reggie Joiner and Kristen Ivy. It is an easy to read book that helps guide parents and defines a phase as a timeframe in kids' lives when you can leverage distinctive opportunities to influence their future.

For example: When your child is aged zero to one the phase is when nobody sleeps, everybody smells and one mesmerizing baby convinces you, "I need you now."

Ages One and two: The phase when nobody's on time, everything is a mess and one eager toddler will insist "I can do it."

You get the gist..... this book contains countless suggestions, realities and ways to help your child through the challenges of growing up and how to include faith in the process.

At CMK and CFUMC we believe that every life stage of a child matters and we have the privilege of watching children grow into who God created them to be. Feel free to reach out to any of us on staff for advice, suggestions or to commiserate in this all important job called "parenting."