



Nursery School News

A Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul's Episcopal Nursery School

1066 Washington Road · Pittsburgh, PA · 15228 · (412) 531-2644

Volume XXXII, Issue 9

May 2003

From Jane: The End Of The School Year



As the school year comes to a close I am once again sitting here trying to process the ending and turn my thoughts to what will soon become another new beginning. When last year ended we all thought a terribly stressful year was over and hoped that we might actually look toward a happier, more secure time. Somehow a year of continued terrorist threats, war and economic down turns didn't really fulfill those hopes.

One of the best things about working with young children is their happy enthusiasm for life, and their trust and confidence in the adults in their world. I must say that I am thankful that I can be a part of their world; their joy, inquisitiveness, and their continued growth and development, especially at a time when our adult world seems so jaded and full of worries and concern.

I find it comforting to see that some things never change – three and four year olds still love to ride bikes in the Big Room, climb on dirt mountain, and create wonderful works of art of all sorts! They also eventually outgrow preschool and move on to bigger challenges. And of course it is our challenge to encourage and facilitate those changes, endings, and new beginnings. The hard part about all of this is that once we find our children in a relative “comfort zone” we often hesitate to encourage them to move on. As the school year ends we now see that our children have mastered their class routines, know where they fit into their class group, and know how to problem solve “nursery school” issues independently – often without tantrums and negativity!

In spite of the fact that we would like to freeze frame many of the children here who have finally gotten it all right, we must remind ourselves that with each new day comes a new challenge, both for us and our children. As soon as our children master one stage

and we finally breathe a sigh of relief, along comes the next one and we all cope with what usually becomes an even more complex and challenging stage than the previous one. For those of us who can take the risk of being life long learners, and model that life style for our children, we will encourage and facilitate our children's journey into those uncharted waters of the future. And even if we do try to hang onto everything that is comfortable and familiar, our children really do not allow us to.

Everyone has concerns when their children move on to new environments, and especially with any signs of immaturity and imperfection that we see in our children. But on the up side we should all find reassurance in knowing that even though they are young, they really are capable and ready to take on new challenges and move on to the next stage in their lives.

As I write this I think of a quote from an article about helping children face new challenges written by Nancy Gibbs in the April 30th, 2001 issue of *Time* magazine entitled “*What Kids Really Need.*”

“This is the challenge to busy parents, working long hours, strung out at home as they help their children grow up. What would it take to create an easy, quiet space where you can just hang out with your kids, read a story, or make one up, build a fort, make something goopy, together? If in the process your children grow secure in the knowledge that you will forgive them for whatever they break or spill or forget, if they learn to share because you are sharing,

Inside this issue:

<i>From Jane</i>	1-2
<i>Summer Program</i>	2
<i>School Picnic</i>	2
<i>Lost & Found</i>	2
<i>Mayfair</i>	3
<i>Mark You Calendar</i>	4

From Jane (continued)

if they don't have to fight for your attention, those skills may serve them better in facing challenges in the adventure that is life than being able to distinguish the octagon from the hexagon or fuchsia from lilac. The best news about raising a super child is that the secret to doing it is not to try too hard."

So folks, as they say, "It's been real." Life moves on and we should embrace the happiness with the sadness. Have a good, safe, and restful summer. For those of you leaving the school do keep in touch, and for the rest of you – I will see you during the summer program or in September.

Summer Program

Summer program is almost completely full. If you have not registered your child and would like to, you should do so now. Summer program runs from the week of June 23rd to the week of July 28th. The program runs Monday – Friday from 9:15 am – 11:45 AM for children who are 3 by January 1st and toilet trained. This year we also have a program for younger children who are 3 by June 1st that runs Tuesday – Thursday from 9:15 am – 11:45 AM. For more information check with the school office or contact Mindy Hudson who is the summer program director.

School Picnic

Our end of year all school picnic will be on **Thursday, May 22nd** from 6:00 pm until dark in the Main Park (next to the ice skating rink).

We will be using the main pavilion furthest away from the road. Each family should bring their own picnic dinner. All family members are invited including siblings and any other extended family members who would like to attend. We hope everyone will come and join the staff and me for a final farewell to the school year!

Lost & Found + Books From The Parent Bookshelf

By the end of the year we have always collected a large supply of lost and found items. We will put everything out during the last week of school so that people can retrieve lost items, in the mean time be sure to check in the lost and found.

Also check and see if you have books at home from the parent bookshelf. If you find that you do, please return the book/s to the school office. Thanks for your cooperation.



Mayfair—Saturday, May 17th



As I write this newsletter many people are busy planning for Mayfair. Many of you have already made donations for the Chinese auction and signed up for juice and chips for the food booth. Keep bringing in your fast food kid's meal toys for prizes. Also be sure to check your room booth and sign up for a shift if possible. We also need baked goods for the bake sale. Please check your classroom's bulletin board for information on when auction items need to be turned in. Bake sale and food donations can be turned in on Friday, May 16 or on the morning of Mayfair.

One addition to this year's Mayfair are the Child ID Cards. Officers from the Mt. Lebanon Police Department will have a booth indoors where you can go to have an ID Card made for your child/children. You will be asked to fill out a form which will provide personal information concerning each child. Your child will then have his/her picture taken. This ID Card can be a useful tool for law enforcement should the unthinkable happen and your child is missing. Forms will be made available in advance to expedite the process. Parent volunteers are needed to help with this booth so please sign up in the Parent's Lounge. Also, the "Tell Mommy" card game discussed at the February "Hot Topic" will be available at this booth.

I know that families today have such busy and hectic schedules, all of us here on the staff appreciate whatever help you are able to give to Mayfair. It is a fun day for the children, and the proceeds this year will go toward needed new equipment and landscaping on our new playground. Thanks again for helping St. Paul's provide a wonderful place for children to grow and learn!

- Games
- Prizes
- Face Painting
- Pony Rides
- Clowns
- Kid's Chinese Auction
- A Fire Truck
- Bake Sale
- Food
- Child ID Cards
- Plus More...

Mark Your Calendar For St. Paul's Activities & Events May 2003

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6 "Hot Topic" 1 PM Upstairs Lounge	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 MAYFAIR 11 AM- 3 PM	18
19	20	21	22 School Picnic 6 PM Mt. Lebanon Park	23 Last Day of School	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8



Have a GREAT summer!



First day of school for the 2003-2004 school year is Wednesday, September 3rd.



St. Paul's Episcopal Nursery School... 45 Years And Growing

Mark Your Calendar For St. Paul's Activities & Events April 2003

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Plant Orders Are Due!	12	13
14	15 Last Day of School Easter Break	16	17	18	19	20 Easter Sunday
21	22 First Day Back	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1 MAY	2	3	4
5	6 "Hot Topic" Grief and Fear: Trauma Once Removed	7	8	9	10	11



"Hot Topic"
Tuesday, May 6th in the Church Lounge
Join Lois Greenberg who will speak on
"Grief and Fear: Trauma Once Removed"

This will be a talk about how parents can help themselves and their children cope in difficult and stressful times.