

CHILDREN'S LIVELY MINDS

"We overestimate children academically and underestimate them intellectually"

Lillian Katz

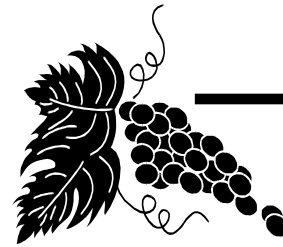
An article by Deb Curtis from *ExchangeEveryDay Magazine*

"One of my worries about the growing focus on academics and school readiness in programs for young children is it keeps many teachers from seeing children's innate, lively minds at work. When teachers are overly concerned about teaching the alphabet and other isolated skills and facts, they may miss children's serious approaches to tasks and voracious quests to understand the world around them. As Lillian Katz's quote above suggests, children are more apt to be interested in intellectual pursuits than academic lessons. I think clarifying the difference between the two can help teachers see and appreciate children's thinking, and in turn offer meaningful experiences that engage their lively minds.

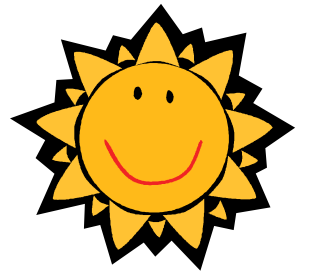
"Webster's Dictionary defines academic as 'very learned but inexperienced in practical matters,' 'conforming to the tradition or rules of a school,' and 'a body of established opinion widely accepted as authoritative in a particular field.' And intellectual is defined as 'given to study, reflection, and speculation,' and 'engaged activity requiring the creative use of the intellect.' Obviously it is important for children to learn appropriate academic skills and tasks, but rather than overly focusing on these goals, I strongly claim and enjoy my responsibility to help children become engaged thinkers, excited about the wonders around them. Young children bring an eager disposition to learn all of the time, so it's my job to find ways to really see, appreciate, and further their intellectual pursuits.

"It's easy to dismiss children's exploration because they move quickly, make messes, and put themselves in seemingly risky situations. I have developed the practice of waiting before jumping into a situation to determine what the thinking might be underneath a child's behavior. I have come to see that with most everything children do they have something in mind; a purpose or question they are pursuing. When I take even their smallest actions seriously, I am astonished at children's deep engagement with the simple wonders around them; I notice they are studying and speculating, engrossed in the moment."

*ExchangeEveryDay is a free service of Exchange Magazine.
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The Grapevine

Winter Park Presbyterian Preschool
400 South Lakemont Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32792



LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER CAMP

We are gearing up for a wonderful, way out summer program. During our first session (June 25 through July 6) we will be exploring our Solar System. Summer campers will have their very own Planetarium to explore space, dress-up as Astronauts and learn what an Astronaut's life is like living on a space shuttle. They will also learn about other planets, dig for moon rocks, and of course fly into space. We may even take a ride to the Moon! We will also have our very own 4th of July Parade with all the trimmings.

Our second session (July 9 through July 20) is all about transportation. How will we travel to our summer destinations? Will we go by car, train, airplane, sailboat, ship or will we walk? We could visit Mexico, Jamaica or Hawaii. What other places would we like to visit? Maybe we will just stay in Florida and travel to somewhere nearby? What will we do at our vacation destination? Our summer campers will visit the transportation room and travel to different places around the globe.

Our third session (July 23 through August 3) is all about DINOSAURS. We are the dinosaurs, marching, marching. We are the dinosaurs, what do you think of that? The children will have fun going on a dinosaur hunt, digging for dino skeletons, making dinosaur footprints and creating their very own dinosaur tee-shirt.

During all three sessions, every day will be sports and water day. The sports area consists of trikes, balls, badminton, bean bag toss and other games. The water play area will be filled with numerous water tables and a variety of fun toys that fit each theme. On Friday's we will celebrate the end of the week with a splash day and movie time. The children will enjoy playing in numerous pools, slip and slides and a sprinkler along with water table fun and a popsicle treat. Our summer campers will also enjoy visiting our movie room for a 30 minute movie and popcorn.

JOIN US FOR THE PATRIOT'S PARADE

Our parade route begins along the sidewalk next to room #708. Bring your cameras. Be early as the parade moves very quickly. Your support through cheers and applause (and relaxing if your marcher breaks rank) will be greatly appreciated.

REMINDER

There will be no Extended Day after the Parade.

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Church Page

THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN HELP OTHERS RIGHT HERE AT WPPC

- 1) **Jackets, Hoodies & Hats-** WPPC is collecting for the homeless in downtown Orlando. If you have any of these items you are not using, please bring them to the church office.
- 2) **Coalition for the Homeless-** If you like to bake, prepare meals, bag brownies, make sandwiches or serve a meal, contact Kathy Anderson at 407-647-4477 or email Kathy@distdata.com. If you would like to donate toiletries, soap, deodorant, razor blades, baseball caps, tote bags, Quaker Oat Bars and washcloths, please drop them off at the Church office.
- 3) **Cell phones for solders & glasses for Vosh-** We are collecting these items which can be dropped off at the church office.
- 4) **We have ladies from the church that knit beautiful lap blankets for hospice-** They are asking for donations of yarn. Please bring yarn to church office in paper bag and address to Liz Ouellette.

CHURCH EVENT DATES IN JANUARY

- **TNT (Tuesday nights together)** Starts back up January 10, 2012—February 7, 2012 and February 21, 2012—March 20, 2012. Supper is at 5:30 pm. Classes are at 6:30. For a list of classes, please check Church website at: www.winppc.org and click on January Covenanter.
- **Area Citrus Drive—Gleaning Event at College Park Presbyterian Church,** Saturday, January 21, 2012. Help feed Central Florida's hungry with the citrus grown in local backyards. Here ways to participate:
 - A) Pick your fruit and drop it at the site
 - B) Volunteer to pick local fruit or pick from local trees
 - C) Donate your citrus for volunteers to pick

Meet at the church at 7:30 am. Transportation will be provided. If you are interested e-mail Drew at drewbryne@cfl.rr.com. All citrus is distributed to food pantries and soup kitchens throughout Central Florida. Sponsored by the Society of St. Andrew and www.EndHunger.org.

For more details go to www.winppc.org and go to the January Covenanter.

Announcements

UPCOMING EVENTS

In House Registration- Monday, February 6, 2012
 Patriot's Parade- Wednesday, February 15, 2012 - no Extended Day
 President's Day - Monday, February 20, 2012, no school
 Open registration- - Tuesday, February 21, 2012
 No Board Meeting in February

SAVE THE DATE

WINTER PARK PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL AND CHURCH
 Easter Egg Hunt, Pancake Breakfast and Preschool Basket Auction
 Saturday April 7, 2012 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

The Winter Park Presbyterian Church and Winter Park Presbyterian Preschool are planning a terrific Easter event. We will start with a pancake breakfast for families sponsored by the Church in Fellowship hall along with an Easter egg hunt from 10:00 to 10:15 A.M.

We will also have special activities, crafts, and a bounce house until noon. In addition there will be a basket auction fund raiser that will raise money to buy new equipment for the playgrounds and classrooms. Christy Kearney is in charge of this event along with Drew Bryne who represents the Church and is a preschool parent. You will be receiving more information closer to this event.

Recent Playground Improvements

As you may have noticed, there are a few upgrades to both the toddler and pine playgrounds. The toddler playground has a new canopy over the sandbox and we will be getting a new steering wheel for the bus. The pine playground canopy is on back order, and will be replaced shortly. There are many other items that have been upgraded as well. The pirate ship's port holes have been covered and painted yellow along with the doors and base. New boards have been added to the clatter bridge and new stepping stones were added to replace the old tires. Bumper pads were installed to protect the children's heads while using the slides. We purchased all new swings and closed all the gaps in the climbing equipment with professional playground planks. We also raised the fall zone under the jungle gym to reduce the drop to the ground and make the equipment safer and better padded. The Church helped with the cost.