



SAINT RAPHAEL PRESCHOOL

Weekly Memo: March 1, 2017

Dear Parents,

Lent is upon us! Ash Wednesday opens this season of prayer and fasting. Father Bruce is coming this week to distribute ashes to our little ones. At the Preschool we focus on the ashes as a reminder that we are precious children of God, as the sign of the cross on our foreheads is the same as we receive at Baptism. Each week during Lent at music class we will read part of the Easter story, always focusing on the Resurrection and Jesus' great love for us. The children will recite this Lenten prayer together in the coming weeks. You are invited to incorporate it into your home prayers as well!

*Oh Jesus, I love you. You light my way.
Bless me and make me good and loving today.
All during Lent, I will share and be kind.
And when Lent is over, Easter joy will be mine. Amen*



Many blessings,

Molly DeAngelo

Staff Announcements for 2017-18

After illustrious teaching careers spanning 30 and 36 years, respectively, Ms. McAuliffe and Ms. Kate have decided to take the leap into a well-deserved retirement. Though we are very sad for us, we are very happy for them as they embark on an exciting new phase of their lives. They promise to continue to be involved at the Preschool in some way. Retiring along with them will be the Blue Tie Teddies and Red Tie Teddies class names, which will be renamed the Dolphins and the Owls classes next year.

Ms. Lindsey will be leaving the Preschool as well. She is finishing up an elementary education degree at ECU and will be student teaching full time in Wake County during the fall. We wish her luck and hope that she will return to St. Raphael in the future!

Ms. Jennifer will be taking over as the teacher of the newly named Dolphins class. In addition to teaching the Panda class, Ms. Kinlaw will teach the Red Puppies on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We are excited to welcome Tracey Frank as the Yellow Puppies and Spotted Puppies teacher on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Many of you know Tracey already, as her daughter Holly is in the Pandas and her son Asher is Preschool alumnus who now attends SRCS. She also has a younger daughter, Clara, who will be a Preschool student next year. Tracey holds a Birth-Kindergarten teaching license and comes to us with great experience working with young children. We are so excited to have her join our staff!

Ms. April will teach the 4 year old Otters class next year in addition to the Bunnies, which will be the Monday/Wednesday 3 year old class. Ms. Kathryn will continue to teach the 3 year old Turtles, but will switch to a Tuesday/Thursday schedule.

We are happy to announce that Ms. Marla, who currently teaches our Extended Day Spanish class, will be our Spanish teacher for all the 3s, 4s, and 5s classes next year! Spanish classes will increase in frequency and duration, which is very exciting.

2017-18 Student Information Needed

Last week all families who registered for next year were sent an email with a link to a student information form. Please fill out the form no later than March 10th. This gives us time to enter emergency contacts, medical information, and Lunch Bunch registrations before packets are sent out in April.

Parent Survey

Have you completed your annual parent survey yet? We greatly value your feedback! An on-line version is available as well as paper copies that you can find at your classroom sign-in table. All surveys must be submitted by this Friday, March 3rd.

We're Collecting Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Because little things can make a big difference, the Preschool is teaming up with the SRCS Faith In Action Team to collect pop tabs from aluminum cans. The Ronald McDonald House of Durham provides housing and support programs to families whose children are undergoing medical treatment for serious illnesses. Funds generated from recycling the pop tabs help support these Ronald McDonald House initiatives. Pop tabs can be deposited in the collection jar in the Preschool office. Thanks for your participation!

Soccer Shots Classes for Spring

A new session of Soccer Shots begins soon! Now is the time to enroll. If your child is already enrolled, the fun will continue on March 10th. If you like to join the spring session, please sign up on-line or find more information on their website www.soccershots.org/rdu.

An Invitation from Mothers in Faith

Modern American Philosophies and Our Catholic Faith: How does our Catholic faith approach modern American philosophies such as individualism, relativism, hedonism and more? Join Mothers in Faith and Jeannine Washburn in a discussion on identifying how these philosophies have entered our lives and families, ways to root them out in order to fill ourselves up with the Truth of our Catholic Faith and live the Abundant Life that Jesus wants for us. This meeting will be Thursday, March 16th at 9:30am in rm 112. Childcare is available in the adjacent nursery for \$5 per child or \$10 max per family. No one will be turned away because of an inability to pay. Please join us at 8:30am (after SRCS carpool drop off) for the Divine Mercy in rm 112 or the adjacent nursery. Contact mothersinfaithsr@yahoo.com for more information.

Ignatius Fund Update

Thank you to all who have already contributed! We are now over 2/3 of the way to our goal! Every donation to the Ignatius Fund is tax-deductible and goes to where the need is greatest. Please support the fund that supports your child! Learn more about the Ignatius Fund and donate on-line through our website: <http://straphaelpreschool.org/ignatius-fund/>



Goal: \$75,000 with 100% participation by SRCS and Preschool families and staff

Raised to date: \$51,014

Important Upcoming Dates

March 1: Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)

March 9: Preschool closed for Parish All Staff Retreat



“Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy.” ~ Pope Francis