

September 2007

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to our Preschool! We are excited that you are here and we look forward to a fun year of learning together. In addition to regular classroom activities, your child will also be participating in a weekly music class. I teach this class with an Orff Schulwerk approach, which means that it is an active learning situation. (See the brochure for additional information). We sing, move (GREAT for preschoolers), play instruments, learn poems and chants, play traditional singing games, listen to and respond to recorded music, and hopefully, have a lot of fun!

I hope that you will enjoy listening to your child share the things we are learning. As the mother of a three year old, I also know that sometimes the repetition can get a little crazy! As you might already know, your child will appreciate it if you learn the songs or games, too, and join in the fun. Some of the material you may already know. Here is a little research about why sharing music is so important to your child's development:

Critical to musical development in the earliest years is the home environment. Opportunities, not just to hear music, but to interact in musical games and activities is critical to emotional and psychological development (Dissanayake, 2000; Gembris & Davidson, 2002). Moreover, it is becoming increasingly apparent that all human beings are biologically predisposed to be musical and that this inborn predisposition for musicality has important consequences for us not only artistically, but emotionally and socially, as well (Hodges, 2000; Imberty, 2000; Trehub, 2000).
(http://www.music-research.org/Publications/V01N1_musicality.html)

I am excited that this year we are planning to have the preschool students provide special music for one of our worship services as part of Lutheran Education Week. We will be singing on March 9 at the 10:30 a.m. service. You will receive more information as the date gets closer, but we do hope your family will be able to participate with us.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like further information (mrsrev@rcn.com or Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. at St. Mark's). Music is a wonderful way to learn and especially to learn about our Christian faith. I am looking forward to a wonderful year with your child!

In Christ's Service,

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