

Midtown Lutheran Preschool

At Redeemer Lutheran Church

731 Peachtree St. NE | Atlanta, GA | 30308

www.MidtownLutheranPreschool.org | T: 404.600.4321

Dear Families,

Thank you for putting your faith in this school endeavor. We have had a great start to the year! We are having tons of fun getting to know the boys and look forward to what the school year will bring.

In this newsletter you will find bios about the teachers, a bit about our curriculum and the typical daily schedule.

Warm Regards,

Kate

October Focus

- Fall – leaves, pumpkins
- Letters A, B, C, D, E, F, J, Z
- Numbers – number recognition and representation will continue throughout the year.

November Focus

- Food – based on the interest that the students have in the kitchen area, we are going to weave food into our November activities.
- Letters G, H, I, J, K, L

December Focus

- Music and Holidays – Early winter is a popular time to talk about holiday. We plan to hone in on the music aspect of this time of year.
 - Letters M, N, O, P, Q, R
-



Upcoming Events

October 23

Storytime 10-11AM

October 31

Fall/Halloween
Neighborhood Walk

November 13

Storytime 10-11 AM

Daily Schedule



9:00 AM Arrival; Table Activities
9:20 Circle time (story, Question of the Day, Guessing Bag, calendar)
Bathroom
9:45 Outside Play
10:30 Snack
10:45 Centers Time; Bathroom
12:00 PM Class Activities – cooking, lesson, nature walk, music, large movement, etc.
12:30 Lunch
Cozy Corner/Quiet Reading
1:00 Dismissal

Curriculum

Emergent Play

Play is not only fun but it is a child's job. It is the best way in which children learn about their world. At Midtown Lutheran Preschool we don't just play all day but create curriculum out of the play of our students. When children play, instructors are able to observe and assess interests and development of the students which drives what happens in the classroom. This is called Emergent Curriculum and is play-based while being very intentional.

Here are some articles that explain more:

NAEYC Emergence of Emergent Curriculum

http://www.naeyc.org/yc/files/yc/file/201203/Heritage_v67n2_0312.pdf

Kindergarten in Queensland

<http://bit.ly/19MZBSL>

Projects

Projects are an expression of the Emergent Curriculum but are a focused study based on the interests of the students in the class. The project component will be more evident in the older classrooms but there is much opportunity for smaller projects in younger years too. More research is showing that project-based curriculums promote more problem solving and critical thinking skills in students which are 21st century skills that adults will need. Here is more about projects

<http://www.projectapproach.org/>.

Dual Language

Much of dual language information is based on English as a second language learners. We are teaching German as a second language to (right now) all English speakers. There are many benefits to dual language including challenging the brain and opening a child's view to new cultures and the world.

How the Brain Benefits from Being Bilingual: <http://ti.me/1dGKf58>. German was chosen because it is part of our church's heritage and it makes us unique in the Atlanta community.

GELDS

Please also familiarize yourself with the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) www.gelds.decal.ga.gov. They were recently updated and are a great resource for parents. They add intentionality to our teaching and curriculum development.



Teachers

Geneva Smith – German (L)

Geneva, a native of Germany, has lived in Atlanta for eight years. She has been teaching preschool for 5 years and loves working with children! In her personal time she volunteers at her church with the children's ministry and tutors students in German. Geneva and her husband have two daughters who are 6 and 12. She enjoys sewing, traveling and shopping.

Kate Elkins – General Ed. (R)

Kate has over 10 years of teaching and childcare experience. She holds a BA in Elementary Education and a M.Ed. in Early Childhood. Her experience spans preschool to elementary, traditional public to charter, single and mixed gender classrooms. In her personal time she volunteers on Redeemer's Outreach board and is a member of the Governing Board at Wesley International Academy. Kate, her husband, Jeff, and their 3 year old son, Jude, live in Grant Park. Kate enjoys nature, travel and food.

German

Below are some of the everyday vocabulary and phrases that the children hear from Geneva – perhaps you are starting to hear some too! German Halloween/Fall vocabulary to come soon!

Hände waschen – washing hands

Käse - cheese

Wasser - water

Guten Morgen – Good Morning

Tschüss – Good-bye (informal)

fertig – done

guck mal – look at this (informal to someone familiar)

Mittagessen – lunch

Buch – book

hinsetzen – sit down

I have no background in the German language so Geneva has been fielding many questions from me. Two interesting grammatical pieces that I've learned are that all nouns are capitalized, and that any two nouns that describe one thing are put together into a compound word. Now that you know this too, take a look around at our environmental print in the room and see what you notice!