



Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten Preschool & Kindergarten Newsletter October 2020

Welcome Back to School! The teachers and staff of Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten are all so happy to be back at GLPK and to welcome our returning and new students to the 2020-2021 school year. Although our routines for cleaning, drop-off and pick-up, and added curriculum (stories and activities for wearing masks, hand hygiene, germs, etc.) have made things a little different, the children are doing a stellar job!



The Big Question: Will You Be Open Next Week?

Our plan is to remain open. At this time we are making our decision at the end of each week. We will let you know in the weekly emailed Weekend Notes that goes out at the end of each school week. We will continue relying on the information we receive from the PA Dept. of Ed., PA DHS, and PA DOH. We also are considering the general community consensus within and outside of our school. This includes the teachers' feelings of safety, the families' feelings of safety, and the community positivity rates (beyond the PSU numbers).

If someone is suspected to be ill or tests positive for Covid-19 within our school, we will contact and follow the DOH's recommendations for closing classrooms or closing the school. Details can be found in our health and safety plan that was emailed before the start of school. If you have specific questions, please contact the GLPK administration.

With that being said, we thank all of you who have been diligent in keeping your children home for cold symptoms and erring on the side of caution. We also appreciate it when you let us know at drop-off that you are aware of a mild runny nose or other mild symptoms so that we can keep a watchful eye if things progress. Thank you to everyone who emails or calls to let us know your child will be absent. This year we will be following up on absences.

Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten Safety

Safety for the children in our care is of paramount importance to all of us. Our parking lot is very busy at drop-off and pick-up times due to both school and church activities. We ask you to work with us to ensure everyone is safe.



1. When you arrive at our preschool, **please follow the directional arrows** in our parking lot. You will also notice that there is a chain separating the two sides of our lot to eliminate cut-through traffic during school hours.
2. Make sure your child remains **WITH** you at all times and does **NOT** run ahead of you.
3. Make sure your child is very close to you and that your eyes are on your child at **ALL** times, **ESPECIALLY** when you are talking with adults in the parking area. Accidents can occur within seconds.
4. Ask your child to keep his or her feet on the ground and not on the playground fence supports which do come loose. The hand railings leading up to the main school entrance are not for climbing and can be slippery, especially when they are wet.
5. When you cross the parking lot, please make sure your child has your hand or, if your arms are full, that they are grasping your arm.

We highly encourage camaraderie between you and other parents as well as our teachers and staff, but our foremost concern at school is to make sure your children (and you!) are safe. We want to make sure that every child who enters our doors will have happy memories here and always feel safe.

If at any time during the year you have any questions or suggestions related to safety, please email or call Dawn and Cathy (glpk@glcpa.org or 814-238-8110).

Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten

Mark Your Calendars!

Dates to Remember!

- October 1 – Butter Braid sale begins, orders due October, 16, delivery November 4th
- October 5 – Health Assessment Forms due for 20-21 School year
- October 14 & 15 – GLPK Spirit Days, Wear your favorite sport's jersey or uniform
- October 16 – Butter Braid orders are due
- October 22 – GLPK Staff Meeting 12:15 to 2pm
- October 22 & 23 – Virtual Chapel
- October 27 & 28 – Fall Goal Setting Conference Forms go home
- October 29 & 30 – No Preschool or Enrichment classes due to planned SCASD days off



All-School Themes

Our school has a Christian Focus, a Science Exploration theme, and an Afternoon Enrichment Class theme each month. In September, the Christian Focus was God Made Me Special, “Children are a gift from the Lord” (Psalm 127:3). The Science Exploration theme was Building Structures – Open Exploration. The theme for Enrichment class was “Awesome Artists”.

Christian Focus for October - God gives me family and friends. “A friend loves at all times.” Proverbs 17:17

Science Exploration for October—Building Structures: Towers

Afternoon Enrichment theme for October—Healthy Me!



Resources for Families

To learn about community events and information for families, visit www.statecollege.com.

SCASD offers classes for parents. To learn more about what is offered, visit www.scasd.org, click on Family Outreach Services. Schlow Library provides classes and events for all ages check out their website at www.schlowlibrary.org/events.

REMINDER: Health assessment forms are due to the school office by October 5th. Note: Returning students' health forms may still be valid from last year if they were dated after 10/05/19. For example, a health assessment dated 12/20/19 won't expire until 12/20/20. A new health assessment will be required at that time.



GLPK Spirit Days

Six times during the school year, GLPK will hold themed Spirit Days. Our first spirit days, “Sports Days”, will be held on Wednesday, October 14th and Thursday, October 15th. Have your child choose a favorite sports jersey/t-shirt/sweatshirt/uniform for dance, gymnastics, soccer, football, baseball, basketball, etc. to wear to school.



Fundraising Opportunities

The fall is usually a busy time for school fundraisers. This year we will be offering fewer fundraising opportunities than we have in the past. Below are a few ways to help us raise money for our tuition assistance program and for our school in general.



Box Tops for Education—By downloading the Box Tops for Education App on your phone and uploading your receipts, you can help our school earn money. Here is the website— <https://www.boxtops4education.com/> There are still a few products with BoxTops coupons that you can clip and give to us at school. We earned \$119.10 during 2019-2020.

Family Donation—A suggestion made during a GLPK survey was for families to make a flat donation rather than participating in our fundraisers. You are welcome to make a donation to Grace Lutheran at any time. The money will go to the GLPK general fund (indicate this in the memo line on your check), which supports special non-budgeted purchases and provides tuition assistance.

Butter Braids Frozen Pastry Dough—Look for a Freckled Moose Fundraiser order form for Butter Braids Pastries, which will be sent home with your child. This has been a very popular fundraiser in the past. The pastries come frozen for you to stock up your freezer for Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthday celebrations, or just because. Our school will make \$5.25 per each pastry sold. The orders with payment (checks made to Grace Lutheran Church or cash) is due to the school on October 16th and delivery to you will be November 4th at pick-up time.

In addition to the paper order forms that you will receive, Freckled Moose has provided an online store to sell the Butter Braids to family and friends. This is the website you can share via social media, text or email.

<https://store.myfundraisingplace.com/RegisterSeller/a7b61021-765f-4f13-873e-313783119eed>
You will still need to deliver the pastries to your buyers.



Note: if we should have to close our school, we will still be able to honor the delivery date and time with a drive through pick-up. Feel free to contact Dawn (dvandenheuvel@glcpa.org or 238-8110) with any questions or to make an order.

Please remember that participation in any of the fundraisers is **voluntary**.

Meet our Staff for the 2020-2021 school year

Top to Bottom Front row:

Teri Statham
Debbie Lower
Erin Stube
Anne Goodall
Maria Sofo

Back row:

DeeAnn Wylie
Lauren Umbel
Lonni Friedken
Amanda Stewart
Liz McMillan
Dawn Vanden Heuvel
Marylou Martin
Cathy Smarkusky



First month of school.



Socially Distanced Staff Meeting



Miss Debbie and Miss Liz's MWF 2.5-3.5-year-olds



ABC

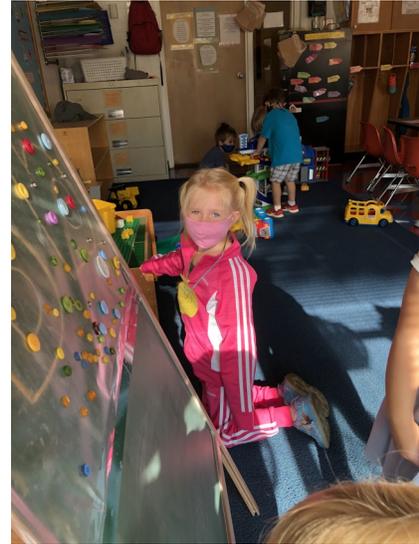


Miss Teri and Miss Lonni's MWF 4-year-olds



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Miss Amanda and Miss Erin's MWF 2.5-3-year-olds

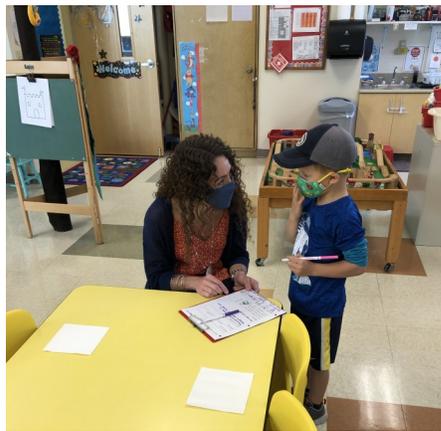


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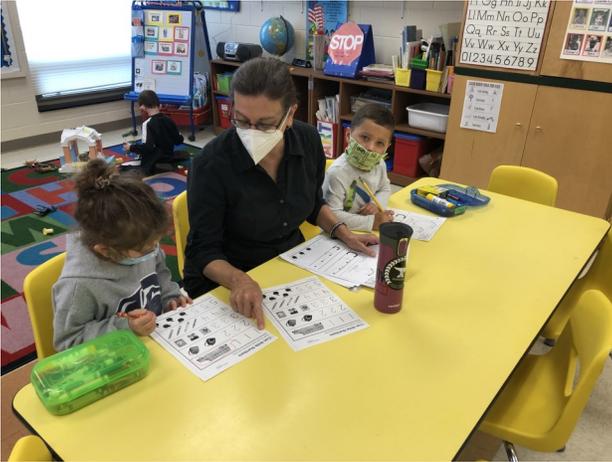
Miss Amanda, Miss Erin and Mrs. Martin's TR 2.5-3 -year-olds



Mrs. Wylie and Miss Lauren's MWF 4-year-olds



Mrs. Wylie and Miss Lauren's TR 4-year-olds



Miss Anne and Miss Maria's Kindergarten Prep Class



Pastor Scott Schul and Pastor Carolyn Hetrick recorded Chapel on our September Christian theme, God made me special. At the end of their devotion, they sang *Jesus Loves Me* while the children “sang” the song through sign language. All the classes had a turn to watch chapel on the big TV.



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Miss Teri and Miss Amanda's Enrichment Class—September's theme was "Awesome Artist"

