

St James Early Learning Center

NEWSLETTER

February 2024

CENTER HAPPENINGS

Fastnacht

The dining room will be very busy starting on February 11 and ending on February 13 with preparation and the making of Fastnachts. This will not impact the childcare areas, except for the parking lot. When you drop your kiddos off and pick them up you will have the smell of fresh donuts, versus the other lingering smells :-). The alleyway may be busy on Monday and Tuesday as this area becomes a drive-up pickup location at the garage area for those who purchased.

Wednesdays, Wednesdays, are continuing...

Starting Wednesday, February 21 the parking lot will be busy again. This is the start of evening dinner leading up to Easter. Dinner will begin at 5, so the parking lots will be busy with families attending dinner and picking up children from the Youth Group. Wednesday will continue to be congested in the parking lot between 4:30-5:00. Wednesdays are youth group days. Youth group is held from 3:30-5:00 during the school year. I hope this allows you to plan accordingly, for pick-up.

Outside time

Our goal is to go outside daily. If the feel like temperature is above 25 degrees we will make our best effort to go outside for at least 15 minutes to run. Please make sure your child has appropriate outdoor clothing. Hats, gloves or mittens, and heavy coats. You may leave extras in their cubbies.

Center Hours

This is a reminder that the Early Learning Center is open from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. We ask that you do not drop off before 6:30, if you need to be in the building please stay with your child until the teaching staff arrives.

Center closure is at 5:30, and children, families, and staff should not be lingering in the building after 5:30, we know that things come up from time to time, and we appreciate you letting us know.

What's In This Month's Issue?

- Center Happenings
- Inclement Weather
- Security Cameras
- Dental Health Month
- Black History
- Play
- Sick Policy
- Fastnacht's
- Key Cards
- Important Dates



INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event that we experience inclement weather, we will notify families through Lillio (HiMama) via text message or email. We will also post on social media and the St James Church website, under Early Learning. We do our very best to keep the center open and take many contributing factors into our decision-making.

School Age Families:

If the school district closes for snow and becomes a remote learning day, we will **NOT** have all-day care available. We do not have the flexibility to meet the many different time requests for remote days.

Security Cameras

The Early Learning Center along with St James Lutheran Church has purchased security cameras for the entire building. They will be installed, over the next few weeks. This will be for internal use only.

A center policy will be created and approved by the governance committee and distributed to families.



Dental Health Month

February is National Children's Dental Health Month!

Each February, the American Dental Association (ADA) sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. This year's theme is **Healthy Habits for Healthy Smiles!**

Did you know that tooth decay is the number one chronic disease for children but can be prevented and managed with good oral care? Visit the ADA [webpage](#) for a free planning guide and other useful resources. Remember that oral care for your child starts during pregnancy and dental visits for children should start by Age 1.

Adams County has many great dentists available for you your little smiles.

Gettysburg Dental Associates- 717.334.8193
Above and Beyond- 717.334-2223

Right outside of Frederick
Frederick Pediatric Dental Associates- 301.631.0501



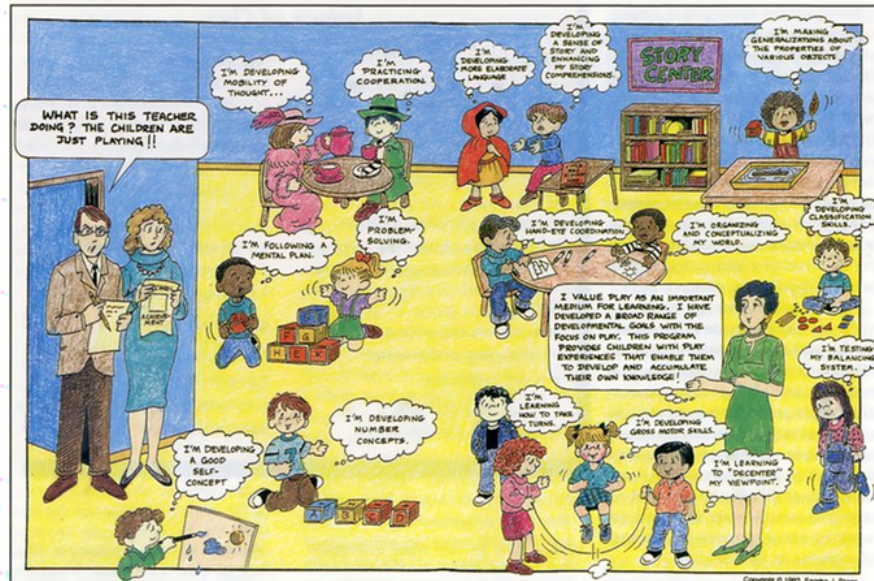
Black History Month

February is Black History Month.

Explore stories and accomplishments of African Americans throughout U.S. history. Start at the beginning by discussing what the month honors, how it started, and why it is important.

Picture books are a great way to bring the stories and histories of Black trailblazers to life for kids.

Keep it simple, but exposure them to the importance why we honor those of the past



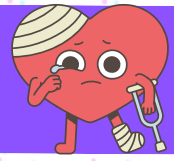
February 7 is Global Play Day!

P
l
a
y

Play is an important part of your child's growth and early development. Our classrooms play every day! Children have the opportunity to have free play and structured-planned play. play and learning mutually support one another and how teachers connect learning goals to children's play. Whether solitary, dramatic, parallel, social, cooperative, onlooker, object, fantasy, physical, constructive, or games with rules, play, in all of its forms, is a teaching practice that optimally facilitates young children's development and learning. By maximizing children's choices, promoting wonder and enthusiasm for learning, and leveraging joy, playful learning pedagogies support development across domains and content areas and increase learning relative to more didactic methods (Alfieri et al. 2011; Bonawitz et al. 2011; Sim & Xu 2015). **Read the full article:** <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/summer2022/power-playful-learning>



Sick Policy



It is that time of year when illness is on the rise. We do our best to clean and disinfect our classroom and the toys and materials used among the children daily. However, if and when your children get sick we ask that you honor the 24-hour policy. If you see a doctor and receive a doctor's note children may return if they are not experiencing continued symptoms and can participate in the classroom daily routine.

Fevers: Temperatures over 100.4- Children may return to school when the child's temperature has been normal for a full 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

Vomiting: May return 24 hours after symptoms are gone and can eat regular foods including the consumption of milk.

Diarrhea: May return to school 24 hours after all symptoms are gone. Bowel movement must be contained inside the diaper or the child can make it to the bathroom.

Antibiotics- children should be on an antibiotic for a full 24 hours before returning to the center. This helps prevent the spread of illness and allows you to see if your child experiences any reactions to the medication.

We understand the importance of having your children with us, and we want them to enjoy being in school and participating in the daily routine. We want all of our children and staff to remain as healthy as possible. Ultimately we ask you to follow this policy to keep our staff as healthy as possible, so we can continue to care for everyone's children.

FASTNACHTS

Order yours today



Key Cards

As part of our updated security, we are asking all families to provide their key card numbers. Please use the link below.

<https://forms.gle/Jx5tcM5ZV1wZSfZ56>

Important Dates

- Feb. 2 | Ground Hogs Day
- Feb. 7 | Global Play Day
- Feb. 12-13 | Fastnachts making days
- Feb. 14 | Valentines Day
- Feb. 19 | Center CLOSED- Presidents Day-Staff in-service day

