

St. James Early Learning Center

NEWSLETTER

October 2024

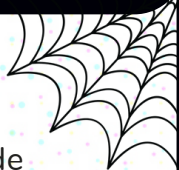


Important Dates !

- Oct. 4 | Picture Day 📷
- Oct. 16 | Vision Screening 👁️
- Oct. 21-Nov. 1 | Halloween Spirit Weeks
 - Oct. 22 | Gettysburg Halloween Parade
 - Oct. 29 | SJELC Trick-or-Treat Night 🍬🍡
 - Oct. 31 | Halloween! 🎃👻
- Nov. 4-8 | Fall Conferences
- Nov. 20 | Thanksgiving Dinner 6:00-7:30PM
- Nov. 28-29 | CENTER CLOSED! 🦃🛒

What's In This Month's Issue?

- Important Dates
- Center Happenings
- Picture Day
- Vision Screening
- Flu Shots
- Family Survey
- C.A.R.E.S.
- Fall Conferences
- CCW Updates
- Adams County Giving Spree
- Halloween Spirit Weeks/Events



CENTER HAPPENINGS



Fall Weather Clothing/Cleaning 🍂

Fall is in the air! Our goal is to go outside daily. Please make sure your child has appropriate outdoor clothing and an extra set of clothes for their bins. The weather will gradually get cooler and dreary as Fall has officially begun! Children may also bring in a light jacket to keep in their cubbies if ever needed. Also, please make sure your child has shoes that are appropriate for running and walks. We recommend sneakers or crocs.

Fever/Sick Policy 🤒

With Fall and changing weather; along comes seasonal germs! Children with a fever (100.4) or other illness that requires time away from school, may return when they have been symptom/fever-FREE for 24 hours withOUT symptom/fever-reducing medication (Tylenol & Motrin). If your child comes to school and begins showing reoccurring symptoms halfway through the day, you will be called to pick up your child again and will have to restart the 24-hour period. Please take care in making sure your child is healthy and can function in day-to-day activities before returning them back to school, to help keep everyone healthy and functioning at their best! Giving your child medication to get through the day, does not keep staff or children healthy, it only allows them to spread more germs putting everyone at risk. When I don't have staff, you don't have child care.

Center Wide Breakfast 🍳

Breakfast is served every morning from 6:30-8:00 A.M. If you would like your child to eat breakfast at school, please have them here before 8:00 A.M., so they have an opportunity to eat before breakfast is put away for the day. We also ask that parents do not bring in additional breakfast or alternative breakfast items. As a center, we provide a variety of foods that are part of our food program options. If you prefer that your child eats items that you provide, please make sure they eat their breakfast before being dropped off in their classrooms.

Wednesday's 🚗

Youth Group has begun and ends at 5:00 P.M. - this will shake up our parking availability around 4:45-5:15 on Wednesday evenings as children are being picked up. Please be patient with other families and plan accordingly.

Parking Reminder: all families that St. James ELC parking is located at the back of the building (larger vehicles - please park at the top of the lot closer to the road so other vehicles can still get through). We are not responsible for tickets, tows, etc. if you are parking elsewhere.

Picture Day 📷 / Vision Screening 👁️

Picture



On **October 4th**, Rodney Beres from RB Photo & Graphics will be at SJELC to take school photos for all the children and staff. There are typically 3 different backgrounds he uses: Neutral, Fall, & Christmas. You only need to dress your child in one outfit that will correspond with all 3 backgrounds. 😊

On **October 16th**, Vision Corps will be at SJELC to screen all the children's eyes (aged 6m-5y) for any abnormal results. If there is any concerns, it will be shared with the families, and the families can make the choice of further screening. If you do not want your child's vision checked, please return the opt-out form. 🕶️



Flu Shots 🧑‍⚕️

All children aged 6 months to 6 years are required to have an updated flu vaccination. Please schedule your child's appointment and provide the ELC office with their immunization records. If you do not wish to have your child vaccinated, please complete an exemption form located outside the office.



Family Survey 📝

Family surveys are out and we are ready to hear your feedback! The survey takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete and relates to SJELC's policies and procedures, teachers, curriculum, leadership, communication, and family involvement.

Your responses allow us to make improvements and set center goals for the upcoming year. All responses come in anonymously unless you provide your names. Results will be shared with our Governance Committee, and a proper response will follow. We value and appreciate all the feedback we receive!

The survey link has been sent out via HiMama (Lillio), or you can type the following URL into a web browser to complete the survey:

<https://forms.gle/7rGNxZgRL8tC8nU2A>

Thank you for allowing us to be part of your family, and we look forward to hearing from you. 📧

C.A.R.E.S. 🏛️

Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. (Combined Area Resources for Emergency Shelter) will soon be next door to us again. We ask that you **DO NOT** let people into the childcare center that you do not know! If you are unsure of someone at the door, please tell them you will get someone to assist them and find an administrator to let them know someone is at the door. It could be a family member or it could be someone confused on where they should go for assistance. We can help direct them. Thank you for understanding!



CCW (Child Care Works) 🧑🧒🧑🧒

Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences

Save the dates! November 4-8 is our center-wide parent-teacher conference week! Conferences typically last 15 minutes between 9:00AM-1:00PM on the day of your child's classroom's conference day. Keep an eye out for sign-up sheets in front of each classroom! If you are not able to meet with the teachers in person on their given conference day, we do offer over-the-phone conferences as well! 📞

As we all have come to realize, the cost of living has increased tremendously and has not shown any mercy as of yet. With that being said, we understand the cost of childcare is just as important as any of our other bills we have to pay - just so working families can continue to work and provide for their families.

CCW (Child Care Works) is a subsidized childcare assistance program designed to help low & middle - income families who need childcare. We would like to make all of our families aware that CCW has improved their guidelines on what incomes qualify for assistance, in the hopes of helping more of our "middle-class" families!

If you think your family may qualify for it, please look into these new guidelines and try applying! 😊 Every little bit helps. Visit the Compass website, copy and paste the link below:

<https://www.compass.dhs.pa.gov/home/#/>



Adams County Giving Spree 💰

What is the Giving Spree? The giving spree is an annual day of giving where everyone in the community comes together to learn about local nonprofits and is encouraged to make a difference in supporting them by monetary donations. The Community Foundation operates the Giving Spree as a gift to Adams County: no fees are charged to participating nonprofits and there is no fee taken from donations. In fact, all contributions received during the Giving Spree will have an incentive match based on the amount they raise.

Who can donate, and how do you donate? Everyone can donate! Please consider visiting one of these five locations to place a donation on November 7th from 1:00-5:00PM: The Gettysburg Times, Biglerville Library, East Berlin Library, Littlestown Thunderbolt Stadium, or the New Oxford H.A.R.T. Center. **OR** Donate online from 12:00AM-11:59PM at ACCFGivingSpree.org on November 7th only! Donors can make a gift by check, credit card, stock, qualified charitable distribution from an IRA or a grant from a private foundation or donor-advised fund.

Donate by mail: When completing the Giving Spree Donation Form, donors can:

- GIVE TODAY and support the St. James ELC with an immediate gift,
- GIVE FOREVER and earmark your Giving Spree gift to a permanent endowment, which will support the St. James ELC year after year. Forever gifts are invested by the Community Foundation and each year 4.5% of the permanent endowment will be sent to the nonprofit selected by the donor. **To give to St. James ELC, please designate funds to #99.**

Why St. James Early Learning Center? St. James Lutheran Church Early Learning Center is an integral part of our Adams County community! We understand the importance of childcare for working parents and that children need a safe, structured environment to learn and grow in their most prominent years! All contributions to SJELC will go towards our scholarship program, and the replacement of classroom equipment and materials for all of our little friends to enjoy!





Halloween Spirit Weeks

MONDAY	21	PUMPKINS (ORANGE) VS. APPLES (RED)
TUESDAY	22	GETTYSBURG HALLOWEEN PARADE
WEDNESDAY	23	PINK OUT
THURSDAY	24	FALL FLANNELS
FRIDAY	25	HALLOWEEN SHIRT
MONDAY	28	ORANGE AND BLACK
TUESDAY	29	SJELC TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT 5:45-7:00
WEDNESDAY	30	WACKY WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY	31	SCHOOL COSTUME DAY
FRIDAY	1	PJ DAY!

