

St. James Early Learning Center

NEWSLETTER



IMPORTANT DATES

- All Month | St. James Lenten Dinners 5:15PM
- Mar. 2-6 | Read Across America 🇺🇸
- Mar. 8 | Daylight Savings Begins ☀️
- Mar. 14 | Pi Day 🥧 (3.1415926535...)
- Mar. 17 | St. Patrick's Day 🍀
- Mar. 20 | First Day of Spring 🌸
- Staff Birthday's
 - No Staff Birthdays :(
- Staff Anniversary's:
 - Miss Megs: 9 years on 3/13
- **Looking Ahead..** WOYC, Easter, Tax Day!



March
2026

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE?

- **Important Dates**
- **Center Info**
 - Hours
 - Breakfast
- **Flu Shots**
- **Parking Lot**
 - Youth Group
 - Lenten Dinners/Services
- **Winter Conferences**
- **Weather Delays/Closures**
 - SJELC
 - GASD/Kids Club
- **Outdoor Reminders**
- **Read Across America** 🇺🇸
 - Family Guest Readers
 - Scholastic
 - Spirit Week



CENTER INFO



Center Hours:

The Early Learning Center is open from 6:30AM to 5:30PM. Tuition rates are based on a 10-hour daily enrollment. Please plan accordingly to keep your drop off time NO EARLIER and your pick up time NO LATER than what is stated on your new Fee Agreements.

Breakfast:

Breakfast is served every morning from 7:00-8:00AM. If you would like your child to eat breakfast at school, please have them here before 8:00AM. We also ask that parents do not bring in additional 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 with you before being dropped off into their classrooms.

Naptime Items:

All naptime items need to be taken home on Friday's to be washed and returned by Monday. This will help minimize the spread of germs from week to week!

FLU SHOTS



All children aged 6 months to 6 years is required to have a flu vaccination. The flu is known to peak during the months of October through March. If you do not wish to have your child vaccinated this season, please complete and return the exemption form located outside the office.



PARKING LOT



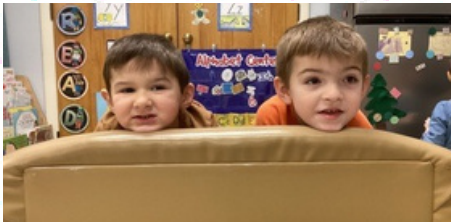
Youth Group:

Youth Group is held on
MONDAYS AND
WEDNESDAYS!

On both days, Youth Group ends at 5:00PM. This will shake up our parking availability around 4:45-5:15 on Monday AND Wednesday evenings as children are being picked up.

Lenten Dinners:

St. James Church will be hosting Lenten Dinners every Wednesday evening, all month. Dinners begin at 5:15PM right as Youth Group is letting out. Please plan accordingly and be patient with those around you. We recommend picking up early to avoid the parking chaos, OR, better yet.. joining the church for their evening dinner/services!



OUTDOOR REMINDERS

Recess (Outdoor) Time & Extra Clothes:

Our goal is to go outside daily if the real-feel temp is 25 degrees or above. Please make sure your child has suitable outdoor clothing. Sweatshirts, coats/jackets, hats, and gloves. Children may also leave a light jacket or sweatshirt in their cubbies for when the classrooms are extra chilly.

Children need to have a sweatshirt/jacket on if the real-feel temp is 50 degrees or below.

Please check with your children's teachers that their "extra clothes" bins also have weather-appropriate clothing (and correct sizes) in case they need a change of clothes here at school.

Lastly, all children must also have **runable closed-toe shoes every day!**



Winter Parent-Teacher Conference Forms



Checkpoint Conferences

Every family should have received a copy of their child's progress reports back in mid-February (one for each child). Each family was also asked to sign the center's copy of the exact same report. Once you have read over the report, please let us know if you have any questions/concerns. Otherwise, you will have an opportunity for another in-person conference during the Spring as normal. Our goal each year is to have two in-person conferences (as we always have), and to have two send-home conferences in between - just to help keep families and teachers on the same page with every child's growth and learning!

WEATHER DELAYS AND CLOSURES

Inclement Weather-Snow Delay Closures

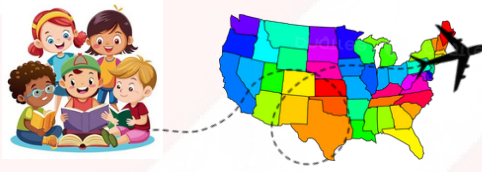
If snow impacts our day, we will notify families through Lillio (HiMama) via text or email. We will also post on social media and the St. James Church website (under Early Learning), and it will be listed on WGAL. We do our very best to keep the center open and take many contributing factors into our decision-making, balancing overall safety. Keeping children, families, and our center staff safe during inclement weather is our number one concern.

School Age Families

In the event that a delayed opening for the district results in a closure/remote day, we will keep the school-age children who have already arrived at that point and provide full-day care. If the school district closes for a snow or remote-learning day, we will NOT have all-day care available. Additionally, we are **NOT** responsible for any remote work that needs to be completed for their attendance. If the district closes early, we will walk the school-age children back to the center as normal, but please be prepared to pick up your children in the event that we would also close early.



READ ACROSS AMERICA



Read Across America is the nation's largest celebration of reading! This celebration was launched in 1998 by the National Education Association, with the goal of encouraging all children and teens to read their way through life! Reading is everywhere around us every single day, and is in the heart of all other learning, therefore making reading a very important skill to learn. Read Across America promotes the idea of children and teens reading books that not only are a reflection of themselves but of others around them and a world that may differ from their own. Books are meant to provide both a mirror of themselves and a window to the rest of the world. Knowing this, you can help your child succeed by reading something new with them every single day!

FAMILY GUEST READERS

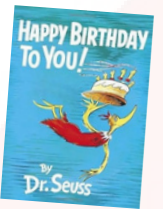
FAMILIES ARE INVITED INTO THEIR CHILD'S CLASSROOMS TO READ A STORY TO THE CLASS! EACH CLASSROOM WILL HAVE A SIGN UP SHEET AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO CHOOSE A TIME SLOT THAT WORKS BEST WITH YOUR SCHEDULE!

Based off a Book Spirit Week!

March
2-6

MONDAY - Happy Birthday to You

Dress Up As YOUR Birthday Month To Honor Dr. Seuss's Birthday (Today)!



SCHOLASTIC

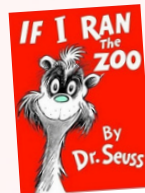


St. James ELC provides families with scholastic flyers each month that are **FILLED** with fun, interactive, educational, and holiday themed books, book sets, games, and activities for children of all ages! Use these flyers to expand your children's home libraries, to use as gifts for friends or family, and to work together to advocate the importance of books and reading!

Scholastic book order flyers are available in the hallway by the side door entrance. If you are interested in ordering books, you can order through the scholastic website by searching Gettysburg's zip code (17325) and finding "St James Early Learning Center", or "Ashley Drechsler", OR by our center code: **GZT46**

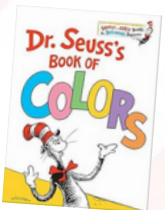
TUESDAY - If I Ran the Zoo

Wear Your Favorite Animal Or Animal Print!



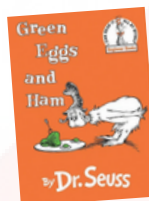
WEDNESDAY - Book of Colors

Dress In As Many Colors As You Can!



THURSDAY - Green Eggs & Ham

*Wear Green, Orange, and/or Yellow!
Green Eggs & Ham for lunch!*



FRIDAY - How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Dress In Your Favorite Christmas Pajamas!

