



Arcola Christian Preschool

"Let the little children come to Me . . . for of such
is the kingdom of God."
(Luke 18:16 NKJV)

May 2024

Director's Note

May is here! We are so happy to see the leaves, blossoms, and green grass! It is amazing to see how your children have grown and matured this school year. Thank you for your support and encouragement throughout the year. As a ministry of Arcola Methodist Church, our preschool is blessed with a supportive preschool board, hard-working and caring teachers and assistants, thoughtful and loving families, and children we are in awe of each day. We are very thankful you trusted us with your children. We have enjoyed getting to know them and you.

Many parents wonder how they can keep their child learning over the summer. Studies show that the single most important thing you can do for your child's future academic success is read to them! Preschoolers also need lots of opportunities to use and build their small and large motor skills. With so many children using tablets and smart phones, preschoolers are great at swiping but are slower in developing their motor skills than children in the past. They need lots of real-life practice with these skills, so I've included a list of activities that build fine motor skills as well as an Outdoor Sensory Motor Scavenger Hunt.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Barbara

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Next Year

For those of you with children returning next year, please remember to submit your May payment and Enrollment Forms ASAP (due May 1). Links to the payment page, calendar and required forms can be found [on our website](#). **New Enrollment Forms are required each school year.**

2024-2025 Registration for ACP

We still have openings for the fall! We would love for you to follow our Facebook page and continue to spread the word about our loving preschool.

www.ArcolaChurch.org/Preschool

Celebrating the End of the School Year!

We plan to gather for fun outdoor games beginning at 11am on your child's last day of school, Thursday, May 23, or Friday, May 24. Families are welcome to come and watch! After the games, at 11:30am, we will all gather in the Great Room for a simple presentation to recognize the students' completion of the school year. (Great photo op of your child and their class.)

Parents will take their child with them after the Great Room gathering, so be sure to arrive by 11:30am.

On the way out, you will have the option to pick up a freeze pop as an extra treat.

If you would like to picnic with your family after the indoor event, we encourage you to bring a blanket and food to enjoy outdoors on your own.

Children will attend preschool as usual these days and we will have the regular carline at drop-off only.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch is an optional program that requires advance registration and payment. It offers the opportunity for regularly registered students to extend their school day until 1:30pm while enjoying lunch, friends, and play. **The sign-up for May dates was emailed on Tuesday, May 16.** Check your spam/junk mail if you don't see the email, or let me know and I will [send you the link](#).

Enter in Good Health

As a reminder, when you enter the building or send your child into the building, you are confirming that you or your child do not have symptoms of a contagious illness. Please stay home if you are unwell!

ACP Calendar

April 29 – May 10 – Parent/Teacher Conferences
May 23 & 24 – Last Day of School Celebrations

Clothing

Please be sure to label all clothes, jackets, and school bags with your child's name. Many children do not recognize their own belongings when there are several others that look similar. Especially new jackets!

Scholastic Books

Does your child love books? Reading to your child is the most important thing you can do to help them succeed in school. **Books make great gifts!** Each month, new flyers will be posted. Please take a few moments to explore the selection together and let your child help choose books he or she is excited to read. Orders will be submitted toward the end of each month (Scholastic sets the deadline.) Thank you for supporting your child's reading both at home and in the classroom! Your books will ship directly to our preschool, and we will send them home with your child.



SHOP OUR CLASS PAGE:

<https://orders.scholastic.com/GZVWY>

SHOP FLYERS: <https://clubs.scholastic.com/prek>

Snack

All snacks must be nut free – that includes peanuts and tree nuts. **This policy applies to all snacks to be consumed at the preschool, including those brought in for celebrations, as well as items to be sent home with the children in goody bags.**

We cannot serve items that have been processed or packaged in a facility that also processes or packages peanut products. Snacks must be store bought with labels we can read and be unopened. We will send home the leftovers, but we have no

way of knowing if the items inside have come into contact with nuts if the package is open. **Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all our students safe.** We will send home any snack that doesn't meet our guidelines.

We will make sure your child's **reusable water bottle** is filled before snack. Do not send juice!

Due to the choking hazard, please **DO NOT** send grapes (cutting them into safe sizes can be time consuming).

Building Fine Motor Skills

(Source: Teaching Young Children Vol 3 No 5)

Many of your child's daily activities – like getting dressed, eating, and writing – require control of small muscles in the hands. Such skills are called fine motor skills. When young children have opportunities to practice these skills, they can do more things for themselves. A variety of activities can increase muscle strength and coordination, preparing children for more advanced skills, from using a computer mouse to playing a musical instrument. Children build fine motor skills at home when they . . .

- Set the table
- Hold knives, forks, and spoons to eat
- Pour juice into a cup
- Wipe the table with a sponge
- Help with meals – stir shake, chop, cut, and mix
- Get dressed – button, zip, snap, buckle, and fasten Velcro tabs
- Open and close containers with lids
- Cut with child-safe scissors
- Finger-paint
- Use a paintbrush
- Play with playdough and clay – roll, smoosh, pat, pound, and use tools like popsicle sticks or stamps
- Draw scribble or write with crayons pencils, and markers
- Put together puzzles
- Place pegs in a board
- Build with small blocks
- Play board games
- Play with puppets

Arcola Church Happenings

Arcola Church is an active church with opportunities for Worship, Sunday school for all ages, a variety of bible studies, music groups, support groups, and opportunities to donate to the Hygiene Pantry and the Dulles South Food Pantry. For more information, check out our website or ask me to point you in the right direction. You do not need to be a member of Arcola Church to participate in any of our programs.

Scuba Vacation Bible School

July 15-19

Join us for Scuba VBS, where your kids ages PreK-4 through 5th grade will have an amazing undersea adventure and experience the never ending love of God. Nursery and 3-year-old class available for Volunteers!

Dates With a Purpose

First Saturday of the month, May 4 and June 1

Need a date night? DWAP provides an intentional way to do just that. Start your date out at the church with a mini (20 minutes or so) relationship-building discussion and conversation topics for your date. The rest of the evening is yours! Childcare provided; please select when you register.

Summer in the Arts Day Camps

July 22-26

Summer in the Arts at Arcola Church encompasses FOUR performing and visual arts camps for rising 3rd graders through adults, led by a staff of professional musicians, artists, and teachers, who pass on their genuine love of their crafts to their campers and students. **We're also looking for a dance instructor!** Contact **Tianna Durbin** to join the amazing staff. Register here:

Arcola United Methodist Church

Pastor: Chris Riedel

Web site: www.arcolachurch.org

Worship @ 9am & 11am (Preschool & Nursery available)

Sunday School for Kinder-5th grade @ 9am

Youth (grades 6-12) Sunday School/Fellowship @ 10am

Support Groups –

NAMI Family Support Group

First Mondays @ 7pm

Do you have a family member with a mental illness? Then this group is for you; we'll talk about how to live and work with our family member, and how to care for ourselves. Arcola member Tammy Fossett is a trained volunteer who facilitates this group. Contact [NAMI](#) or [Molly Riedel](#).

Al-Anon Support Group

Weekly on Thursdays @ 7pm; Room 115

Al-Anon family groups are a fellowship of men and women whose lives have been affected by the compulsive drinking or addictive behavior of a family member, relative, or friend. This group helps by offering comfort, hope and spiritual growth. For additional information or questions contact [Molly Riedel](#) or [Steve Annino](#).

DSFP Charity Golf Tournament

Silent Auction Items Needed!

Dulles South Food Pantry is collecting items to auction off at their **7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament**. Do you have a business that you'd like to promote? Cool sports memorabilia taking up space in your basement? Our silent auction raises critical funds for the Pantry's operations. Email Richard Louis at rlouis@dsfp.org to add an item to our Silent Auction. Donors will be featured in the online bidding portal and in a printed brochure distributed to all of the golfers.

As always, this week's general needs and requests include canned pasta (no pork), diced tomatoes, dried beans, canned chicken, pasta, and pasta sauce. See the full list [here](#). And, as always, **financial donations** are appreciated.

Arcola Church Job Openings –

Chair of Children's Ministries

Make an impact on Arcola's littlest disciples by joining the church staff as the Chair of Children's Ministries. This part-time position leads Sunday kids programming, as well as managing nursery care, volunteers, and our annual Vacation Bible School program. [Click here to learn more](#). Contact ChrisS@ArcolaChurch.org with questions or to apply.