

# St. Stephen's Preschool

## January 2019

# Newsletter

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### Important Dates:

Feb. 8 4's & 5K to Children's Theatre: *The Three Little Kittens*

Feb. 11 Mom's Night Out at the church from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Feb. 13 MW classes Valentine Parties in the classrooms.

Feb. 14 TTH classes, 4's and 5K Valentine Parties in the classrooms.

Feb. 18 No School - President's Day

Feb. 20 Preschool Board Meeting in Room 139 at 6:15 p.m. All welcome.

Mar. 1 3's Nursery Rhyme Program in the Parish Hall at 9:30 a.m.

Mar. 6 Summer registration for St. Stephen's church members currently enrolled and siblings.

Mar. 7 Summer registration for non-church members currently enrolled and siblings.

Mar. 13 Summer registration for St. Stephen's members not currently enrolled.

## Director's Corner

Thanks again to everyone who purchased teacher wishes this year. The children and teachers were so excited to have new toys, games, and learning tools when we came back from Christmas Break! We really appreciate your generosity! We couldn't ask for better support! We were also super excited to see our beautiful new playground! The children have loved playing on the swings and playset. We hope to finish the playground renovation in the Spring, but we need to raise some more money first! Playground equipment is super expensive!



Our annual fundraiser will be on March 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the church. As we did last year, we are having a casino party for adults. Go ahead and book your babysitter now because you won't want to miss this fun night! We'll have roulette, blackjack, poker, craps, and slot machines. The professional dealers are very helpful so no worries if you don't know how to play the games. You'll receive \$1,000 of "funny money" with your ticket.

**Mar. 14** Summer registration for all others.

**Mar. 15** 4's Program "Singing Across America" at 9:30 a.m. in Parish Hall.

**Mar. 20** Preschool Board Meeting in Room 139 at 6:15 p.m. All welcome.

**Mar. 25-29** No School - Spring Break

## 2019-20 Registration

We were excited that our online registration system once again went smoothly this year and hope that it was beneficial to you to be able to register without coming up to the school! We do have some openings, especially in the MDO area (ages 2 and under) and 5K so please tell anyone who is interested in our program to visit our website at [www.ssepreschool.org](http://www.ssepreschool.org) for availability and other information.

## 2019 Summer Program

We will once again have seven weeks of summer school and we are going to continue to offer summer camp for those entering 1st , 2nd and 3rd grades. Summer school registration for those currently enrolled is March 6 for SSE church members and March 7 for non-church members. Summer school will be in session Monday - Thursday. For Babies - 4's and you can choose to go MW, TTH or M-Th based on availability. For those in summer camp, you will be required to sign up for full weeks (M-TH) rather than days. The summer camp cost will be a little higher due to special activities for the campers. For the summer of 2019 we will be in session the following weeks:

Week 1: June 10-13

Week 2: June 17-20

Week 3: June 24-27

Week 4: July 8-11\*\*

Week 5: July 15-18

Week 6: July 22-25

Week 7: July 30-Aug. 1

\*\* No school the week of July 4th

Summer school follows our regular schedule of 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with the option of Early Birds from 8:00-9:00 a.m. for all ages and Tigger Time from 1:00-2:30 for all



We will also have a silent and live auction. If your family would like to donate an item to the auction, please let me know. Some suggestions are a week at your vacation home, tickets to a sporting event or show, a gift card or gift basket from your business, or a handmade craft or painting. Invite your friends, neighbors, potential preschool parents, and family members! More information about tickets will be coming soon!

We are having another Mom's Night Out on February 11 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the church. Alexis Douglas, Jack and Sam's mom, is going to do a wine tasting for everyone. We'll have some appetizers and a special sparkling water option for our moms who are expecting. It's a great way to connect with other moms in the preschool and I hope you can all come!

Summer school registration will open on March 6 for church members currently attending and their siblings and March 7 for all other currently attending families and their siblings. Summer school registration takes place in person on your assigned day at 9:00 in the Parish Hall. We can't do this one online, sorry! Registration forms and more information about the program can be found on our website. Summer school will begin on June 10 and go through August 1, Monday - Thursday from 9- 1. Early Birds and Tigger Time will be available. We will be closed the week of July 4. We have classes for children 10 months old through those entering 3rd grade.



-Leslie

## School News

children who will be in the Older Toddler class. Early Birds and Tigger Time are also available for Summer Campers.

## Summer Fees:

### Registration Fees:

1 child	\$40
2 children	\$70
3 or more	\$90

### Regular Tuition for Babies-4's:

\$22.50/day for first child  
\$20/day for second child  
\$18/day for each additional child

Drop-ins will be allowed based on availability but will be at a higher rate of \$25/day.

### Summer Camp Tuition:

\$110 per week for first child  
\$100 per week for siblings

### Early Bird Tuition:

#### Prepaid Rates:

\$6/day for first child  
\$3/day for each additional child

### Tigger Time Tuition:

#### Prepaid Rates:

\$8/day for first child  
\$4/day for each additional child

These rates only apply if your child is registered and signed up for Early Bird and/or Tigger Time prior to the time that summer school begins or if you choose to purchase our 5 for \$30 Early Bird Special or our 5 for \$40 Tigger Time special. If you choose to attend on a drop-in basis, The Early Bird charge is \$8/day for the first child and \$4/day for each additional child and the Tigger Time charge is \$10/day for first child and \$5/child for each additional child.

**PAYMENT POLICY:** As we required last year, payment of one half (1/2) of your summer tuition will be due at the time of registration with the balance due by June 1. You will be allowed to make changes to your days up until May 1, 2019, but the amount of tuition paid at registration will not be refundable. Early Bird and Tigger Time tuition at the reduced, prepaid rate is due by June 1st. Please get your summer schedule ready before registration so that you will know which weeks you would like to attend!

## Many Thanks to:

- Members of the church staff for sharing the story of Jesus' birth with us. The children and teachers loved it!
- All the parents who helped with the Christmas parties!
- All the families who donated to our Christmas share project for the selected families at Vestavia Hills Cahaba Heights Elementary!
- Sarah Drummond and her mother, Miranda Gann, Nicole Tingle, Heather Kilpatrick, Rachel Prieto and Elaine Yeager who all helped Kim Green cook the food and Miranda Gann and Emily Botts for helping to deliver all the food and goodies to Cahaba Heights Elementary.
- Alexis Douglas and Katie Robinson for planning our Mom's Night Out on February 11th.
- All the teachers for doing a wonderful job everyday with the children!
- Everyone who donated gently used toys and books.

## Inclement Weather

Just a reminder that in the event of inclement weather, we follow the Mountain Brook school system. In addition, we will notify you via Schoolcast in the event of any change to our normal school day.

## Finances

Please remember that regular, Tigger Time and Early Bird tuition are due by the 10th of each month. You may write one check for all items, but please indicate the amount for each on the memo line on the bottom of each check. If you pay via internet bill pay, please make sure that your payment is set so as to arrive at the preschool by the 10th of the month. If you are experiencing extenuating circumstances, please contact Leslie or Mary Ann and we will be glad to work with you.

Remember that drop-in fees for Early Bird (\$8) and Tigger Time (\$10) are due on the day of drop off. You can save money if you attend periodically by prepaying with our 5 for \$30 Early Bird Special or our 5 for \$40 Tigger Time Special.

We will be happy to provide a receipt if you need it for tax purposes; if you need one please email Mary Ann at [maryann@ssechurch.org](mailto:maryann@ssechurch.org). She will be happy to answer any questions you have about your fees or your account.

## St. Stephen's Welcomes....

We are excited to welcome Margaret Lafon to Miss Jennifer's MW Y2's. Her contact information is:

Parents: Caroline & David, 4274 Boulder Lake Circle 35242, 813-817-9098  
[lafon.ca@gmail.com](mailto:lafon.ca@gmail.com)

We were sorry to say goodbye to Tenzin Yonten and his family - we will miss them! Please update your directory.

## Reminders

- Please let us know if your child will be out of school. Call anytime at 967-6317 or e-mail Leslie at [Leslie@ssechurch.org](mailto:Leslie@ssechurch.org).
- Please read your Illness Policy in your Student Handbook. The Flu seems to be especially bad this year and we want to do all we can to avoid passing these germs around. DO NOT SEND your child to school if he or she has not been fever free for 24 hours and/or he or she cannot benefit fully from being at school. Please note that the fever free requirement is without any fever reduction medication such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen.

## Special Feature

### Teacher Highlights

To help you get to know our teachers better we thought we'd highlight a couple of teachers each month and give you some fun facts about each one!



Rosemary Nichols  
TTHF 3's

Pets: 2 dogs - Joe & Tater and guinea pig - Ginger.  
Tea or coffee: coffee  
Favorite sweet treat: Sour Patch Kids  
Soup or Salad: Salad  
Bacon or Sausage: Bacon  
# of times you've moved: 4  
Indoors or Outdoors?: Outdoors  
Play an Instrument?: Groupy  
Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Mint Chocolate Chip  
Dream Car?: BMW 7 series  
I can't live without: My children/family  
My childhood career choice: Vet  
On my bucket list...:  
Visit/swim/cage dive with sharks!



May Green  
TTH Old Toddlers

Pets: Jessie, my sweet English

- We like to go outside and enjoy the fresh air whenever the weather permits so please send labeled sweaters and jackets with your child to school.
- Remember to get an updated Immunization Form when you visit your pediatrician.
- Please let Leslie know if your contact information has changed.
- You are welcome to send goodies to school to celebrate your child's birthday.

### Early Birds, Tigger Time and Drop-ins

#### Early Birds

We are having fun bright and early in Early Birds. We start at 8 a.m. and meet in the Rec room if 2 or older or in one of the toddler rooms if under 2 years of age. You may just drop-in any day and the drop-in charge is \$8 per day and due the day of drop-in. If you come often, but not always on the same day, you can save 25% by prepaying with our 5 for \$30 Early Bird Special! You do not need to call in advance or make a reservation. At 9:00 a.m. we will take your child to carpool or to his or her classroom. Looking forward to seeing you at Early Birds!

- Miss Jennifer, Miss Monica, & Miss Elaine

#### Tigger Time

The New Year has brought opportunities to make new friends and keep the old! We are growing by leaps and bounds with the addition of the Young 2's who are now old enough to join us. We always find something fun to do to enjoy our time together. Feel free to call and take advantage of Tigger Time this winter. **Unlike Early Birds, you are required to let us know if you want to drop in to Tigger Time by calling Leslie at 967-6317 or emailing her at [Leslie@ssechurch.org](mailto:Leslie@ssechurch.org).** This is necessary so that we can make sure that we have enough teachers to watch all the children. The drop-in rate is \$10 per visit and due the day of drop-in. If you come often, but not always on the same day, you can save 20% by prepaying with our 5 for \$40 Tigger Time Special! Hope to see your child at Tigger Time!

-Miss Jennifer and Miss Beth

#### Drop-ins

Just a reminder that we have a Drop-in class every Monday - Thursday for those in the Young 2's and older. If you need for your child to come to school on a day other than his or her regularly scheduled day, call Leslie and make a reservation for our drop-in class. The cost is \$25/day and is due on the day of drop-in.

-Miss Jennifer Manary

Golden Retriever  
Tea or coffee: both  
Favorite sweet treat: Anything but love Chick-Fil-A milkshakes  
Soup or Salad: Soup when cold outside  
Bacon or Sausage: Bacon  
# of times you've moved: about 7 times  
Indoors or Outdoors?: Outdoors  
Play an Instrument?: Piano (a little)  
Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Cookies & Cream  
Dream Car?: Older white Jeep Wrangler soft top with "Life is Good" on spare wheel cover  
I can't live without: My family  
My childhood career choice: Not sure what it was called but to carry a briefcase and go up an elevator as in TV show "Dallas"  
On my bucket list....: Travel a lot!



**Donna Schanbacher**  
**Old 2's**

Pets: 2 dogs and 6 chickens  
Tea or coffee: neither  
Favorite sweet treat: Cupcakes and cookies from Joyful Food Co.  
Soup or Salad: Salad (O'Carr's Broccoli & Ham Salad)  
Bacon or Sausage: Bacon  
# of times you've moved: 2  
Indoors or Outdoors?: Outdoors  
Play an Instrument?: Flute in 6th & 7th grade  
Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Vanilla but currently don't eat sweets  
Dream Car?: Red Mercedes convertible  
My childhood career choice: Nurse



Some days there are just 2 and some days there are up to 6 but we always have fun in Miss Jennifer's Drop-in class!

## Mother's Day Out

We are off to a great start in 2019! We were all eager to see the children again after the holidays. They grew so much during the holidays. Most of the babies and creepers are walking now. We are so glad to be back on a schedule!

Please remember the unpredictable weather and always try to pack a labelled sweater or jacket and hat because we love to go outside when the weather permits. The babies and creepers go to the courtyard and the toddlers will begin going to the big playground! Also, please make sure that you pack an extra change of clothes in their bags that are appropriate for cold weather. Also, please continue to label everything you send to school including the diapers. This is especially helpful when a substitute teacher is in the classroom.

Thank you!

- Miss Alison, Miss Elaine, Miss Wanda, Miss Vanessa, Miss Kim and Miss May



Fontaine Haskell STEAM  
Co-teacher

Pets: Dog - Danielle  
Tea or coffee: coffee!  
Favorite sweet treat: Bruster's  
Birthday Cake ice cream  
Soup or Salad: Hearty Salad  
Bacon or Sausage: Sausage  
# of times you've moved: 1  
Indoors or Outdoors?: Outdoors  
Play an Instrument?: Handbells in  
high school  
Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Birthday  
Cake  
Dream Car?: Ferrari  
I can't live without: My family,  
coffee and running!  
My childhood career choice: Art  
teacher and pro soccer player  
On my bucket list....: Move to  
Switzerland for a year; Visit Hawaii;  
Qualify for the 2020 Olympic trials  
marathon

### Quick Links

[St. Stephen's Preschool](#)



Miss Alison's "All Girl Baby Band"



Miss Elaine's Creepers having  
fun with new toys!



Miss Wanda's YT enjoying their new toys!



Miss Vanessa's YT love their friends and new toys!



Miss Kim's OT having fun in the classroom!



Miss May's OT playing with new toys  
and catching bubbles!

## Preschool 2's

Happy New Year! The Two's have come back all grown-up and excited about learning. We enjoyed sharing what Santa brought us. We have been learning about snowflakes, ovals and the color "white". The Old 2's made Penguins out of ovals and the Young 2's made Humpty Dumpty out of ovals. This last part of January we are learning about opposites and are making a book to take home. Please help us with this by pointing out things that are opposites while at home and driving in the car.

The Young Two's are doing great in carpool. Drop-off starts at 9:00 a.m. and pick-up begins at 12:50 with carpool ending at 1:00 p.m. All 2's are now eligible to attend Tigger Time!

-Miss Donna and Miss Jennifer



Young 2's having fun in the Rec Room and  
getting ready for chapel!



Miss Donna's Old 2's showing off their new toys and having fun in the bouncy house!

## 3's

Happy New Year. We hope all of you had a wonderful Holiday season and enjoyed the nice break with your family. The children are off to a great start to the new year. The boy and girls came to school with smiles and ready to learn. We even heard a few stories of the joy Santa brought to everyone. Winter is here and January has brought some cold temperatures. Please dress your child accordingly to the weather (hats, jackets, gloves) because we will try and go outside everyday even if for a few minutes. The children are having lots of fun on the new playground. During the month of January, the boys and girls will explore all about Winter animals like walruses, whales, polar bears, penguins and why certain animals sleep all winter (hibernation). We will also talk about Winter weather such as snow, ice and frost and do a few winter science experiments. The boys and girls will be introduced to letters W,S,M,G. Also, during this month, we will begin working on small motor skills - proper pencil holding, cutting, tracing and writing names. The children have grown so much since August and will have a great second half of the year. We could not be more proud of each of them.

Thank you ALL so much for gifting the many teacher wishes. The children have loved playing with the new toys and learning activities. We appreciate your support and helping us enhance our classrooms. Your children are precious and we thank you for giving us the opportunity to be apart of their lives.

Take care,  
Miss Lee, Miss Beth and Miss Rosemary



Miss Beth's 3's are ready for 2019!



Miss Rosemary's class ice skating with wax paper, snow ball fighting with cotton balls and playing with shaving cream!



Miss Lee's class making a whale!

## 4's

We were so glad to get back to school after the holidays and see those sweet smiles and happy faces again! We so enjoy your children and appreciate the

opportunity to work with these wonderful children. Speaking of working, we jumped right back in to the swing of things, met Mr. W, and began learning about winter. We watched a video called *The Snowman* which has very few words, so the kids have to pay close attention to follow the story. We learned about winter weather, how the temperature drops, and how rain changes to sleet or snow. We also studied about hibernation and migration. We made several art projects to go along with what we've been learning. The students start working on their morning centers first thing each morning. We play math games, practice writing letters, work on letter recognition, and spacial skills. Mr. J and Mr. E also visited us in January and we did jelly bean math and sorting.

Some of us are beginning to put some letter sounds together; in other words, we are beginning to read! It is so exciting. We also have worked on our shapes, opposites, sorting and counting.

We look forward to visiting with you during the parent/teacher conferences. Thanks again for all you do for our school!

-Miss Judy, Miss Stephanie and Miss Monica



Never too cold for a Popsicle Party for  
Miss Stephanie's 4's!



Miss Monica's 4 having fun  
with Jelly Bean math and sorting!



Miss Judy's 4's having fun in the bouncy house  
on these cold, winter days!

## 5K

Even though we've had so little time in school this month, we've been busy working in our winter math centers, meeting new letter people, and learning about winter. We are exploring the coldest places on earth and some of the animals who live there, especially the emperor penguins. Do you know how the emperor penguin survives in such a cold place? Ask your 5k children because they know. We drew penguins, colored them and then squirted them with water to see what happened. We had 4 penguins survive the cold winter because of the fat (wax) under their feathers but unfortunately, one of the penguins didn't survive (someone forgot to color their penguins tummy). Polar bears will be our next animal to study and, as you know, lives in the complete opposite part of the world.



We have built an igloo out of giant Legos and the Magic Fort pieces! What an adventure (not kidding!!) They are so enjoying playtime and are hard at work cooking, reading magazines about polar animals, and reading winter stories together in the igloo. We also have a fire in their so we can stay warm, cook fish, etc.

Now for the most exciting thing! The new diner arrived!!! Thank you so much to those of you who helped us get our wish!!! We have so many plans of things to learn and do in the diner such as learning about pennies, nickels, and dimes. Each menu item will cost a certain amount and everyone will have a job; chef, cashier, customer, waiter, etc., just to name a few. Thanks so very much, it's a blast!!! We are rockin' and reelin' with the juke box which costs a quarter, by the way!



As far as our math/language centers and other activities are concerned, we have been working on counting syllables, sight words, reading books, number recognition, counting by tens, alphabetical order, letter sound associations and

rhyming family words, meeting new letter people, and learning about how Martin Luther King, Jr. used words instead of violence to help people learn from each other to make the world a better place for everyone.

Mr. W and Mr. J have been the most recent letter persons to arrive from Letter People Land. When Mr. W arrived, we read The Wild Toboggan Ride and here is a picture of "OUR 5K ride"! Also, Jack Wallace's new "super hero" glasses arrived just in time for it! So exciting!!!



We'll keep up the hard work and fun and hopefully enjoy some warmer weather soon. Thanks for all you do to help us, especially those of you who donated to the teacher wishes! Also, please come gamble with us at the fundraiser on March 8th in the parish hall, it will definitely be fun!! Ms. Leslie

Miss Leslie

## STEAM

It may be cold outside, but that hasn't stopped our STEAM explorations this winter! From harvesting fresh greens from our garden for a salad tasting party, to making our winter observational visit to our adopted Elm tree "Elmer", we are still bundling up and making trips outside as much as possible.



We have also studied the Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky and created incredible watercolor resist composition storm paintings, explored Evergreen trees through the cones puppet show featuring Penny and Paula Pinecone, and even learned the parts of a tree by acting out and building a human tree with each class! Did you know the trunk of a tree has many different types of wood --heartwood, sapwood, cambium, and bark, to name a few -- each with its own job?

Next the children will be ichthyologists, or scientists who study fish. We will have goldfish in class which the children will observe and sketch. They will make guesses about how the fish use various body parts, learn about the life cycle of a fish, and finally create a fish book which they can take home to share everything they have learned.

-Miss Fontaine & Miss Mary

