

Remember:
Messiah is a
peanut free
school!!!



Check our website:
messiahchildcare.com
For newsletter,
calendars, forms,
information, etc.!!

Messiah Lutheran Child Care Center

1605 Vernon Avenue Park Ridge, Illinois 60068



Phone: 847.825.3767
Fax: 847.823.6996
Email: messiahchildcare@sbcglobal.net
Web page: messiahchildcare.com
Church phone: 847.823.6984
Church web page: messiahparkridge.org

Messiah Lutheran Child Care Center

Volume 11 Issue 9

September 2011

Special dates

* Monday, September 5th-school closed

* Sunday, September 11th - 10:15am- Rally day at Messiah Lutheran Church

Welcome to Messiah-We would like to welcome all of our new and returning families to Messiah this fall.

We hope that you and your child have found your first few days at Messiah to be an enjoyable experience. It was our pleasure to have met most of you at our Open House. We were glad that you were able to visit all of our classrooms and meet our staff.

If you have any questions or concerns, please, feel free to ask Karen, Cathy or your child's classroom teacher.

Thank you for choosing Messiah as your child's school this year!!



Our Staff-

Pre K-1 Younger 3's (begins September 20th and January 11th): Cindy Decker (lead teacher), Joy Dubowski (assistant).

The lead and assistant teachers of January-June, W,F class have not yet been determined

Pre K-1-downstairs- (3 years old by September 1st)-Room -103/104-Janelle Wendling (lead teacher), Bette Hagstrom (all 5 days) and Duvia Vivas (MW) (assistants)
-Room 105/106-(3 years old by September 1st)-Ro Manos (lead teacher), Kristin Karas and Deb Dietrich (assistants)

Pre K-1 upstairs-(3 years old by September 1st) Room 205/206 Suzanne Priore (lead teacher), and Laura Williams (assistant)

Pre K-2-downstairs (4 years old by September 1st)- Laurie Bachmann (lead teacher), Ann O'Keefe and Eilis King (assistants)

Pre K-2-upstairs (4 years old by September 1st-class held on M,W,F only)-Room 205/206-Suzanne Priore (lead teacher) and Laura Williams (assistant)
Room 207/208-Cindy Decker (lead teacher) and Amy Carvis (assistant)

Pre K-3 (4 years old by September 1st-5 days/week program)-Cristina Krueger (lead teacher) and Diane Teng (assistant)

Kindergarten-Terri Hogan (teacher) and RoseMarie DiVito (assistant)

Friday am. - Spanish teacher:-Duvia Vivas

Monday and Tuesday am. - Music teacher: Jennifer Read

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 11:15am. - Dance/movement/gymnastics (optional program): Pat Doyle

Parent-Tot (beginning on Monday, September 12th and Tuesday, September 13th)

Lunchroom manager- Diane Knuth

Office Manager-Cathy Shaughnessy

Financial Bookkeeper -Rita Kotowski

Child Care Director-Karen Black

Resource Librarian: Rita Kotowski

Messiah Lutheran Church Pastor-Lynne Morrow



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-School Closed-

Messiah will be closed
on
Monday, September 5th
for Labor Day.

Handwashing-

To assist in keeping our school as clean and germ free as possible, we ask that as children arrive at Messiah each day, their parents bring them to the washrooms and assist them in handwashing before they enter the classrooms. We appreciate and thank you for your cooperation.

Happy Birthday!!

August-

- 20 Maddie V.- 3 years old
- 20 Miss Duvia
- 24 Tharika S.-3 years old
- 24 Miss Diane T.
- 25 George G.-5 years old
- 25 Jack G.-3 years old
- 25 Megan B.-4 years old
- 26 Kalyna B.-4 years old
- 28 Jack D.-5 years old

September-

- 1 Ethan D.-5 years old
- 2 Andreas M.-3 years old
- 6 Makayla W.-4 years old
- 6 Jameson P.-3 years old
- 8 Jack W.-5 years old
- 9 Ryan S.-5 years old
- 10 Luca F.-4 years old
- 13 Matthew B.-5 years old
- 19 Prisha M.-3 years old
- 20 Salvatore P.-5 years old
- 20 Hazel K.-3 years old
- 23 Miss Suzanne
- 25 Jack V.-5 years old
- 25 Katie J.-3 years old
- 30 Gabriella Z.-5 years old
- 30 Liam H.-5 years old

Door Codes

This year's new door codes have been

distributed to every family in their child's hallway folder. If you have not yet found yours, check first in your child's hallway folder, and then stop in the office. We would appreciate everyone reading the rules for using our door codes and if you have any questions, please see Karen for clarification. Please remember that door codes are set to operate around your child's day and do not work at other times. **NO codes work before 8:50am or after 5:00pm.** Thank you for your cooperation.

Birthday Book Club-

For many years, we have encouraged children to become a part of Messiah's Birthday Book Club. Each child is invited to bring a book (or computer program) on his/her birthday as a donation to our school's library. We will read the story to the class, put a bookplate inside the book cover that identifies your child and your child's birthday and list the birthday child and donated book on our Birthday Book Club list located in our entry hall. The birthday child will, also, receive a Birthday Book Club Certificate with his/her name and the name of the book on it.

We have been able to add many lovely books to our library and computer games to our classrooms and the children have enjoyed the idea of giving a permanent gift to our school on their birthdays. (Please see your child's classroom teacher if you are interested in some specific ideas).

Photographs-

The classroom teachers enjoy taking

photographs of the children for their daily projects, bulletin boards, conference files and as a way to record daily activities for parents to see. You will also be receiving many of these photographs at your child's second conference (in May).

Since we will be taking most photos digitally they can be directly emailed to interested parents. Additionally, if you wish to have the image on a thumb drive or a disk, you are welcome to bring one in and we will transfer it for you.

Parent Resource Library-

On the bookshelves next to Cathy and Karen's offices, parents can find a library of books on family and parenting issues. Rita Kotowski, our school librarian, has organized the library for your use. She has placed a small, beige file box on the bottom bookshelf for parents to place their 'sign-out card' (found in the back of each book). Please sign your name, phone number and the date. We ask that any borrowed book be signed out and then returned to our library in a reasonable (a month) amount of time-Enjoy!

Rita's Readings-

#62 The Relaxed Parent—Helping Your Kids Do More as You Do Less Tim Smith I had to pick up this book! What I found is that it very nicely spells out how to give our children what we ultimately want for them — which is to become independent, fulfilled adults. The bonus is we do get to relax more as they gain this independence. Within each chapter there are a number of "Parenting Principles" to help us, guide our children. You can pick which principles to focus on if you don't have the time to delve into all of them. There are reflections and skill builders at the end of each chapter.

#314 The Procrastinating Child by Rita Emmett A relatively short book, which focuses on getting your child to stop procrastinating along with the many reasons they may do so. Lots of helpful examples are given to help you help your child break this habit. I liked the comparisons the book made to adulthood. It showed how many of the strategies they learn now will help them through their lives.

Scholastic Book Club

Approximately 4-5 times/year, we will put Scholastic See-



Saw and Firefly book club order forms in each child's file. If you wish to order books, return the order form with the exact total amount due (a check made out to Scholastic Book Club) or order conveniently online. The books will be delivered about 2 weeks after the group order is placed.

Your purchases benefit Messiah by earning bonus points that we use towards new books, tapes and computer programs for our children.

-Fund Raising (continued)

-Christmas/Mother's Day: We have had a variety of vendors offer terrific Christmas/Mother's Day shopping possibilities at Messiah throughout the years. Vendors have included Discovery Toys, Tupperware, Arbonne health and beauty products, and Silpada jewelry. Nothing has been finalized this year, but keep your eyes open and watch for some spectacular shopping opportunities (and a fun way to support Messiah)!

Entertainment Books-We will be selling Entertainment books, as we have for many years. These books contain additional coupons for fine dining, travel, shopping, theater, sports and more. The Entertainment book cost only \$35@. Books are now available for purchase in Karen's office and may be used immediately (through October 2012). In addition to regional Chicago books, books may be ordered for other parts of the country.

-Cookie dough sales-Again, this year, we will be conducting cookie dough-Gourmet popcorn sales. We will be sending out order forms in October for over 10 varieties of delicious cookie dough, molten lava cakes and 3 varieties of gourmet popcorn. The dough is sold in tubs that can be refrigerated for a couple of weeks or frozen for months. You are welcome to order for yourself, your extended families, your friends, neighbors or co-workers. The first orders will be placed in November and the second cookie dough sale will be in February, 2012.

-Boxtops for Education - The **General Mills, Boxtops for Education** project is merely a collection of proof-of-purchase seals from General Mills products. Simply cut off the **pink Boxtops for Education** proof of purchase seals and put them in the designated box, next to the 1st floor boy's bathroom. Miss Rita also puts boxtop "collection pages" in your children's files throughout the school year. They are welcome to color these and hand them in with the collected boxtops

-Target-Anyone with a Target Visa card can designate Messiah as a donation recipient and our school will receive a percent of every purchase made with that card. If you do not have a Target Visa card, you may sign up for one, at the store, and designate Messiah Child Care Center as the school to receive the donation. This is a great and easy way to donate to our school. *Note: Target has also joined The Manna Group. Gift cards are available for purchase in \$25 and \$100 increments. Messiah receives 2.5% back from each purchase of these.

-Ink Cartridges-Bring in your empty ink cartridges and we will return them for you!! Messiah will benefit from the returned cartridges and you do not need to do anything except drop them in the green box near the first floor bathrooms.

Eye and Ear Screening

Messiah will be providing vision and hearing screening for all *preschool children who have submitted screening forms with payment. (\$7.50 for each test). This years screening dates are Tuesday, October 4th and Wednesday, October 5th. If you choose not to have your child screened at Messiah, as per DCFS regulations, you will need to have the screening done with your own optometrist and audiologist and the results will need to be turned in to Messiah.

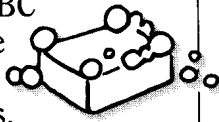
Forms will be place in your child's file in the coming week and will be due back by Friday, September 16th.

*Kindergarten children should already have handed in a completed vision exam form to the office. Kindergarten-ers have the option to have their hearing screened here at Messiah.

September

*Children's Eye Health and Safety Month
Children's Good Manners Month*

Sing the ABC Song while washing your hands.



Drape a sheet over a table to make a tent.

Labor Day

Visit a place where people work.

Play "London Bridge."

Name big things.

Spread peanut butter on toasted waffles.

Try on safety goggles.



Clip clothespins around the rim of a coffee can.

Grandparents' Day

Make a special card for Grandma and Grandpa.

Cut pictures out of junk mail to make collages.

911 Day

Discuss reasons for calling 911.



Help your child start a collection.

Take a pretend trip on a "magic carpet."

Count and eat cereal pieces.

Take a trip to your local library.

Make the sounds of different vehicles.

Toss rolled-up socks into a laundry basket.



Tell your child three reasons why he or she is special.



Think of what you would need to build a house.

Practice saying "Please" and "Thank you."

Find circles in a book.

First Day of Autumn

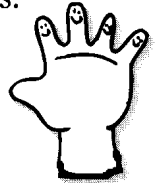
Take a walk and look for signs of fall.



National Good Neighbor Day

Say hello to your neighbors.

Put on a puppet show.



Make a growth chart for recording your child's height.

Johnny Appleseed's Birthday

Snack on apple slices.



Sing "London Bridge."

Go outside and kick a ball around.

Honk like a goose.

Find objects with alphabet letters on them.

Messiah Lutheran Child Care Center

1605 Vernon Avenue Park Ridge,
Illinois 60068

Phone: 847.825.3767

Fax: 847.823.6996

Email: messiahchildcare@sbcglobal.net

Web page: messiahchildcare.com

Kids Dance Express

Pat Doyle will be leading our Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning dance/movement classes. We have been able to offer this wonderful class to our children for the past 16 years from 11:15am until noon (your child needs to be registered until noon on his/her Kids Express Day). If you are interested in either the Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday morning class, pick up a registration on the shelves near Cathy and Karen's offices. If you have any questions, please see Karen. Completed forms can also be



Student Phone Directory

You will be soon be receiving your personalized orange student phone directory form. This form **MUST** be returned to our office by **Friday, September 16th** to have your child included in this year's directory. If you wish to have your child excluded from the directory, please return the form indicating your wishes. **This form only requires that you check yes or no and make any necessary changes to names, addresses and phone numbers. FILL IT OUT AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE IT!!!**

This will be the only time that we will be printing the directory during the year.

Only families who have given permission for their child to be in the directory, will receive a directory. We will not be printing extra directories, so please hold on to yours for the entire year.

During the school year, unlisted numbers will not be shared with anyone and listed numbers will only be shared with others who are listed. Messages to children or their parents may be left in the student's hallway file.

Parent-Tot Class-

Our Parent-Tot classes will begin on Monday, September **12th** (9:10-10:10am and 10:30am-11:30am classes) and Tuesday, September **13th** (9:10-10:10am and 10:30am-11:30am classes) and run through Monday, November **14th** (and Tuesday, November **15th**). **A minimum of 4 children is needed to run any of the Parent-Tot classes.**

The Parent-Tot program is designed for children 18-36 months of age. Children **do not** need to be toilet trained to attend. During the class time, the children will have opportunity to explore and experiment with large and small motor activities, as well as having time for free play and interaction. They will be introduced to simple melodies through songs, finger play and musical instruments. Stories and snacks will be a part of each class, too. Applications are available in the office. The cost for the entire 10 week session is \$70/child. See Karen or Cathy if you have any further questions or if you would like an enrollment application.

Wednesday Morning Chapel Services

Canned Food Collections-Children are invited to bring Canned or non-perishable food to our **Wednesday** morning chapel services. At the end of the Chapel service, the children bring their food offering to the front of the church and place it on the altar. The food is donated to the Maine Township Food Pantry. This food Pantry collection continues throughout the year and children may bring an item or two (or more) as often as they wish.

We will also be collecting pennies (or other coins) for the Food Pantry during Lent. Watch for more information in 2012.

A Note from Pastor Lynne

Welcome back to Messiah Lutheran Child Care Center! I pray that summer

has given you an opportunity to share time with your families. We enjoyed sharing time and learning about Jesus at Vacation Bible School and Summer Camp here at Messiah.

If you wish, you are invited to join us any Wednesday from 9:15-9:35 am for our weekly chapel service. We get to pray, sing songs, tell stories about God's love through Jesus Christ and share blessings of food with those who are in need. We ask the children to bring non-perishable items for the Maine Township Food Pantry each week. They are so happy to share! You may want to ask your child/children about chapel after school on Wednesdays - their answers can be amazing!

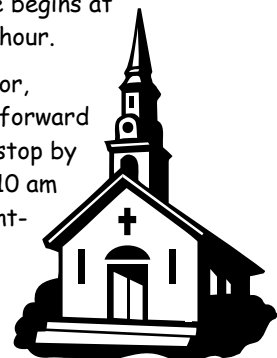
On Thursday mornings, I get to go into the classrooms and we talk about how much God loves us all. We sing more songs and share more stories and pray. We're learning the Five Finger Prayer this month.

Every Sunday, we make time to worship and praise God. Our service begins at 10:15am, immediately following the 9:00-10:00 Christian Education hour.

Thank you all for your warm welcome. In my first year here as Pastor, spending time with the children is the highlight of each day! I look forward to meeting each of you and would ask you to either call or email or stop by so we might chat. My office hours are: Mondays & Wednesdays - 10 am -1 pm; Tuesdays & Thursdays - 2 pm -4 pm; other times by appointment.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Lynne



More Reminders and Additional Information-

*****Please, sign your child** in and out on our sign-in sheets. They are located on the hallway table in the school's South entrance hall/stairway. Children are listed on their class sheet, according to their length of day and alphabetically by their first name. If you have difficulty locating the sheets or your child's name, a teacher will gladly direct you.

*****Tuition is due on Monday**, every two (or four) weeks (unless you have made other arrangements with our bookkeeper). To avoid our \$10 late charge, please make sure that your payment is in the bookkeeper's office no later than 10am on the Thursday of it's due week. If your child will be on vacation, tuition is due in advance, and if your child is ill, you may either mail in the tuition (1605 Vernon Avenue, Park Ridge 60068) or call Rita, Cathy, or Karen and make other arrangements (847.825,3767).

Rita will send out reminders of tuition that is due, but we ask that you keep track of your own payments and not solely depend on these notices as they occasionally are lost or misplaced. Please check with Rita, Cathy, or Karen if there are any questions or problems regarding tuition.

*****Children who stay for naptime** should have a small blanket that will stay in a white plastic drawstring bag on your child's hallway hook. Each child may, also, bring a small, crib-sized pillow (crib-sized will fit best in the plastic bag and on your child's cot) and/or a small, stuffed animal, Please, label everything with your child's name. Blankets and pillows should be taken home on a regular basis for cleaning and returned to the bag for naptime.

*****Please, be on time** when dropping off and picking up your child. Our teacher's hours are scheduled in accordance with state regulations regarding student/staff ratios. The hours for our staff are based on the contracted hours you have made with us. If you find that you need to drop your child off before your contracted hours or pick him/her up after those hours, please see Karen about extending your child's contracted time. This is particularly important if your child's hours are 9-11:30! **To avoid overcrowding and confusion, we ask that 11:30 children and parents do not linger on the playground beyond their 11:30 contract.** We can usually extend hours on a contracted basis or on an occasional special need basis.

*****Please, always inform a teacher** if someone new will be picking up your child on any particular day. Please write down the pick-up person's name, the time we should expect that person to arrive and who we should call if there are any 'miscommunications'. We will always ask for identification, until we recognize the adult. Please, do not send a child to pick up your child. If you will be car-pooling with other parents, please be sure that all of the other parents are listed on your child's pick up list.

*****Children may bring big wheels**, trikes or other large motor toys for their own personal outdoor use. Since we lack outdoor storage space, we ask that these toys be brought and taken home on a daily basis. If a toy is left at school, it will remain outdoors for after-hours pick-up. It is required that children with bikes and skates, bring helmets and that children with skates, also bring and wear knee and elbow pads.

*****Lunch menus** will be put in 'lunchers' files as soon as we receive them from the catering company. Extras will be available in the hallway rack next to the downstairs Pre K-2 classroom as well as in the school office.

*****SAFTEY WHEN YOU PICK UP YOUR CHILD**-When the children are outdoors (most of the morning from 9:20-noon and in the afternoon from 2:45-4:30pm), we keep the gate closed, blocking our parking lot from cars.

We are trying to alleviate the 11:30 playground pick-up confusion, by giving the children their outdoor time, earlier in the morning. Additionally, noon children will be brought into their classrooms by 11:55 each day. 12:00 parents are asked to pick up their children **before** noon as all of our teachers are required to help with lunch at 12 sharp. If your 12:00 child is still here after noon, he/she will be brought to Miss Karen or Miss Cathy's office until a parent arrives to pick up and is subject to a late pick up charge. Our hope is to make the parking lots and playground less congested at any one time and to assist in making pick-up easier for the parents.

If you pick up your child while we are outdoors, we ask that you **DO NOT** use the driveway for parking, but use the parking lot to the north of the church (near our sandbox). We teach the children to wait with their feet on the grass until a parent comes to them and to never run to the parking lot to meet a parent. Because of the large number of cars, we ask that you keep your child with you at all times in the parking lot. Please remember to always turn off your car's engine when dropping off or picking up.



Help Wanted:

*****ROOM MOTHER OR FATHER-**In each classroom, we are looking for a parent (or two) who would be interested in being that class's 'room mother or father'. Responsibilities would include assisting with classroom parties (Halloween, Valentines, Christmas, etc.), fund raisers, field trips or special events (Grandparent's Day, Pajama party, Gingerbread Day, Class photos, etc.). Parent(s) would work specifically with their child's classroom and classroom teachers

*****SPECIAL EVENTS ORGANIZER** -Miss Karen is looking for an energetic, creative volunteer, or two, who would be interested in assisting her with whole school activities and events. In addition to field trip planning and school events (Thanksgiving luncheon, Christmas program, ice cream social, etc.) suggestions that have been proposed are regularly scheduled parent coffee/social hours and an Easter Bunny luncheon.

*****PUBLICITY PERSON-**We are in need of a volunteer to be Messiah's publicity person. The publicity person will be writing and submitting articles to the Park Ridge Pioneer Press newspaper and other relevant, local media. The articles will show activities that are taking place in the child care center that are of interest to the general public.

*****COMPUTER GEEK'-**We have 2 volunteer positions for anyone with a love and understanding for computers. We are looking for: 1) a person who could update our website with our monthly newsletters, calendars, menus and other pertinent forms, and 2) a person who would help us keep the children's computers in working condition, load programs and make recommendations for upkeep and new programs (or new computers if needed).

Please see Karen if you are interested in helping with any of these 'opportunities'.

Using our parking lots-

For the safety of everyone, **ALL** cars parked in our parking lots **MUST** have their engines turned off (even if there is another passenger waiting in the car) and **NO** children are to be left in an unattended car.

Over the past couple of years, we have been working closely with LGH and the Park Ridge police department to provide adequate parking and a safe environment for our students and families in our parking lot. Our staff will be parking along the Weeg Way bushes in the north parking lot and along the bushes in the east parking lot, leaving many spots for parents in either of our lots.

In the event we find unauthorized cars using our lot, we will be calling the Park Ridge police to ticket those who are parking without permission. If, for some reason, you need to leave your car in our lot, be sure to inform the office before you leave it.

Additionally, please obey the signs which indicate the entrance and the police will be patrolling our lots on a regular basis to eliminate drivers who are driving through our lot to avoid the stop sign corner and drivers who are entering the lot through the Weeg Way exit driveway. Please be sure you enter our north lot through the Vernon Avenue entrance and leave through the Weeg Way exit to avoid a ticket (as well as keeping our lot safe for all.)

Hopefully, these guidelines will be beneficial to everyone in terms of ease of parking and safety while driving or walking.

Class Openings

As of this newsletter's printing, Messiah Child Care Center still has several openings for interested students:

-**Parent-Tot class**-Openings available in the Monday 10:30 class as well as the 9:10 and 10:30 Tuesday classes for children 18-36 months

-**Younger 3's**-Openings available in both the Tuesday/Thursday class and the January-June Wednesday/Friday class.

-**Pre K-1 classes (3 years old by September 1, 2011)**-2 full time (5 days) openings. Several T,Th full day or part day openings

-**Pre K-2 classes (4 years old by September 1, 2011)**-Several MWF (full or part day) openings

-**Pre K-3 class (older 4's/five full or half days)**-1 opening

-**Kindergarten**-several openings (See Karen if you have a child with a September birthday and you are interested in our Kindergarten for this year)



Important Reminder!

Messiah Child Care Center is a peanut free school.

- **Please check the ingredients for peanuts or peanut oil in any store bought items before purchasing snacks for your child's class.**
- **Do not leave any candy or other food unattended in your child's backpack.**
- **All children's hands need to be washed upon entering the school.**

Thank you!

Fund Raising

We cannot overly emphasize that your support of our fund raisers is greatly appreciated.

(If you are available to help with any of our fund raising, please see Karen. We can always use helpers.)

Fund raising goals-Our fund raising goals include the continuing improvements of our playground and classroom computer equipment and programs. Larger long term goals (dreams) include making possible infrastructure improvements to our school providing sinks/running water in each classroom, installing central air-conditioning, improving security measures, upgrading our washrooms and/or expanding the school's facility with a large multi purpose room

-Did you see our awesome new patio??? Our patio and reading garden was installed during the summer of 2009. The funding for this lovely addition to our school was from our school's 2009 Spring Fun Fair and through the donation of personalized bricks. The personalized bricks can still be ordered-When we have enough to place another order (25 bricks), we will place the order and replace the blank bricks with the newly donated ones. Forms are available on the shelves near the school's offices. Small bricks cost \$75@ and the larger ones are \$125. Please consider leaving your family's permanent mark on our school's patio. We thank Angelo Pesce (and his company) for the installation and his continuing help with our patio project

-And how about our green playground?? The playground on the east side of our parking lot was built only 4 years ago, **ENTIRELY** through monies (\$35,000!!!) raised with our school's fund raisers and with parent volunteers doing the installation!! You can see how vital fund raising is to our school in the many 'extras' we have been able to purchase throughout the years. Past fund raising efforts have provided us with all of our computers (which we are now annually upgrading), a digital camera, a video camera, a computer scanner, our TVs, VCRs, our PK2 loft and playhouse, our enlarged sandbox and all of the outdoor playground equipment. We regularly refurbish the wood chips and sandbox areas and have purchased 2 outdoor picnic tables and 7 new classroom computer desks. Last summer, all of the classrooms, hallway and stairwells were repainted!!

We are thrilled to announce that we will be adding to the 'green playground' this year. Watch for notices of the installation date and volunteer to help if you can!!!

-Manna Cards-This is **such an easy** fundraising event and it does not cost anyone a cent!!! Manna Cards are shopping cards that can be used for regular daily purchases or as gifts. They will be available for purchase on a monthly basis at Messiah. Each purchase of a shopping card benefits our school without reducing the value of the card purchased. If every Messiah family purchased only one \$100 card each month for their regular grocery shopping at Jewel or Dominicks, Messiah would earn over \$750/month!!! If each family purchased a second or third card, our fund raising would be tremendous!!! Please read more about our Manna program in this newsletter and consider placing a standing order for purchasing at least one card/month. Thank you!!

-Spring Fun Fair-We will soon begin planning the Spring fun fair (projected date is Saturday, May 21st). We will need many, many volunteers to help with the silent auction, the games, the prizes, the volunteers, the tickets, the food, the publicity and the attractions. We will be having a huge silent auction, food, pony rides, moon walk, food, train rides, petting zoo, games, prizes, food, and MORE!! We need your help to plan for this years fair. Please be a part of our largest fund raising project!! See Karen if you would be able to help.

-eScrip-Again, another fund raiser that costs nothing to the participant. By simply registering your Fresh Values Card number and/or your debit/credit cards (we will be distributing detailed information soon or see Miss Rita), Messiah will benefit from any purchase made at Dominicks or any of the participating merchants or restaurants. There will be no coupons, paper work or remembering necessary!! Just use your registered cards and Messiah will receive a portion of your purchase.



Manna (Shopping/Gift) Cards-

What is The Manna Program?

Manna is a program by which you are able to buy many different types of pre-paid gift /shopping cards and Messiah Childcare gets a percentage of the proceeds. The cards can be used for those mundane monthly expenses such as groceries, Starbucks or gas. They can be used for your regular daily retail shopping or dining out. They are also perfect for birthday, anniversary Christmas or graduation gifts.

You do not pay any premium over the face amount. If you buy a \$25 gift card for your use or to give away, it is worth \$25 to you and can be redeemed at that store, restaurant or gas station for \$25. Then, depending on the retailer, Messiah Childcare receives 2-25% of the face value of the gift card.

What kind of cards are available?

There are a wide variety of cards available for purchase and in our monthly note to you, we will highlight a few relevant ones. You can use cards for your regular monthly grocery shopping at Jewel, Dominicks, Happy Foods or Joe Caputos. You can purchase gasoline cards for BP Gas, Exxon/Mobil, Shell or Marathon. There are pharmacy cards available-Walgreens, and CVS-for medications, photos, etc. , in addition to other retail outlets, Bath and Body Works, Bed, Bath and Beyond, Best Buy, Crate and Barrel, Pier One....And food!!! There are so many restaurant and snack cards available!! Lettuce Entertain U (is good for about 20 restaurants!!), Baskin Robbins, Boston Market, Burger King Domino's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Starbucks, Panera, etc. etc. Even large retail stores have cards available for purchase-Carsons, Kohls, WalMart, Target and Macy's to name a few.

How does it work?

The program is easy to use and can have a great benefit for both you and Messiah Child Care through your every day purchases and gifts. Simply complete the monthly order envelope/form with the number of cards you wish to purchase for each retailer in the "# cards needed" column and then the total amount due for that vendor in the "Total \$ due" column. (For example, 3 \$25 cards needed for Walgreens would equal \$75).

Then, add up the total \$ amount of all cards and write one check for that amount to "Messiah PTO". Simply return the completed form, along with your check, to the office on or before the deadlines noted below. Orders will be available for pick up or distribution on the following Tuesday. Please be sure to have your name and phone number clearly indicated on your order. For security purposes, all ordered cards will be held in the office for personal pick up.

You can even place a standing monthly order with us. Just let us know that you would like to order a specific card(s) each month and you will not need to fill out a monthly form. We will automatically place your order and payment will be due upon pick up of cards. You, of course, may always add to your order at any time. (For your convenience, there is a blue standing monthly order form attached)

If every Messiah family ordered a \$100 gift card for their monthly grocery shopping (Jewel or Dominicks), or gasoline (Shell, BP, etc) our childcare center would earn over \$750 each month.

You can even begin planning for the holiday season. Start thinking about all those special people on your holiday gift list. Gift cards are a great way to please everyone, even that "person who has everything." For your convenience, there will be three order dates during November and December. You can even purchase a Gift Certificate and the gift certificate recipients can select whichever gift cards they wish.

Orders Placed By

Friday, September 9th at 5:30pm
Friday, October 7th at 5:30pm
Friday, November 11th at 5:30pm
Monday, November 28th at 9:00 a.m.
Friday, December 9th at 5:30 p.m.

Available for Pick-Up

Tuesday, September 13th
Tuesday, October 11th
Tuesday, November 15th
Tuesday, November 29th
Tuesday, December 13th



Please consider how easy it is to support our fundraising efforts by using Manna cards. Stop in the office if you have any questions.

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