



## NEWSLETTER

May, 2019

### CALENDAR

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| May  | 1 May Tuition Due  |
|      | 2 Parent Conferences, no school for all classes EXCEPT Red and Teal. |
|      | 6 – 10 Teacher appreciation week                                     |
|      | 19 Mattie Miracle Walk and family Festival                           |
|      | 27 Memorial Day holiday, school closed                               |
| June | 12 All school picnic after school                                    |
|      | 13 Last day of school for all classes except Red and Teal            |
|      | 19 Red and Teal classes dismiss at 11                                |
|      | 20 Last day of school for Red and Teal. Dismiss at 11                |



**Mattie Miracle Walk and Family Festival** will be held on May 19 from 10 – 2 at St. Stephen and St. Agnes Upper School Campus. Lots of fun for the whole family! See fliers posted in the hallways for more information or go to [www.MMCFwalk.com](http://www.MMCFwalk.com)

**Playground guidelines:** When playing with your children on the playground after school, please follow the rules that we follow here at school:

- No running with sticks – sticks are used for building
- Feet stay on the ground – not climbing the fence; and the gate is not a swing!
- Rocks and stones stay on the ground
- Flowers and plants may be touched but not picked, and are there to enjoy with our eyes (for looking) and nose (for smelling).
- Children may not run through the planted gardens. They need to stay on the path into the garden.

- Boulders and large rocks may not be moved.
- Please bring bags for your trash and dispose in the big dumpster, our trash cans get full very quickly now that a lot of classes eat snack outside.
- When sliding down the slides, feet must come down first.

## TEACHER APPRECIATION

Please show your appreciation to your child's teacher during the week of May 6 – 10. A card, special note or some flowers are a lovely way to say thank you to the classroom teachers who work hard every day for our children.

## ODDS AND ENDS

- Please remember to bring in snack on your assigned day. If you forget, please bring in something the next day to replace what we have used from our cupboards. It seems that we have had a lot of parents forgetting and our cupboards are very depleted!
- Please be sure your child wears shoes that are appropriate for running, jumping and climbing. Sandals with rubber soles are fine if there is a heel strap. Flip flops are dangerous on the stairs and do not allow children to walk and run with ease. Please save them for wearing at home.
- Please remember to put sunscreen on your child before coming to school on warm and sunny days. We spend up to an hour outside when the weather is nice and we don't want anyone to get sunburned!
- Please be sure to check your children for ticks after playing outside. There have been reports of ticks found on children. Also, with all the rain we have had, mosquitos will likely be a problem. You may also put insect repellent on your child if you choose.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR...

### The Value of Risk

March 16, 2015 , Exchange Every Day

In the introduction of her article, "[The Role of Risk in Play and Learning](#)," in the Community Playthings online magazine, **Collage**, Joan Almon observes...

"Real play means taking risks — physical, social, and even cognitive.

Children are constantly trying out new things and learning a great deal in the process. They love to move from adventure to adventure. They face the risk of mistakes and even of injuries, but that does not deter children. They embrace life, play, and risk with gusto, and they are prepared for a certain amount of bumps and bruises while growing up. Even a broken bone doesn't slow them down for long. Fortunately, they heal fast."

Although no one wants to see a child injured, creating an environment that is overly safe creates a different kind of danger for them. Growing up in a risk-averse society, such as we currently have, means children are not able

to practice risk-assessment, which enables them to match their skills with the demands of the environment. As a result, many children have become very timid and are reluctant to take risks. At the opposite extreme, many have difficulty reading the situations they face and take foolhardy risks, repeatedly landing in trouble.

*As Early Childhood Educators, we value the idea that children need to take risks. Our playground is designed to be safe, but still allow risk taking. The uneven grass helps children learn to balance their running and walking. The paths through the woods encourage exploration as well as practicing motor planning (the brain tells the body where to place feet or how to move through a tight space).*