

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8/12 – Blessing of the Backpacks
- 8/21 End of Summer Luau
- 8/21 Hot Dog Social Night  
5:00 – 6:30pm
- 8/22 **NO SCHOOL**  
In-Service Day
- 8/23 **NO SCHOOL**  
Professional Development  
Training Day

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAY'S

- Abigail W. 8/2
- Foster A. 8/3
- Ryan D. 8/5
- Jack Y. 8/5
- Ava F. 8/8
- Evan M. 8/8
- Ms. Tania 8/14
- Nicolas S. 8/17
- Ms. Dina 8/17
- Henry A. 8/22
- Ms. Shawntee 8/23
- Liam P. 8/28

## DID YOU KNOW...

AUGUST is:

- \* Family Fun Month
- \* Peach Month
- \* National Picnic Month
- 8/4 Friendship Day
- 8/9 Book Lover's Day
- 8/11 Son & Daughter Day
- 8/21 Senior Citizen's Day
- 8/26 National Dog Day

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## Goodbye July... ALOHA August!

Wow...the summer break is almost over and the new school year is almost here. We are sad to say our final good-byes to our illustrious 2019 graduates who are heading to Kindergarten and a new life as students in "big" school. This is the month when we here in Houston begin to think that a day where the temperature is no higher than 95 degrees seems like a trip to the North Pole...when a barely discernable sway of a tree portends a cool breezy day...we, of course, know full well that our "summer" may stretch far into fall...but we can dream, can't we? Thank you to all our families who so generously donated to our St. Jude Trike-a-Thon fundraiser!! We raised \$3,360 for this incredibly worthy cause and the children had a wonderful time riding their push toys and bikes!



### OPERATION BACKPACK

We all know how quickly summer dashes by and then there's the mad dash to buy school supplies...the coolest new backpack, pencil box, and brightest colored crayons, among everything else our kids need. At the same time, there are so many children in Houston whose parents don't have the means to purchase what their children need. Every August we partner with the YMCA and have our BACKPACK BUDDIES SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE, so as you are purchasing supplies for your own children, if you wish, please purchase and donate backpacks and/or school supplies for children in need...even the smallest donation of a box of crayons makes a huge difference to a child in need. Please bring supplies & backpacks by August 9th in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for your generous donations and thinking about these needy children

**Join us on Sunday Service,  
August 12th at 10:00 a.m. for the  
of the backpacks and supplies**



Wednesday, August 21st is our third annual END OF SUMMER LUAU PARTY! This event takes place during the school day and is so much fun! Parents and extended family, if you can, please join us. The children will be wearing leis and grass skirts, doing the limbo, and laughing their way through various games and obstacle courses! This is a great photo opportunity...the activities take place in the Parish Hall and, as we get closer to the date, the Luau Party times for each class will be posted.



### HOT DOG SOCIAL



On Wednesday, August 21st from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm, come and join us for a delicious grilled hot dog for our annual Hot Dog Social. So please gather up your family and join in the fun and camaraderie! The limbo stick will be out for everyone to enjoy and see How Low Can You Go for those who want to join in on the limbo. This is a great opportunity to mingle and socialize with other Grace Church and School families. If you have not had the chance to chat with your child's new teachers, breakfast or afternoon teachers... this would be a great opportunity to talk with them. They would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



*To the Crumley and Roy family for donating and placing the new cubby's and containers in the Pre-K 4's Class.*



*To Mr. James Farquhar for bringing his giant red 18-wheeler cab and helping most of the children climbed on the truck, letting some even blew the horn and answering the many great questions for our kiddos.*





*To Ms. Aji George and ConocoPhillips Energy Corporation for donating 2 touch screen laptops, 4 desktops and monitors for our teachers, Preschool and Pre-K 4's Class to enhance our school technology...one more thing checked off Accreditation list *

# CLASSROOM NEWS

## **INFANT 'A' BUTTERFLIES**

We welcome our new students, Madison, Elliot, Margaret, Logan and Hannah...they are so little now, but will soon be interacting with our more seasoned babies! We are also saying a bittersweet good-bye to Abigail, Rowan, and Reese as they have happily she has graduated to the Infant B room and is right next door! We love our babies and are so proud to see all the progress they make each month. In July our babies had fun making the American flag with their handprints and learning all about the Red, White and Blue! Emmy is now moving all about the classroom and drinking from a sippy cup, Ace is sitting up on his own, and Rowan is moving all around the room...backwards! Reese is rolling around in her crib and on the floor as well, Cole is responding to familiar voices and faces, Madison loves to sleep and comforts herself by taking her pacifier in and out of her mouth. In August we are going to talk about fruit and among our art projects will be fingerprint watermelons. We will also be talking about different modes of transportation. Our babies are excited about summer finally coming to an end soon and they can't wait to feel the cool breezes that will be coming.

*Ms. Julia*

*Ms. Dina*

## **INFANT 'B' HONEYBEES**

Happy August, Infant B parents! July was such a fun summer month for our little ones! We had a blast doing different summer sensory water projects, and had a great time parading in the Trike-a-thon! In August we will be doing more summer themed art work centered around ice cream and popsicles, we will be learning about our five senses and which parts of our bodies correspond to which sense, and we will continue reading books about fish and other creatures that inhabit the oceans. We will also be learning new songs. In our class, Elizabeth F. and Aria love singing songs, Jude is learning to stand and is using push toys, Eden R. is taking little "baby" steps and Izzy is also learning to stand by herself and taking initial steps. We are also welcoming our newcomers from Infant A... Emilia, Rowan and Lawrence, and saying good-bye to Eden P. and Katherine Grace, who have transitioned nicely to the First Steps class. We also give a warm welcome to Lucy as she starts her new journey with us as Grace. We are excited for your new adventures and send you forth with a piece of our hearts! Families, once again, thank you for all the support you give us. We wish you a wonderful August!

*Ms. Roxana*

*Ms. Shawntee*

*Ms. Jennifer*



## **FIRST STEPS KITTENS**



Hello parents! We hope you're having an awesome month! Our kiddos had so much fun in July with our 4<sup>th</sup> of July party...listening to music, playing ball and other games, and eating, of course. We also loved riding the push toys in the Trike-a-Thon and eating a yummy popsicle to cool off afterwards. This month we welcome Larkin, Eden P., Kathrine Grace, Max and Harry to our First Steps family. They are already having a great time making new friends. In August we will be exploring various sensory bottles, and learning new words in sign language like stop, eat, more and book. Among the books we will read are, "Llama, Llama, Time to Share," "The Farm," "Playtime for Button," and "Pete the Cat Too Cool for School." We will also have fun exploring what we do with flashlights and learning about our shadows. We will be showing the children pictures of animals and learning about different sounds animals make. Finally, we will continue introducing our little ones to the alphabet, numbers, and colors. Thank you First Step Families for all your support.

# CLASSROOM NEWS



## **PRE-TODDLER PUPS**



We are saying good-bye to the month of July...we had so much fun at the Trike-a-Thon and the Ice Cream Social! During July we learned more about our ABC's, numbers, colors and shapes...our kiddos love our Circle Time Wall! For art we loved making our sea turtles, seashells and sunflowers. In August we will be talking about Back to School and Transportation such as cars, boats, planes...anything that goes! We will also be learning about our five senses. Some of the books we will be reading are, "Llama, Llama Red Pajama," "Please Mr. Panda," and "Chicka, Chicka, Boom, Boom." We have had so much fun splashing around and getting wet on our Summer Splash Days, but they are coming to an end on Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

*Ms. Candice*

*Ms. La'Carmen*



## **TODDLER DOVES**



Now that July is over and we had so much fun participating in the Trike-a-Thon...and eating popsicles to cool off after all the activity, and the Ice Cream Social...we are moving full speed ahead to August. Some of the themes we will tackle this month are Under the Sea, Fruit, My Feelings, Camping, Nature, and Back to School. August will be busy!... We will be learning more vocabulary words such as magic, school, friend, teacher, book, grapes, apples, excited, shy, hurt, octopus, crab, sea, camping and nature. For art we will be making happy and sad faces and playing matching games. Some of the books we will be reading are "The Feeling Book," "F is for Feeling," "Where is Little Fish," "Pop Up Peekaboo Under the Sea," and "The Bravest Fish." We will continue to work on our fine and gross motor skills as well and will be engaged in more sensory science projects and social studies projects such as Alphabet Ice, a Squishy Bag experiment, Finger Shaving, and making our trail mix. Some of what we will be doing in math is counting little bear and number 4 dot painting. Our class will be filled with all kinds of activities and exercises...we love to pretend to be animals!

*Ms. Demetrice*

*Ms. Rokesha*



## **BRIDGE ROOM TURTLES**



Happy August, Bridge parents! In July, our kids loved the Trike-a-Thon and spending time with their friends during the messy Ice Cream Social! Since August is the official start of the new school year, we will focus on the academic development of our little Turtles. We will be helping each child focus on developing their drawings from basic scribbles to more distinguishable lines and shapes. We will be working on letter and number recognition. We use Mat Man as part of our Circle Time...this program helps the children learn the components of letters...such as big lines and little lines. Some of the books we will be reading are "Vegetables in underwear," "Even Firefighters Go To The Potty," and "Have You Seen My Potty?" We will also be working on shape and number matching, and art projects such as making a dinosaur from the letter D.

*Ms. Stephanie*

*Ms. Eva*

## **PRE-K THANKFUL 3'S**

Our Threes especially loved the Trike-a-Thon...zooming around the parking lot riding their bikes like the big kids they are! Our art during the month of July was patriotic...two of the projects we made were firecrackers for the 4<sup>th</sup> and the American Flag. Starting in the month of August we will begin to implement the Pre-K curriculum called Learning Without Tears which will help our kiddos become enthusiastic about learning...the program focuses on colors, numbers, shapes, music, movement, language, literacy and reading and writing readiness. This program also provides many fun activities to enrich our children's social and emotional development. We will be working on the Mat Man Shape Book, Hands-on Letter Play and Five Finger Play. Your children will be eager learners with this innovative and exciting program. Please do not hesitate to ask us any questions you may have!

*Ms. Tania*

*Ms. Cindy*

# CLASSROOM NEWS

## **PRE-K FOUR GIRAFFES**

Our Pre-K Giraffes are slowly, but surely getting acclimated to the routine of our classroom. We are introducing Special Helper Jobs such as the Calendar, Number, Days of the Week, Weather, Money Helper, and others. We are working on the social and emotional well-being of each child. The teachers are modeling positive interactions for the children and working on conflict resolution – talking with each other instead of having temper tantrums. We teachers are scaffolding the children’s knowledge by asking multi-leveled questions. We try to ask a lot of open-ended questions because we want to hear more than yes or no answers. The children are encouraged to use their voices and share their ideas with one another. We are using cooperating mutual respect and perspective talking as well. Last, but not least, we are talking about issues of fairness and logical consequences for one’s actions. The Pre-K Team will continue to provide guidance and love in a nurturing environment. We are proud of the class because we get to see the kids accomplish things that have been introduced to them. Again, we are all in this learning journey together.

Ms. Clementine

Ms. Jing



## **Summer Program**



As our Kids Club Summer Program is coming to an end, we want to mention some of what the children have learned over the Summer. We have worked on our Sight Word Readers Level 2 – each child has read at least one of these books every day. We have been doing sequencing - what comes next, what came before. We have been learning to tell analog time and learning about money – the value of each coin. The kids have been writing and tracing letters, both lower and uppercase and making sight word mini books. They have loved Splash Day and playing games outside. They each made their own “masterpiece” painting and after the 18-wheeler visit, they created their own 18-wheelers on paper. We celebrated Karen, Brayden and Summer’s birthdays. Additionally, this summer they had a blast at Monty the Magician’s show, learned a lot at the Mad Science demonstrations, and had fun making funny hats for the Trike-a-Thon. God Bless each and every one of you! We wish you a fabulous upcoming school year!

Ms. Ruby

Ms. Vanessa

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Shawntee Moore has been a teacher in our Infant B classroom for approximately one year...chances are you have heard and seen her lively singing and exercising with the little walkers and crawlers! Shawntee is a native Houstonian and has lived here all her life. She is married and has three children...a 14-year-old boy, 10-year-old boy and a 3-year-old girl! She loves shopping, spending time with her kids and attending family functions, and going out to eat. Shawntee has been a teacher and childcare provider for about 10 years and tells us that her own children are what influenced her to become a teacher. She wants to make sure the kids in her class are happy and feels that children learn best in small groups or learning one on one with the teacher. She always encourages children...even the littles ones...to keep trying and to do their best. Shawntee is a believer in teamwork, staying focused on the children, and always working to do her best. Among her most satisfying times teaching is when she is singing nursery songs to the children and they are looking at her and repeating the words and motions and singing along with her. We here at Grace are lucky that Shawntee has “graced” us by joining our teaching staff.

*THANK YOU, Ms. Shawntee, for your dedication, love and compassion!!*