



# Asbury Community Christian Preschool and Clubhouse News

God's Child is

Natasha Flanagan-Director

[n.flanagan@asburychristianpreschool.org](mailto:n.flanagan@asburychristianpreschool.org)



## September 2023

### Welcome to our 2023-2024 School Year

What a fantastic start to the new school year. It has been a real blessing and treat to greet all our returning friends and welcome all our new families each morning at the front door. The children are beginning to really become settled into their new routines and schedules. It is such a joy to walk around the hallways and visit the classrooms each day. So many wonderful activities have already been explored. Each and every child's unique personality and developmental needs are the most important aspect to us. We strive to cherish and love each individual child, meeting them where they are and serving their individual needs. To encourage developmentally appropriate growth and development, our talented, experienced and dedicated staff are trained in Best Practice and are attuned to the developing educational needs of our youngest learners. Through our use of the Children Study Their World Curricula, your children will be receiving the very best in Early Childhood Education.

Welcome to all! We are so blessed to have you be a part of our Asbury Christian Preschool and Clubhouse Community.

As your family eases back into the school year, relaxed mornings can set the tone for stress free days. A well-planned routine will help this transition. Here are a few ideas to start the school year off on a peaceful note.

#### Get Organised:

Set aside a special place for everything your child must take to school, such as tote bags, lunches and materials. Find an easily accessible spot for these items where your child can assist in their self-help routine.



#### Be an Early Bird:



Set your alarm clock to wake you up early. Take a few minutes to snuggle with your little one and perhaps read a story. Build a reward system into the morning: If they are ready on time, they can play until it's time to leave. Give your youngest a role. Your child will get used to a morning routine quicker if they have a hand in creating it. For example, you might let them choose whether they will get dressed before or after breakfast.



#### Be Prepared:

Whatever you include in your routine, prepare for it as much as possible the night before. Examples: packing lunches, writing notes to the teacher. That way, you won't feel rushed if something unexpected comes up the next day. Tip: Young children like repetition, so try to make your youngster's routine predictable by doing everything in the same order each day.

### Upcoming Dates:

**September: 9/4 Closed for Labor Day, 9/13 Back to School night, 9/25 Parent teacher conferences by invitation.**

**October: 10/11 Field Trip to Clark's Elioak Farm, 23/24 Fall pictures, 10/29 Trunk or Treat, 10/30-10/31 Class Halloween Parties, 10/31 Asbury Preschool and Clubhouse closes at 3pm.**

**At Asbury, our goal is to communicate important information in several different formats. We want our families to be well informed of about all the events at Asbury.**

### **ProCare**

ProCare will be the teachers main form of communication with their class families. On Procare Connect, teachers will upload pictures, schedules, activities and send messages to the families in their class. Please look for the electronic invitation to sign up for the ProCare app. I resend invitations multiple times a day and will continue to do so until all families have successfully signed into the app.



### **Weekly class and monthly whole school newsletter.**

Each teacher will share a weekly newsletter with their families talking about events happening in their classrooms. A monthly newsletter will be produced by the Director and sent to all families with school and community wide information.



### **Website**

Our school website is [www.asburychristianpreschool.org](http://www.asburychristianpreschool.org) There you will find all kinds of information. There is a full year school calendar, hover over the calendar entry to uncover additional information for that event. Information about classes, electronic newsletters, and registration papers are also available. Staff Bios are in the process of being updated.



### **Classroom family boards and lobby bulletin boards**

Each class has a bulletin board outside of the classroom where class calendars, teacher bios, snack schedules and classroom happenings are posted. In our lobby upstairs, there is an Asbury Preschool and Clubhouse bulletin board. There is a calendar which will be updated weekly with special dates as well as a notice board.



## **Arrival and Dismissal**



At 8:55am, 11:25am, 12:25pm, 1:55pm and 2:55pm the main doors of the school will be opened for you to drop off and pick up your students. All drop offs and pick-ups should enter and exit through these doors for all classes. Extended care drop off before 8:55am is located by walking down the stairs on the left of the building and proceeding to the white door just outside the playground entrance. See extended care section for afternoon pick up procedures.



## **Extended Care**

Our preschool extended care program is open to children in our three's and Pre-K programs. Extended care is open Monday-Friday 7am-6pm and can be used on any day at any time provided you are registered in a preschool class. Extended care is billed at a rate of \$8.10 per hour.

Drop off for morning extended care prior to 8:55am is at the white door next to the downstairs playground on the left of the building. Afternoon extended care after 3pm will primarily be in our three's room. Please come to the main entrance to pick up for afternoon extended care. Children combine with Clubhouse downstairs beginning at 4:45pm so if you pick up after that time, proceed to the morning drop off location.



# Pumpkin Patch Field Trip!



On Tuesday October 10th and Wednesday October 11th we will be taking a whole school field trip to Clark's Elioak Farm in Ellicott City. We will meet there at 9am. The farm offers multiple hands-on experiences for children and adults. We will visit the petting farm, the enchanted forest, take a hayride and end at the pumpkin patch where each child will select a pumpkin to take home. Each child will need a parent or adult chaperone to transport them and accompany them on the field trip. The teachers will walk with their students and families in groups at the location using our curriculum to guide learning experiences.

## Back to school night

We will host a parent only back to school evening on **Wednesday September 13, 2023**. The evening will begin at 6pm in the Asbury UMC sanctuary. Following a brief introduction, you will be guided to your child's classroom. You child's teachers will then present their back-to-school night information. Please remember that this is not a time for individual conferences. Those will take place via invitation on **Monday September 25, 2023**.



## Health reminders

Please do not send children to school if they are not feeling well. If a child wakes with a fever and you give them fever reducing medication, they must stay home. Our illness policy states: children must be fever and sickness free for 24 hours with **NO** medication before they can return to school.

Illnesses that fall under this policy include but are not limited to:

- Temperature above normal
- Eyes with signs of infection
- cough of severe nature
- Runny noses that are not clear discharge
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Skin rash
- Sore throat
- COVID-19 symptoms



It is our goal to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff.

Please report to the school office of your child is absent due to an infectious disease using [office@asburychristianpreschool.org](mailto:office@asburychristianpreschool.org).

We continue to follow the guidance and procedures from MSDE and the Local Health Department in terms of the COVID virus.



## Birthdays

At Asbury, we celebrate children's birthdays with a birthday book program. We welcome you to come to the classroom on or around the date of your child's birthday and read their favorite story to the class. If you are unavailable to come in and read for your child's birthday, you can still send in their favorite story for the teacher to read to the class. If you would like to donate their favorite story to the classroom, we will place a celebration certificate inside the book, and it will remain displayed in the classroom library.

Unfortunately due to allergies and regulations, we do not celebrate children's birthdays with food. Special snacks or cupcakes should not be sent to school. If your child is having a birthday part and you are inviting the whole class, we will gladly place invitations in red folders. Please be sure there is an invitation for each child.

# Home & School

## CONNECTION®

Working Together for School Success

Asbury Community Christian Preschool  
Vickie Whitley, Director

### SHORT NOTES

#### Exercise your brain

Your child's brain is like a muscle—the more he uses it, the stronger it will become. Suggest that he give his brain a workout with activities like using his nondominant hand to throw a ball or to color. Learning to speak a foreign language or play a musical instrument are also known brain boosters.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Children who regularly eat meals with their families tend to do better in school

and avoid risky behavior. Eating dinner together is great, but other meals count, too. If you work at night, maybe you could make time for a family breakfast. Or on a weekend, try a picnic lunch.

#### Celebrate progress

Suggest that your youngster create a fun reminder of all the things she has accomplished. Let her cover a box with construction paper and label it "I did it!" Then, she can write each success ("I learned to add fractions") on a slip of paper and put it in the box. If she's feeling discouraged, have her read the slips.

#### Worth quoting

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up!"  
Mark Twain

### JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

**A:** Of course. The Empire State Building can't jump!



## Conversations about school

When you think of parent involvement, do you picture moms and dads volunteering in classrooms? That's one way to help—but research shows that supporting your child's education at home is even more important. Here are conversation starters that will help you stay involved.

#### "Let's see what you worked on today!"

Look at completed work to find out what your youngster is learning and how well she's doing. You could comment on her math work or social studies project, for instance. ("You know a lot about our state's history!") Also, respond to notes from her teacher, and sign her weekly folder or daily planner if required.

#### "Show me what you have for homework?"

It's your child's job to do her homework, but you play a role, too. Make sure she knows what she's supposed to do by having her explain the assignments to you. After she finishes her homework, glance over the work to see that it's complete.

#### "Describe a book you enjoyed today?"

This gives you an idea of what your youngster prefers to read. Then, build a daily reading habit by asking what she'd like to read tonight. Encourage her reading and listening skills by reading aloud to her and letting her read to you.

#### "Tell me what you learned that you'd like to know more about?"

Use her interests as jumping-off points for activities to share. If she likes geometry, you might hunt for



shapes together. If she's fascinated by how animals adapt to winter, read a book or observe animals outside. ♥

### After-school questions

Asking "How was school today?" might not get you far. Instead, ask questions like these for a better picture of your youngster's day:

- "What's the coolest thing that happened today?"
- "Pretend you're the teacher. How would you describe the day?"
- "What made you laugh?"
- "What was the most creative thing you did?"
- "How were you kind or helpful today? How was someone kind or helpful to you?" ♥

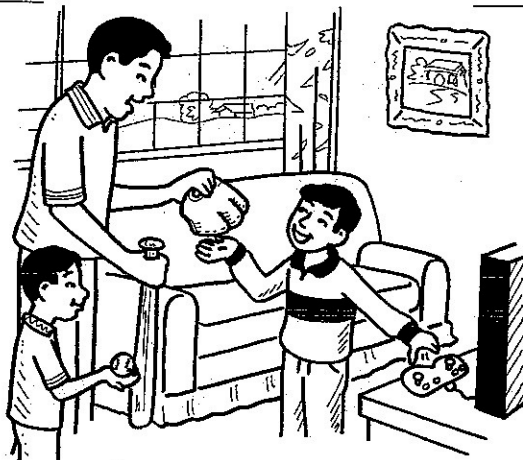




## What does respect look like?

Your youngster's daily dealings with adults and kids alike will be more pleasant if he speaks and acts respectfully. Try these tips for helping him learn about respect.

**Respectful replies.** Think about something that you and your youngster disagree on (say, whether his video game time should be limited). Model having a respectful discussion about it. You might say that his brain and body are growing and that he needs to run and play to stay healthy. Then, suggest a respectful response, such as, "I



want to be healthy, but I love video games." Have him brainstorm other situations where people have different opinions but still speak to each other with respect.

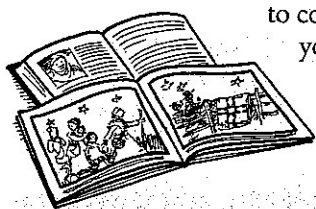
**Everyday acts.** When you mow the lawn or clean up after your dog, you can teach your child about respect for neighbors. Explain that keeping your

neighborhood clean and neat makes it nice for everyone. Ask him to think of other respectful things neighbors should do. If you share an apartment laundry room, he might say that you respect neighbors' time by removing your clothes when they're done so others get to use the washers and dryers. ♥

## A reading challenge

By reading more complex books, your child can learn new words, facts, and ideas. He'll also be exposed to more complicated plots and will grow as a reader. Share these suggestions:

- Knowing something about the topic or setting makes a tougher book easier to comprehend. If your youngster is reading a novel set in France, he could talk to someone who has been there or look up the country online (try a children's site like [kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com)).



- Encourage your child to look at a simpler book on the same subject. A picture-book biography about Harriet Tubman may help your youngster better understand a textbook chapter on the civil rights movement, for instance.

- Suggest that your child read complicated material with pencil and paper in hand. He can jot down questions, words to look up, or facts he wants to learn more about. ♥

### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators,  
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128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630  
800-394-5052 • [rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com](mailto:rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com)  
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## Strong study habits

**Q:** My third grader has to spend more time studying this year. How can I make sure she studies effectively?

**A:** Set your daughter up for success by helping her find a distraction-free study spot. Also, have her come up with a study routine. For instance, she could reserve time each evening to review her textbook and notes in the days leading up to a test.

Also, many students find it helpful to jot down a purpose each time they study. Your child might write: "I will learn the definitions of all the boldfaced words in chapter 7, section 1."

Finally, encourage her to experiment with study strategies to find what works best. She could close her eyes and imagine how a word is spelled or draw a grid with 9 squares to solve  $3 \times 3$ . Or she might find it helpful to spell or recite math facts aloud in rhythm or to a familiar tune. ♥



## PARENT TO PARENT

### How to be careful online

With my daughter using the internet more for schoolwork, I was concerned she would wander to unsafe sites. We set up parental controls as her teacher recommended, and I try to stay nearby when she's on the computer.

But my older sister reminded me that while supervision is important, Sophie needs to learn safe habits to use on her own. So I explained to

Sophie that real-life safety rules apply online.

For instance, she shouldn't talk to strangers or go places she's not allowed. Before visiting a new site, she has to check with me so I can make sure it's appropriate. And just as in real life, she needs to tell me right away if a stranger

tries to contact her or if she sees something confusing or upsetting.

I feel better that Sophie has ground rules, and I am going to keep this conversation going. ♥





**A coloring page for your little one**

