

SCHOOL NEWS

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College Park UMC Primary School & CDC
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MASSEY'S MESSAGE

Love is in the air!! It's great fun to watch the children preparing for Valentine's Day. They love the treats, the parties, and exchanging cards with their friends. We provide these opportunities for our students as a way to enhance their social skills. It's all a very important part of their growth and development. Thank you for becoming involved in this great effort by preparing Valentine cards and providing special lunches or treats for the class. You're the best!!

GOD'S VALENTINE TO YOU AND ME

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ HOLY WEEK
- ◆ PRESIDENT'S DAY

PARENTING TIPS

The Importance of Friendships for Young Children

Developing friendships does much more than simply provide playmates for your child. These friendships can be the foundation on which your child's early development and adjustment as adults is built. Friendships help your children learn problem-solving and social skills, as well as serve to enhance their self-confidence. Here are a few ways you can help your child develop friendships.

- **Provide Opportunities** - organize "play dates" or trips to the park with other parents. You might consider hosting a Christmas or Valentine Party for your child's friends. Invite one special friend over for lunch and a video on a Saturday. This time together will give your child the experiences he/she needs to understand the "give and take" necessary in all friendships.
- **Respect Individuality** - Your child's friendship needs may be very different than yours. He/She may have one best friend, whereas you have a large circle of friends. Understand that those needs may cycle through over and over and that's o.k.
- **Talk With Your Child** - Discuss various friend scenarios and give your child an opportunity to have input as to what is the best way to handle specific situations (i.e. "I understand Johnny drew a sad face on your art project. As his friend, what do you think you should say to him?").
- **Allow Children to Work Out Differences** - If possible, allow children to work out their differences. This is where those problem-solving skills are honed. Allow some time for their own resolutions before intervening.
- **Model Being a Good Friend** - Someone once told me, "Children are like little mirrors, running around after you, reflecting all that you say and do." Your children see how you treat your friends, what you say to them and about them. Remember, you are your child's first teacher.

We're on the Web!
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*“When I was a child,
 I spoke as a child, I
 understood as a
 child, I thought as a
 child; but when I
 became a man, I put
 away childish
 things.”*

I Corinthians 13:11

TEACHING TIPS

Allowing Children to Make Choices

It is very important to allow children to make choices to help them develop decision-making skills, exercise independence and enhance their creativity and imagination. However, it is equally important to realize that children do not have the cognitive ability or prior knowledge to understand the ramifications of some choices and, because of that, may make choices that are not appropriate or in their best interest. When giving your child a choice, remember to make it a “multiple choice”, with every option being an acceptable choice. For instance, “Cindy, do you want to wear your red dress or blue skirt?” Rather than, “What do you want to wear today?” Also, do not allow your child’s choices to alter your life in a way that is disruptive or teaches the child that he is in control and can “overrule” your decision or daily routine. An example of this might be, if it’s time to come to school and he says, “No, I don’t want to!” and you delay departure, waiting until he decides he is ready to leave, in order to avoid a tantrum. Learning to make wise choices is a skill that parents model for children and that they must deliberately teach to their children in their daily interaction. Don’t allow your child to play the adult. He doesn’t have that capability and it is inappropriate to put him in that position.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday is February 6th, the beginning of the Lenten Season. Many Christians choose to “give up” something or declare a primary focus for the 40 days leading to Holy Week in order to better prepare for their remembrance and reflection on the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

CPUMC will host a *Maundy Thursday* service on March 20th, remembering the Last Supper and Jesus’ special time with his followers. On March 21st, we will host a *Good Friday* service, reflecting on Christ’s death on the cross, and on Sunday, March 23rd, we will celebrate *EASTER* with a choir cantata, “My Utmost For His Highest”, which will feature guest soloists and our own PreK-4/5 and Primary School students. It will focus on our calling as Christians and celebrating the resurrection of our Lord.

This entire week is a wonderful time to grow deeper in our faith, honoring the inconceivable sacrifice of Jesus and His miraculous triumphant over the tomb. I hope to see many of our Primary School and CDC families at these services. Developmentally-appropriate activities will be provided for all children in order to give them an opportunity to learn about these Biblical truths in a way that is appropriate for their ages and stages in life. What a wonderful opportunity to model our faith for our children!

PARENT INCENTIVE

Parents continue to be the best advertisement for our school and, as we continue to work to build enrollment (in our older classrooms and Primary School), we would like to offer parents of currently enrolled students an incentive for speaking to friends, neighbors, and family members about our school, encouraging them to join our Primary School and CDC families.

We will distribute cards to those who are interested in this incentive program (located at the front desk). As you, then, distribute these cards to your friends, you will sign the card. If your

friend comes in, presents the card, enrolls a child in the school, and stays for at least 90 days, we will credit YOUR account with \$500.

We are hoping this incentive will encourage parents to discuss the school and their own child’s positive experiences at the school, with those they associate with on a daily basis and the result will be an increase in enrollment in the classrooms that are not full. The incentive program begins immediately. Please see Amy or Will if you have any questions.

REMEMBER: SCHOOL IS CLOSED
Monday, February 18th - President’s Day