

SCHOOL NEWS

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College Park UMC Primary School & CDC
Mary Massey, M.S., Principal



MASSEY'S MESSAGE

Many parents have asked and so I want to give you my perspective about TURNOVER, the “curse” of staffing an early childhood education institution. Working with children is a tough job, by anyone’s standards. People (mostly women) persevere through the tough aspects of the job because they have a true passion for the education and development of young children and they receive great joy from growing and learning with the little ones in their care. Although we offer significant benefits and compensation in an attempt to minimize turnover, we still see more than we would like to. The hourly wage we offer is higher than many full-day preschools; however, teachers still do not make much money, generally speaking. I think we would all agree, if they were paid what they deserve, we would price ourselves out of the market and parents wouldn’t be able to afford an early childhood education for their children. Understanding this basic premise, I believe will help put turnover in perspective. Based upon this premise, my focus has been two-fold. Firstly, I work to make all decisions in regard to what’s best for the children in our care. I have found, without exception, if we do that, God honors our work here and He continues to bless our school ministry. Secondly, I work to keep the expectations high for our teachers. I have found that we all will rise to the level of expectation that is set for us. Our students deserve no less. That said, there are some people who simply don’t have what it takes to do this job and, sometimes, we don’t know that until they have worked a few days, or weeks, or even months. Some of them will recognize that themselves and quit; others think they can “slide by”; but, because they are not rising to our expectations, have to be let go, in order to preserve the quality we have achieved. And then there are times when someone has been here for some time and, even though their work history has been a good one, they do something (or, in some cases, don’t do something) and I have to make a decision. Do I let them go, based on our two-fold focus, preserving the integrity of our program, or do I keep them based on their history or because we are short-handed, or because parents like them? As you can see, these decisions are never easy; but, you can feel confident they are always made with much deliberation and through fervent prayer. Thank you for your faith in us. We are privileged to be on this journey with your family.

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PARENTING TIPS

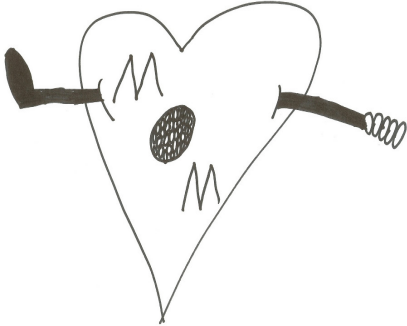
How many times do I have to tell you?????

Someone once said, “Repetition is the mother of learning.” Keep this quote in mind as you continually remind your child of all the times you’ve told him what to do or what not to do. Realize that he isn’t “out to get you” by pushing the limits of your patience. He is just being a child, trying to figure out this world he’s been brought in to, trying to be clear on what is acceptable and what is unacceptable. Remain consistent in all your directions and, eventually, your consistency will pay off BIG as that direction is housed in your little one’s long-term retention and he finally “gets it.” Then, of course, you will move on to the next direction or rule or expectation and you will go through the entire process, again. That’s what parenting is all about. Laying out the expectations in a clear and concise fashion, reminding your child, over and over again, about that expectation, and then privately celebrating when you see the “light bulb go off” and you realize YOU DID IT!! You hung in there and witnessed your child struggle through one more important step in his growth and development and make it to the “other side.” Congratulations! Isn’t parenting the BEST!!!!!!?

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Art Show & Promotion Ceremony
- ◆ Golf Tournament
- ◆ Fall Registration

We're on the Web!
www.cpumc.org



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ART SHOW AND PROMOTION CEREMONY

Primary School and PreK-4/5 students will be honored on Sunday, June 1, 2008. We will host an Art Show, featuring original pieces by our students, beginning at 4 p.m. in the Garden. The Promotion Ceremony will follow at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We are excited about celebrating the outstanding achievements of our students, for the 2007-2008 school year!

FIRST ANNUAL KATHY FROHNAPPEL MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sunday, May 11, 2008 - 1 p.m. - Country Club at Deer Run

Contact: Will Massey, will@cpumc.org, 407.841.6020

Please join us as we gather for an afternoon of family fun, in memory of Kathy, and in honor of all our Mothers.

Thank you to Matthew Frohnappel for the wonderful logo (left) he designed and drew for the Tournament.

CAUTION, PARENTS!

We have seen a pattern of car break-ins in our parking lot, over the past two weeks. Please be aware of any suspicious individuals and/or cars and do not leave anything of value in your car, even if it is locked. If you have any concerns, whatsoever, regarding this matter, please report them to the Front Desk staff. Thanks for your help with this most important matter.

ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

We are finishing up enrollment for the new school year, to begin in August. Please be sure you get with Amy or Will, at the Front Desk, to secure a spot for your child. If you have made the decision not to return, please take a moment to share the reason for your decision with Mrs. Massey (You are welcome to call, 407.841.6020, or e-mail, mary@cpumc.org). This "exit interview" will be beneficial in our decision-making process as we continue to strive for excellence in regard to developmentally-appropriate practice in our educational programs.

TEACHING TIPS

Developing Language in Your Child

A groundbreaking study has shown that how well a child does in school is closely tied to how much parents, caregivers, and family members talk to that child before the age of three. Remember:

- Spend time with your children, talking with them about their surroundings and/or activities. Too often we are tempted to talk on our cell phones while in the presence of our children (in the car or waiting in the doctor's office), wasting precious moments with them.
- Narrate what you are doing with and around your child. The more words your child hears, the bigger his/her vocabulary will be.
- Use multiple words to refer to an object, as a classification (i.e. a car, a truck, and a bus are all vehicles).
- Once a child knows his colors, use words like "dark, light, bright, dull, faded" to broaden his view and understanding of color.