

Noah's Ark News

September 2023



From The Office:

★ Follow up from The Optimist Club - Community Baby Shower

- We received a thank you for participating in the first ever community baby shower
- Two carloads of diapers, wipes and food were collected and two carloads of clothes, blankets and toys
- All items will be distributed through the Sussex Food Pantry
- Thank you to all who donated here

★ Reporting illness

- As a state licensed center we are required to post information to parents when certain illnesses are present in our building
- Please let the office know if your child has been diagnosed with any illness that requires a doctor's visit or medication
- Watch for illness notices in your child's classroom as well as the bulletin board by the drinking fountain

★ Staffing

- We are so excited to announce that we have hired a new full-time teacher.
- Miss Sarah will be training the week of 9/4 and will be on the schedule starting 9/11. She will be a support teacher with time in all of our classrooms but as of right now you will see her most in the preschool room.
- Miss Sarah has a degree in education with an emphasis on childcare and comes to us with great experience earned at other centers. Please welcome her as you see her in the classrooms.

★ No room at The Ark

- The only openings we will have for fall are in the 4k and before/after school program
- **Currently the first infant opening we have is mid to late 2025**
 - Please see us in the office if you are thinking of adding to your family and thus The Ark family

★ Procare App

- Recently some parents have let me know that they are not getting notifications through their phone that there are messages for them
- This is a Procare issue not an Ark issue. Procare recommends making sure your phone is updated, trying uninstalling and reinstalling the Procare app, and double checking that you still have notifications turned on.
- If you still don't get notifications please get into a routine of checking Procare for messages maybe first and last thing during the day and maybe once during the day.
- We use this app to communicate a lot of info to parents about their child specifically and to classrooms as a whole or to the whole center.

★ 4k/school age days off school sign up

- School starts September 7th for 5k and up.
- School starts September 11th for 4k.
- Clipboards are up for the entire year so you can sign up for days off your child needs care. There is a date on each sheet that indicates when it will come down and then no changes can be made. Please make sure you are aware of that date. All clipboards have more than one sheet on them please sign up on all dates that you need.

★ We are closed Monday September 4th to celebrate the Labor Day holiday!

★ Other dates to note:

- Picture day will be Friday October 20th
- Thanksgiving Feast will be Wednesday November 15th



From Pastor Jim:

The B-I-B-L-E

(That's the book for me.)

According to, Hebrew 4:12, "the word of God is alive and active." This description of the Bible as "living" means that it has a vital power inherent to itself. Jesus likened the Word of God to seed in Mathew 13. Seed, like the Bible, is not dead, but living, and it has the ability to bring forth more life abundantly.

Certainly, I have experienced this "life" in the Bible, from simply being inspired by reading it to myself, to seeing the Bible itself literally change lives. There are so many stories of individuals experiencing real rescue just by finding a Gideon's Bible in a motel nightstand. "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet," says a Psalm, "and a light unto my way." The word, "bible," means "book," but it's more than just an ordinary book.

The best part of my week is the weekly Pastor Jim time with the kids downstairs in the Ark. Each week, all the Ark works on a story from the Bible.

Every Wednesday, I share my take on whatever story we're working on. It's become a passion for me to dream up new and entertaining ways to tell those old, old stories. Often, no one is more surprised by what I come up with than I am. It's a privilege to share the life that's in the Bible. There is vital power in those pages!



Infants:

Highlights:

- September Theme: All about me
- Bubble wrap runway
- Make a classroom foot book
- Action rhyme: head, shoulders, knees, and toes
- Sing songs with our names



Goals:

- Learn more about each of our friends
- Recognize our own name
- Clapping hands and recognizing body parts



Reminders:

- We will be sending home a paper apple for each family to decorate so we can learn about all of our friends.
- We bid good luck to Ava and Declan as they graduate to the toddler room.
- Check your child's extra clothes bin for weather appropriate clothing. Also for the right sizes for growing babies!
- Please sign in and out every day on the clipboard. This is a licensing requirement.

Wishlist:

- Bubble wrap
- Different colored bandanas
- Clear hair gel

Thank You: Acelynn for Ocean animal toys and tissue paper, Noah for tape, Kenzie for new toys, and Grant for glue sticks and painters tape!!

Welcome!

- Noah (Vera's little brother)
- Grant (Ms. Debbie's grandson)
- Lily (Charlie's little sister)

Happy Birthdays:

Happy Birthday Lily and Ms. Veronica!



Toddlers:

Highlights:

→ September Theme: All About Me

- ◆ All About Me Poster created at home and shared here
 - Poster paper will come home the last week of August
- ◆ Bible time with Pastor Jim starts again
- ◆ Friendship handprints

Goals:

→ Vocabulary Development Activities include

- ◆ Learning words about feelings, families and friends

→ Color Recognition Activities include

- ◆ Everyday activities and some games, songs and stories that are all about colors

→ Self-help skills Activities Include

- ◆ Using cutlery, putting on a coat, cleaning up toys

Reminders:

- Please bring in a light coat or sweatshirt that can be left in your child's cubby. The weather will be changing rapidly throughout September and we want everyone to be comfortable playing outside.

Wishlist:

- Birdseed for our bird and chipmunk friends
- Fall window clings

Moving On:

Welcome Ava and Declan from infants. See you in preschool Easton, Ivy, Cole and Kennedy.

Birthdays:

Kelvyn turns 2 on September 30th



Thank You:

Frankie's family for the fish stickers and Kennedy's family for the seashells.



Preschool:

Highlights:

- September Themes: All about me, Five senses, manners, families & friends.
- This month we say goodbye to Elliot, Evelyn, Lilyana and Graham. We will miss you all so much!
- Welcome to Preschool Cole, Easton, Ivy and Kenedy! We're happy to have you!

Goals:

Some of our group goals include:

- Treats drop off & pick up as routine parts of the day.
- Can dress self
- Can stay in an activity for 5-10 minutes (increasing attention) ***on going***
- Kindness ***on going***



Reminders:

→ *****Please take your child potty before dropping them off- especially before 7:45 when there is only one teacher in the room.*****

→ With a jacket season creeping up on us, please limit the amount of items put in cubbies; we have lots of friends and a limited amount of cubbies so many of us are sharing and running out of space!

→ Please remember that if your child has a warm up in their lunch that it should be in a microwavable container, separate from cold foods.



Wishlist:

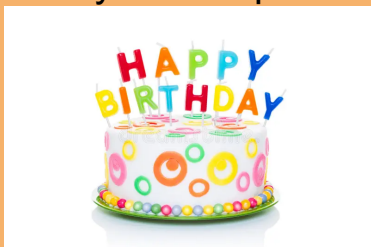
- Fall window clings
- Fall Stickers
- Fall smelling potpourri

Thank You:

Liam and Paxton for the pens!

Birthdays:

Lilyana- September 9th, Elliot- September 15



RIP Maizie 6/20/18-8/14/23

4K School Age:



Highlights:

→ September Themes:

◆ Back To School and All About Me!

→ We learned all about the ocean, pirates, ocean animals and volcanoes last month!

→ This month we are welcoming Lilyana, Evelyn, Graham and Avery to 4K! We are welcoming Ashlynn and Olivia to School Age!

→ In August we welcomed Jackson to 4K!

Favorite Activities:

- Making volcano hats
- Playing True or False
- Making a Sharknado bottle
- Making and erupting a paper mache volcano
- Making Paper Plate Parrots
- Playing with Treasure Slime
- Reading books on the "Big Screen" in the Fellowship Hall and learning with Blippi
- Learning Sea Shanties with Graybeard the Sailor



Goals:

- Following Classroom expectations
- Following 3 step directions
- Writing our names
- Growing our attention spans (during group time)

Reminders:

- Please make sure **YOU (not your child)** are signing your child in every day! This is a licensing requirement!
- Please check your child's extra clothes bin for size and weather appropriate clothing!
- We go outside everyday (weather permitting)! Please make sure that your child brings a water bottle so that they can stay hydrated while both inside and outdoors!
- Please make sure your child has shoes that have a back for playing on the playground!
- **When school is in session, we clean up breakfast promptly at 7:45 am. If your child needs to eat breakfast before school, please make sure they are here before 7:45!**

Wishlist:

- Bean Bag Chairs for our Calming Corner
- Frog Brand Painter's Tape
- Prizes for our Prize Basket
- Fall stickers and foamies
- Washi Tape
- Pencil Boxes

Thank You's:

- The Semrad's for Clorox wipes and batteries
- The Lipinski's for silverware
- The Bartos for Clorox wipes, makers and batteries
- The Zimmerman's for markers, silverware, cups and bags
- The Lewandowski's for the utensils



Ryker will be 6 on September 10th!
Lilyana will be 4 on September 9th!
Jacob will be 5 on September 23rd!

Parent Page:

We keep saying here at The Ark and I'm sure you have said it too! Where has summer gone? Here we are in the last week of August and we are getting ready to send kiddos back to school and transition a bunch of little ones from one room to another. All of this should be very exciting but can be stressful as well. Read below for some tips from Today Show experts. Printed here is an excerpt, follow the link at the end of the article for tips with older children.

How to get your child back into a routine when a new school year starts

As seasoned parents know, preparing kids to go back to school goes beyond bringing out the backpacks and checking off a list of school supplies.

By Gabbi Timmis and Josh Harmon

Welcome to August, otherwise known as the “Sunday of summer.” Every year, this month comes barreling in, knocking at our door, and we can’t help but greet it with a mix of surprise, sadness, and yes – even some relief. With the end of long days at the pool and soaking up the sun comes the beginning of back-to-school shopping and renewed hope that this will be the year our kids finally get to school on time.

As seasoned parents know, preparing our kids to go back to school goes beyond bringing out the backpacks and checking off a list of school supplies. This year especially, with many schools projecting virtual openings, the real challenge comes when we have to replace lazy afternoons in the sun with homework help and late-night bonfires with an earlier bedtime. But the new schedule doesn’t have to be a battle. Whether you have toddler starting school for the first time or a teen who’s entering their final year of high school, here’s how to restore routines (and hopefully, some peace).

Preschool and kindergarten

Start early on the sleep schedule. A successful first day of school begins with a good night’s sleep, but how soon should we rewind the clock? Amy McCready, founder of Positive Parenting Solutions, recommends starting to get them back on an earlier bedtime schedule two weeks out, so your kids have enough time to adjust. You don’t have to do it all at once, though. Pushing back the bedtime by fifteen minute increments will ease your kids into the new routine.

Getting enough sleep isn't just about going to bed earlier. In order to be ready for the morning wakeup call, your kids should start waking up sooner, too. Just like bedtime, McCready says stop hitting snooze around two weeks before school begins. Remind your little ones: having a good sleep schedule is the most important first step to starting the school year off strong. (And if all else fails – tell them that getting up earlier means a having a longer play day!)

Do a dry run of the first day. Just as kids have a dress rehearsal before their dance recital, they also should have a run-through before their first day of school. But what does this actually look like? Start by finding a day your family can go over the morning routine. Jennifer Miller, author of "Confident Parents, Confident Kids" says you can keep it simple, but also make it fun by turning the overview into a game. "Visual reminders work well at this age, so have your child draw each step, starting with waking up." Then, hang up their new work of art in a central location, so you can get to practicing! If school is online, doing a dry run can help a virtual first day feel just as important as an in-person one, and can help create that same sense of accomplishment.

The key to a solid routine isn't just mapping out the steps – but also figuring out what order they should go in. McCready recommends establishing a "When-Then" routine. "Structure your morning so the 'yucky' stuff – like brushing teeth or getting dressed – comes before the fun." For example, tell your kids, "When you're dressed, your hair is combed, the bed is made, and your school supplies are in order, then breakfast will be served." Do your kids have a tendency to dawdle? Give them a time limit. "Let them know the kitchen closes at a specific time," McCready recommends.

Anticipate the biggest issue. Starting school can be scary for some students, but you can help ease your little one's worries before they arise. Michele Borba, author of "UnSelfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me World" recommends anticipating the biggest issue of the school year, and planning ahead for how you'll tackle it. Does your child have a hard time saying goodbye? Find a spot to say your farewells ahead of time. (Hint: Come up with your own secret handshake to do each morning as a special tradition!) Are they worried about getting to and from class? Help them map out the hallways, specially marking specific locations, such as the bathrooms, the cafeteria, or the nurse's office. Starting at a new school? Find them a back-to-school buddy so they have one familiar face on their first day. Are they forgetful? Establish a space for them to put their belongings and show –don't tell—them how to utilize it. (Grab the sticky note reminders for extra backup!)

Lay the foundation for independence.. Jumping back into the school year can be hectic, but resist the temptation of doing everything yourself, and instead focus on giving your kids the tools to be self-sufficient. "Think about how your kids could function on their own if there were no adults in the house," McCready says. Whether it's pouring their own cereal, making their own bed or yes – choosing their own clothes – empowering your kids to be

independent will lay the foundation for the year ahead. (Think about it this way – the more they can do on their own, the less you'll have to nag!)

[Read the rest of the article here.](#)

