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# Connections

## News from St. Mark Community Preschool

September, 2011

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## The 2011 Country Fair is Just a Month Away! Make Plans to Join Us Today!

The 2011 Country Fair is just one month away-- **Sunday, October 23**, 12 noon to 3 p.m. at the preschool campus. This year's fourth annual event will build upon previous traditions, as well as introduce a new tradition--the In-N-Out truck will be here, serving burgers, Double-Doubles, grilled cheese sandwiches and more!



There are many ways to participate, including:

- Sponsoring the fair with a gift of \$100 or more (includes admission for a family or four or more)
- Purchasing tickets to the event (\$15 per adult, \$10 per child ages 2-12 or \$40 for a family package)
- Making an outright gift to support the event
- Contributing an item for our silent auction

Current preschool families are also being asked to consider volunteering at the event or providing drinks or baked goods--sign-up sheets will be posted at your classroom shortly.

To access the sponsor form or auction item form, visit the Country Fair page on the preschool's Web site by [clicking here](#). Watch for your invitation in the coming days as well--current preschool families will receive them in their children's cubbies, and recent alumni/preschool friends by mail. If you don't receive an invitation and are interested in attending, please email the preschool,

[preschool@stmarkpresbyterian.org](mailto:preschool@stmarkpresbyterian.org).

We look forward to seeing you at the Fair!

## From the Desk of Mary Hornbuckle: News for Current Preschool Families

First, an URGENT REQUEST: **PLEASE slow down in the church and preschool parking lots.**

Watch out for each other as you come around the corners. DO keep your children with you as you walk to preschool. DO

NOT park on the red curbs. You may park in the church lot and walk to the preschool or park on the dirt hill just past the preschool lot. If you pull straight in toward the fence, there will be room for others to drive past your car. Please don't block the driveway to the hill. We apologize for the parking situation and we recognize it is a problem with no easy answer.



**Tuition will be due on October 1.** If you would like to use a credit card to pay tuition, please fill out the credit card billing information sheet available in the office, and we will automatically bill your card the first week of each month.

**Our extended day program will begin on Monday, October 3.** This is an extra hour of play in a mixed-age group until 2:15 PM, Monday through Thursday. You may sign up in the book outside the office for a month at a time if you know you will need certain days, or you may sign up each morning if there is space available for that day. We cannot guarantee space if you call in during the day. The cost is \$10.00 per day per child, and there are spaces for 30 children each day. You don't have to pay in advance - we will bill you at the end of each month for the days your child stayed late. **Please note: there is no extended day on Fridays.**

By now most of you have established a "goodbye routine" with your child. If there still is some difficulty in separating, we have found that the briefer the routine, the better. The longer you stay, the slower they are to get engaged in play. We will call you if there is a real problem.

**Conference Day will be here soon - October 12.** We will not have school that day, but you may bring your child and siblings to play on the yard, supervised by

our staff, while you meet with the teacher. This conference is your opportunity to tell the teacher about your child and to get better acquainted. Watch for the sign-up sheet in each classroom in early October.

**Finally, a few general reminders:**

- Please call the school by 9:30 AM if your child is going to be out for the day.
- Remember to sign in and out your child and those you bring in a carpool, using your first and last names and the time. Please remind others who bring your child to do so, as well.
- If you won't be available at your regular phone numbers during school hours, please leave a contact number in the office, in case we must reach you. If you are going out of town, let us know who will be picking up your child in your absence.
- If you haven't yet, be sure to bring a zip-lock bag with a complete change of clothes for your child. We have needed those extra clothes already for several children!
- Remember to check your child's cubby as you leave each day. Teachers put important information there for you to read along with artwork to take home.
- Remember to send snacks ready to serve. We provide water for snack time and water or milk for lunch so there is no need to send a drink with your child. Children learn to pour their own drinks as we teach self-help skills.
- Please send healthy choices of foods in lunches. Three or four items, cut in small pieces, are attractive to a preschooler. Sliced fruit can be kept from turning brown by dipping it in lemon juice or 7-Up. We will send home leftover food, so you can see how much your child is able to eat. Please keep the treats and sweets to a minimum.
- Send your child in closed-toe shoes for safety's sake on the playground. Boots and fancy dress shoes are not safe and inhibit your child's play. No sandals or flip-flops, please.
- Remember to pick up your child on time at 1:15, or 2:15 for extended day. If your child is not staying for extended day, please leave the yard promptly after school.
- You may at some time notice a man in work clothes on the church premises, perhaps near the trash enclosure. It will likely be either Jeremy or Alex, the church janitors. They are both very nice and helpful. The church does occasionally have homeless persons come by looking for help, a sad reflection of the times. Although they do not usually come to the preschool, we do have procedures for helping them without disruption to

the preschool.

Mary Hornbuckle  
St. Mark Community Preschool

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