



The Ark Children's Center

Best of Olney Award Recipient~2009, 2010, 2011

3425 Emory Church Road, Olney, MD 20832 301-774-5369

October 2011 Newsletter

From the Director's Office ...

School is off to a great start! All of our classes are settled and the children are busy adjusting to class routines. *Music* and *Chapel* programs have begun and *Lending Library* time will start next week. Please watch for picture books (in backpacks) and take a few minutes out of your busy schedules to snuggle and share a story together (see pg. 4).

It was wonderful seeing so many parents at our recent *Welcome Back Gatherings*. The children were very excited to share a picnic lunch and watch a movie with you. Thank you for participating in this special day with your child.

We have a full calendar this month. Please join us for *Back to School Night* on Thursday, October 6th. We will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary, and break into groups for classroom visits. *ARK Handbooks and Phone Directories* will also be distributed. Please treat yourselves to a babysitter and join us for the evening. October also brings *Pumpkin Patch/Farm Trips* (see pg. 4), *Individual Pictures* (see pg. 3), and our *Classroom Fall Fun Days* (for Lambs, Chicks, and T-TH 3's classes) and *Fall Festival in Brigham Hall* MWF and M-F classes (see pg. 3). Please see dates, times, and locations in the "Important Upcoming Dates" column to the right and watch backpacks for reminder notices.

A reminder.... Brrr, it's getting chilly outside! Fall is definitely in the air. Please be sure to send your child to school with a warm jacket, hat, and mittens. We go outdoors most days and our playground is shady and cool. Also, please check backpacks and be sure your child's change of clothing is appropriate for the cooler weather ahead. As always, we appreciate outerwear (and backpacks, too!) that are labeled with your child's name.

The staff and I are so happy that you are part of The Ark Children's Center. We are excited about the year ahead and know that the children will learn many new things and will come to know Jesus as a forever friend. We are happy to be partnering with you this year in raising children who are healthy, happy, and spiritually focused in the year ahead.

Wishing you many blessings during this beautiful autumn season!



Susan
+
Staff

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Week of Monday, October 3

Clubs Begin—No Cooking Club this week.

Thursday, October 6

Back to School Night
7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Adults only, no childcare

Wednesday, October 19

Triadelphia Farm Trip—Meet there at 9:30 a.m.
Chicks and MWF (103, 104, 106, 109)
No Clubs Today

Thursday, October 20

Triadelphia Farm Trip—Meet there at 9:30 a.m.
Lambs and T,TH (103, 106); M-F (203)
No Clubs Today

Monday, October 24

Individual Picture Day
Chicks and MWF (103, 104, 106, 109)

Tuesday, October 25

Individual Picture Day
Lambs and T, TH (103, 106); M-F (203)

Wednesday, October 26

Classroom Fall Fun—Dress Like Farmers!
Chicks—11:15-12 noon, in classroom
Parents, please join us!

Thursday, October 27

Classroom Fall Fun—Dress Like Farmers!
Lambs: T-TH (106/Ms. Wendy/Kathy)
11:15-12 noon, in classroom
T-TH (103/Ms. Pat/Jenny)
12:15-1 p.m. in Oasis Room
Parents, please join us!

Friday, October 28

Fall Festival in Brigham Hall—Dress Like Farmers!
MWF (103,104, 106, 109) and M-F (203)
Parents, please join us!

Monday, October 31

Halloween—wear orange and black!
No Parade

~Looking Ahead~

Friday, November 4

No Classes for Students
Professional Day for Teachers



*“Children are made readers
on the laps of their parents.”
—Emilie Buchwald*

Conversation Starters . . .

Check the white board outside your child’s classroom for daily happenings. Try to ask questions that cannot be answered with a yes or no.

What’s the best thing that happened today?

Tell me about your artwork . . .

What do you do before eating lunch?

Who else is in your class?

I’d love to hear a story . . .

What special jobs do you have at school?

Show me . . . Teach me . . .

Would you like to help me with . . .

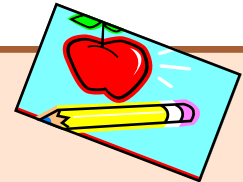
Soon the 3 and 4 year old classes will be visiting our **Lending Library** weekly to choose a book to bring home and share. Please return the book by Wednesday of the following week, in its original zip-loc bag, to the collection box outside the office. (If the bag becomes lost, please help us by clipping a note to the book with your child’s name and class information.

Enjoy this special time with your child. This is a life-long gift you are giving to your child . . . to learn, relax, share and to identify with others. Books broaden horizons and help us to laugh. Children who enjoy reading learn how to entertain themselves, to imagine, and expand their vocabulary. Perhaps best of all they take this wonderful pastime into adolescence and through adulthood. What a gift!

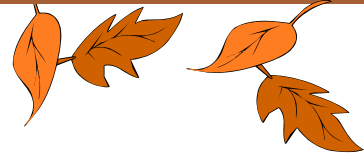


Back to School Night

Thursday, October 6 ~ 7:30 p.m.
Sanctuary
Adults only, no childcare.



You won’t want to miss this informative meeting. Meet our staff members, visit classrooms, and get to know other parents. Children are thrilled when they learn you will be visiting *their* school. They’ll be making special preparations for your visit!



Who’s Missing Today?

Please call the office whenever your child will not be at school. If illness related, children will be allowed to return to school only if fever-free for 24 hours (without fever reducing meds) and/or on an antibiotic for 24 hours.

Tell Your Friends!!

We have limited spaces available in our 4’s M-F and MWF 4’s classes. We have also just added a new class of T-TH 3’s which meets from 9 until 12 noon. Invite others to call our office at 301-774-5369 for information.

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6



Smile!
Time for Individual School Pictures
Monday/Tuesday, October 24 and 25
(see front page "Important Dates"
for specific classes)

Watch for more information coming home via backpack mail. All children will be photographed by Masterpiece Studios. You will receive free proofs (no need to send money on picture day) along with a price list and envelope when the proofs are ready. Return proofs, order, and payment by the deadline marked on the envelope. We are no longer able to photograph siblings together at school. Please call our photographer's office, at 301-570-1067, for family portrait information.

Brrrrrrr!
It will soon be
chilly
outside!

Please be sure to send zipper jackets, mittens, and hats to school each day with your child. Children should wear socks and sneakers each day. Our playground is shaded and it can be quite cool,

All children enrolled in our M-F and MWF classes, only, will need a colored, child-sized t-shirt for a school project.

These shirts will be cut and decorated for our Fall Festival celebration. Shirts need not be new! A sports team or printed t-shirt will work just fine. Please label with your child's name.



Let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:24



Fall Festival
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, October 26, 27, and 28
(see front page "Important Dates" for specific classes)

Mark your calendars now for this annual gathering of fun and games. Watch for more details coming soon. Parents and children, please come in jeans or overalls and print/plaid shirts. Boots and hats are welcome, too!



I Spy Lunch Time . . .

In September we spotted these healthy choices at lunch time. **Apples, turkey wraps, edamame, raisins, strawberries, and tomatoes.**

What will we see in October?

Making lunches is a great opportunity to involve your child—colors, textures, counting—all kinds of teachable moments. Check out www.healthiergeneration.org/schools for more healthy lunch ideas.



Make a Joyful Noise!

Join The Ark's music teacher, Peggy Manion, for OEUMC's Cherub Choir (age 4 through Grade 2). Rehearsals on Wednesday from 4:30 until 5 p.m. in the Oasis Room. For more information, www.oeumc.org



Parents . . . There is a bulletin board just for you located outside Room 104. Check out many opportunities there for you and your family.

What's the Scoop?

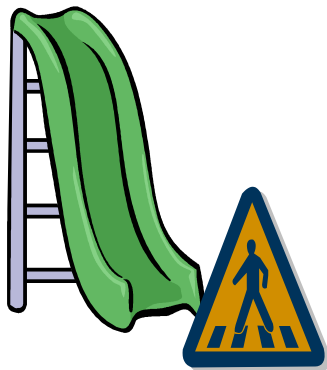
Get to know *The Ark Staff*. Check out our new bulletin board, debuting at *Back To School Night* and learn about our hobbies, families, educational backgrounds, and why we love working with your children.





Parking Lot and Playground Reminders . . .

- ⇒ Drive slowly and safely.
- ⇒ Never leave *any* child in a parked car.
- ⇒ Hold your child's hand as you cross the lot.
- ⇒ Remember, children will not be released to anyone without your prior consent. Keep us informed of any changes.
- ⇒ Playground space is in use during school hours from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.
- ⇒ School patrons and community members are welcome to use this area with close and attentive adult supervision. If using the sandbox after 1 p.m., please replace the cover before leaving.
- ⇒ **It is very confusing for children when in-school rules and after-school rules are different. Please help us reinforce the following:** no jumping off swings while in motion; no climbing trees; no walking/climbing *up* the slide—seated on bottoms coming down; no eating inside playground area—use picnic tables in grassy area near the school building.
- ⇒ Help to remind others to be respectful of our play area.



We're recycling at school!

Encourage your child to help with recycling at home. We will be "going green" with our newsletter beginning January 2012 when you will see classroom door notices announcing new monthly newsletters are posted.

Check out our website now at www.oeumc.org

Click on
-Ministries

-Discipleship

-The Ark Children's Center

to find forms, information, and *this* newsletter. We are excited about this opportunity for stewardship of our natural and financial resources.



Pumpkin Time Triadelphia Lake View Farm

October 19, 20 (see front page "Important Dates" for specific classes)



Parents and children will join teachers at this working farm for a hayride, pumpkin picking, corn maze, farm animals, pedal tractors, and virtual cow milking! An informational letter will be coming home soon. **Parents will be responsible for transportation.** There will be an admission fee of \$6 each for you and your Ark enrolled child as well as each additional person attending and participating in activities. Siblings are welcome—age 2 and younger are free.

Please begin saving shoeboxes for our Operation Christmas Outreach Project — more details to come in November.



Delayed Openings/Closings/Early Dismissals

In the event of a MCPS delayed opening, we will operate as follows with **NO lunch at school!**



MWF, M-F Classes	11 a.m.—1 p.m. (Clubs will meet)
T-TH Classes	11 a.m.—1 p.m. (Clubs will meet)
LAMBS & Chicks	11 a.m.—12:30 p.m. (Snack Provided)

If MCPS closes school (weather related), we are also closed. Call our school answering machine (301-774-5369), after 7 a.m. We also announce school closures with WTOP, 103.5 FM (by 7:30 a.m.). Log onto www.WTOPNEWS.com for information regarding school closures.

