

*Designed By God
September 2009*

Dear Folks at Home,

I would like to welcome you to a new school year at Family of Christ Christian Preschool! You will be receiving a unit letter for every thematic unit that we will be studying throughout the year. Our first unit will be focusing on "Designed by God." God has indeed created and designed each and every one of us wonderfully and has given us our own special gifts and talents that we share with those around us. I am excited that God has given me the gift for teaching small children and am looking forward to this year and getting the opportunity to know each and every child on a personal level!

Our first unit will help to create an atmosphere where the children will feel safe and comfortable and know that God designed them very specially. We will also be focusing on the development of a positive self-image. This will continue throughout the year during our time here at preschool and while your child is at home. Developing a positive self-esteem is important at a young age, as it influences our life in all areas!

Our first Jesus times will focus on God creating the world, animals and people. (Genesis 1-2:25) This Bible story will be told through the loved, "Read Aloud Bible Stories" Book and through the singing of "The Seven Days of Creation." (Sung to the tune of "The Twelve Days of Christmas")

The dramatic play center has been transformed into a Grocery Store. The children will have the opportunity to try out the different roles of workers and shoppers at the store. Many children love to help mom and dad find a variety of foods to purchase at the grocery store. Next time you shop with your child see how many things your child can read in the grocery store. You will be truly amazed at what things they can read!

Each unit the children will be working in their Journals that will be a portion of their Portfolios that will be shared with the family at conferences and sent home at the end of the year. The Portfolio will show the growth of the children throughout the year.

We will be going outside as much as we can on days without rain. Please dress your child appropriately for playing on the playground and bring a jacket if you feel that your child needs one. We have found that closed-toed shoes work well due to the woodchips on the playground. Thank you!

Free-Choice Centers:

- *Science Center:* body books and "Are You My Mother? Matching game
- *Sensory:* playdough with children, wash babies in the water table
- *Religion:* God made the world, plants, animals and people
- *Art Table:* person shape with construction paper crayons and fingerprints on paper
- *Easel:* house shape with craypas and face shape with smelly markers
- *Letters of the Week:* Aa
- *Color of the Week:* skin tones
- *Shape of the Week:* circle

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Songs and Fingerplays:

I Am Special (tune: London Bridge)

*I am special, yes I am. Yes I am, yes I am.
I am special, yes I am. I'm very special!*

*No one else has eyes like mine, just like mine, just like mine.
No one else has eyes like mine. I'm very special!*

*No one else has hands like mine, just like mine, just like mine.
No one else has hands like mine. I'm very special!*

*No one else has hair like mine, just like mine, just like mine.
No one else has hair like mine. I'm very special!
(Other verses nose, mouth, etc. Make up your own!)*

Very, Very Tall

*I am very, very tall (Stand on tiptoes, arms up)
I am very, very small (Stoop)
Sometimes I am tall (Tiptoes, arms up)
Guess what I am now? (May either stoop or stretch)*

Things to do at home:

- *Make a list of things that you appreciate about the people in your family and hang it up in a place where everyone can see. This will remind them of how special God made each of you!*
- *Take a walk down memory lane, and look at pictures with your children of when they were younger and show them what you used to look like when you were their age!*

Just a Quick Reminder:

- *Handwashing...Please have your preschooler(s) wash their hands at school before coming into the classroom. This decreases the amount of germs spread dramatically. It also helps to have your child use the toilet before class so that they do not miss anything while they are here.*

Important Dates to Remember:

- *Hat Day-Class 4 (M-W) on Wed., Sept. 23 and Class 5 (T-Th) on Thurs., Sept. 24*
- *On-line Book Orders Due-Thursday, Sept. 24*
- *Book Orders Due-Friday, Sept. 25*
- *Chapel-Class 4 (M-W) Sept. 30
Class 5 (T-Th) Oct. 1*
- *Parent Association Meeting-Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome!*

God's blessings on the new school year,

Marla Guenther

*"I have called you by name, you are mine."
Isaiah 43:1*

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Look at my special fingerprint!

*"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made!"
Psalms 139:14a*

Look at my special fingerprint!

*"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made!"
Psalms 139:14a*