



St. Jerome Early Childhood Center



Issue 1

Newsletter

August 2023

'St. Jerome Early Childhood Center, a Catholic community, provides a loving and accepting environment that fosters respect for all people by modeling Christian values as our children grow and learn.'

Message from the Administrator:

Dear Families and Friends,
Welcome to the new school year! What a blessing it is to see the faces of students who are now part of the St. Jerome ECC legacy. Our school family has been growing since 1990 when the doors opened for the first time. Since then, we have changed to keep current on educational methods and technological advances while remaining constant in our teaching of the faith. I fully expect to have another wonderful year of play, laughter and learning! Integral to that goal is the dedicated staff who work tirelessly to care for our students. We Are blessed to have a terrific team!
We look forward to serving our community this year.
Sincerely in Christ,
Phyllis Steele
ECC Administrator

Your St. Jerome ECC Staff

Phyllis Steele, EC Administrator
Michelle Sherman, Office Manager
Kayleigh Sloman, EC2 Teacher
Melissa Bittenbender, EC2 Assistant Teacher
Carmen Pollock, EC3 Teacher
Christina Miller, EC3 Assistant Teacher
Ashley Chappel, EC3 Teacher
Milenka Jokanovic, EC3 Assistant
Diana Demes, EC4 Teacher
Samantha Harris, EC4 Assistant Teacher
Susan Hull, EC Floating Assistant Teacher

Substitute Staff:

Danijela Aslanovic
Tarah Harrop Abigail Martin
Traci Silversen Amanda Taylor

Welcome...
Father Blum

**We are blessed to have
you as our new Pastor!**



**BACK-TO-SCHOOL
NIGHT
September 7th**

**Parent Orientation
7:00 – 7:45 pm
Education Building
Auditorium**

**Teacher Presentations
7:45 – 8:30 pm
EC Classrooms**

Fall Mum Fundraiser



**\$10 each – call office for details
(727)596-9491**

Space Available for 2023-24: We are asking our families to let other families with young children know about our wonderful EC program. Please help spread the word and send others our way so that we can reach a full enrollment. At this time, we still have space available in our Three and Four-Year-Old classrooms. The Two-Year-Old room is full but we are happy to give tours and put names on our waiting list.

If you refer someone that registers at our school, you will earn a \$50 gift card or tuition credit!

REMINDERS:

- ◆ **Extended Care is open:** Students are invited to join us for Early Care (8:00 – 9:00am) and Afternoon Care (12:00 – 3:00pm) for an additional fee.
- ◆ **Carline:** For a safe and efficient carline, we ask that student car seats be on the side of the car closest to the building so staff can safely and easily reach them. We can unbuckle the children upon arrival but CANNOT buckle them in at dismissal. **Please pull through the carline and buckle your child in the parking lot so the carline can keep moving.**
- ◆ **Labels:** Pinellas County Licensing Board requires that all student items must be labelled with a first and last name. This includes backpacks, clothing, lunchboxes, icepacks, water bottles, snack containers, etc.
- ◆ **Snacks:** Licensing requires snack contain two food groups (ex. 100% juice box and cheese stick or strawberries and crackers). Snack should be packed in a separate bag from the lunchbox (for those children staying in Extended Care). Perishable items must include an icepack for food safety.
- ◆ **Enrichment Activities:** Afternoon classes will begin September 11th. Students must be enrolled in Extended Care in order to participate.
 - **Monday** – Spanish with Mrs. Pollock (no additional cost)
 - **Tuesday** – Music with Stretch n Grow (\$35/month)
 - **Wednesday** – Sports with Stretch n Grow (\$35/month)
 - **Thursday** – Dance with Stretch n Grow (\$35/month)
 - **Friday** – “Kidding Around” Exercise Class with Mrs. Kay (no additional cost)Stretch n Grow is an outside provider (fully licensed and screened through the state and Diocese) who offer fun classes for children. Families pay Stretch n Grow directly. Classes are open to three and four-year-old students only.
- ◆ **Appropriate Dress:** Parents are asked to dress their children in appropriate clothing and shoes for school. The children will get "involved" with paint, sand, etc. and they should feel comfortable to do so. Play clothes are perfect. Closed, rubber soled shoes are needed. **Boots, crocks, and sandals are not to be worn to school, as they do not allow children to climb, run and move safely. Additionally, as outlined in your handbook, children should not wear jewelry to school.**

THANK YOU:

To all the VPK families who made a monetary pledge to support SJECC!

To Mrs. Joanne Biamonte and Mr. Bob Mangold for their volunteer efforts on behalf of our school!

To the Knights of Columbus who purchased new tablets for the ECC classrooms!

To the parishioners who generously remembered us in the envelope donations!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS: Ms. Milenka

UPCOMING:

8/28 Mum orders are due

9/7 Parent Orientation – All Families (Evening meeting for adults) 7:00 pm in the Education Building Auditorium

9/11 Enrichment Classes begin

OPEN HOUSE

