



# St. Jerome Early Childhood Center



Issue 2

Monthly Newsletter

OCTOBER 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.'*

Dear SJECC Families and Friends,

September came and went in a flurry of activity! We are grateful for our wonderful staff and the amazing students and parents who make up this year's school family. We had a successful Back-to-School Night and Fall Family Picnic. Our Fall Mum Fundraiser brought in some needed funds and our St. Jerome Feast Day Prayer Service was a true blessing!

Our parent/teacher conferences this month will help build the relationship between family and school. We recognize that parents are the primary teachers of their children, and we look forward to working collaboratively with you to provide the best possible education for your children.

As the month of October comes to a close, we will be reminded that we are all called to be 'saints'. All Saints' Day is November 1<sup>st</sup>. The night prior to this day was traditionally known as "All Hallows Eve". Today we recognize that as *Halloween*. During school on Oct. 31, our students will participate in a parade on the playground.

May God continue to bless all we do in His name.

Sincerely, Phyllis Steele

### YOUR 2022-23 ECC STAFF

Phyllis Steele, ECC Administrator  
 Michelle Sherman, Office Manager  
 Kayleigh Sloman, EC2 Teacher  
 Melissa Bittenbender, EC2 Asst. Tchr  
 Kylie Ready, Teacher  
 Carmen Pollock, EC3 Teacher  
 Christina Miller, EC3 Asst. Teacher  
 Tarah Harrop, Teacher  
 Ashley Chappel, EC3 Teacher  
 Milenka Jokanovic, EC3 Asst. Teacher  
 Diana Demes, EC4 Teacher  
 Samantha Harris, EC4 Asst. Teacher  
 Danijela Aslanovic, Substitute Teacher  
 Kara Holland, Substitute Teacher  
 Abigail Martin, Substitute Teacher  
 Traci Silverson, Substitute Teacher  
 Amanda Taylor, Substitute Teacher

## Poinsettia Fundraiser



Pre Order sales are taking place this month. See attached order form.



September 30 was the Feast of St. Jerome. This very special saint helped people to access the Word of God through his Biblical translations. St. Jerome taught us that "Ignorance of Scripture, is ignorance of Christ."

## Christmas Fundraiser Concert with Jack Hartmann

Mark your calendars for Saturday,  
**December 2, 2023**  
from **12:00am – 3:00pm**  
Concert, raffle prizes, crafts, pizza,  
photos with Santa and more!

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

Sparrow  
Andrew  
Evelyn  
Lucia  
Mrs. Ashley Chapel



### FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- ◆ **9-1-1 Education:** Lori Collins of Pinellas Emergency Services educated our students about emergencies and the proper use of 9-1-1. She was here on October 2nd for this important presentation.
- ◆ **FLUFF Animal Rescue:** SJECC students and families have the opportunity to help our four-legged friends. In honor of the Feast of St. Francis, who loved all God's creatures, we will be participating in a donation-drive for FLUFF. This organization is located in Seminole and provides vital services for abandoned animals. Needed items include: wet/dry dog and cat food, cat litter, gently used blankets/towels, cat/dog collars and toys. Collection dates are Monday, October 2 – Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your generosity.
- ◆ **Family Fun Night:** Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in our church Parish Center (west of the school building), we will have a Family Fun Night led by Stretch n Grow coaches. This special event is funded by the school and free to our families. You won't want to miss the fun!
- ◆ **School Pictures:** St. Jerome ECC children will have the opportunity to have individual school pictures taken on Oct.10 & 11. All children, whose parents complete the permission form will be photographed. Parents are welcome to have younger and/or older siblings and/or the total family photographed if advanced notice is given. These photos will be taken before school begins on the dates listed above. Photographs will be available to view and purchase online. There is no obligation to purchase the pictures.
- ◆ **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** St. Jerome ECC hosts formal conferences twice each school year. The purpose of our first conference is to give our parents and teachers the opportunity to meet with one another and share how the children are adjusting to the new school environment. Our fall conferences will be held on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> (children will **not** attend school on this day). Parents are asked to sign up for their conference via Sign-Up Genius. You should have received an email to sign up and you will receive an email confirming your conference time. If you have not received the sign-up email, please contact the ECC office as soon as possible. If your child has just recently enrolled at our school, we will set up an alternative date for your conferences approximately 30 days after his/her start date. This gives the teachers time to conduct an assessment and allows your child to transition to our program.
- ◆ **Police Visit:** Corporal Joseph May (parent of Grace) is a police officer who visited all of our classes. We are so grateful for his service and this presentation.
- ◆ **Hearing Screenings:** Screenings will be conducted (for those returning permission slips) on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. This is a free service from Sertoma Hearing. More details will be sent home through the folders.
- ◆ **Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue Visit:** Our firefighter friends will be here on October 23 and 24 to teach the children about fire safety. Students will have an opportunity to go on the fire truck. They will also see how the fire fighters put on their special uniforms and equipment. This makes the children familiar with what might otherwise be a frightening sight during a real-life emergency.

- ◆ **Halloween Festivities:** (all classes) Our Annual Halloween Trick-or-Treat Parade will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 31 within the playground area. Parents are invited to participate with their child's class in the parade. A schedule will be sent home with more details. Parents are asked **NOT** to send in any treats or treat bags for individual children in the class. Remember, as you begin to think about Halloween, please refrain from choosing costumes that depict violence or inappropriate characters. (Items such as swords, guns, etc. will need to be left at home.) Teachers and Room Parents will be planning parties for each class.



- ◆ **Trunk or Treat:** St. Jerome Parish is having it's annual Trunk or Treat on Friday, Oct. 27 from 6-8pm in the church parking lot (west).
- ◆ **Thanksgiving Camp:** SJECC hopes to offer a camp during our Thanksgiving Break on Nov. 20, 21 and 22. Surveys have gone home to gauge family interest. Many fun activities are being planned by our staff. Children will learn about history (Pilgrims and Native Americans) and experience traditions (A Thanksgiving Feast and Parade). Most importantly, the focus will be on Gratitude for our many blessings. The camp would be open to currently registered students only.

### REMINDERS:

- ◆ **Car Line Safety:** Please see our Family Handbook for the following information regarding safety during the car line:  
"Children need to remain seated and buckled until your car comes to a complete stop where your child will be exiting your vehicle. Children should not be allowed to sit in the drivers' seat, lean out the window or stand up into the sunroof while in the carline."
- ◆ **Communication Folders:** Each classroom has set up a Communication Folder for each child that comes home to families every day for communication purposes. Please feel free to correspond with your child's teacher in this daily folder. On the last day of the week, the folder will contain important papers and information. Please review the items in the folder. Please take out the items each week and review them to stay current with all school happenings.
- ◆ **Children's Birthdays:** Individual children will be recognized by their teachers on their birthdays, but treats are not allowed to be sent to school for children's birthdays. Families are invited to come to their child's classroom on their birthday to read a book or play a game with the class. ***If interested in doing this, please contact the ECC office or coordinate with your child's teacher.*** When inviting St. Jerome ECC children to an individual child's birthday, invitations may be sent home through school, only if all children in that class are invited. Parents are asked to give those invitations to the classroom teacher who will distribute the invitations.
- ◆ **Extended Day Billings:** Invoices for "as needed" Extended Day will come home via email the first week of each month for the previous month's use. Additional details can be found in your Family Handbook. Routine and as needed fees are due on the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. A \$25 late fee will be accrued after the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ **Space Available:** We currently have space available in our EC2, EC3 and EC4 programs. If you know of someone looking for a place for their child, please have them contact the ECC Office.
- ◆ **St. Jerome ECC Website:** Families are reminded that school calendars, newsletters, and other current information can be accessed on our website at <https://www.stjeromeecc.org/> (Paper copies are available on request.)
- ◆ **Weekly Notes from Classroom Teachers:** Families receive Weekly Classroom Notes each Friday via the Brightwheel App. Each teacher includes a recap of all the wonderful things that happened in that week as well as details for the upcoming week or month, allowing families to have awareness of topics, skills, literature, themes, etc. that will be introduced in each particular classroom. Families may want to expand upon these lessons or use the notes to spark conversations with your child about their day. A more detailed lesson plan is posted outside each classroom door on Mondays outlining additional happenings for the week ahead. If you desire a copy of this, you can request it by calling the office. As a NAEYC accredited early

childhood program, we believe in a student-led environment following the interest of the children in a particular group. Please notify the office if you do not receive a Weekly Note by the end of day on Fridays.

- ◆ **St. Jerome ECC T-Shirts:** St. Jerome ECC has T-shirts (\$10) AND Tote Bags (\$10) available in the center office.

### **THANK YOU'S:**

- ◆ To the families who participated in our Fall Family Picnic.
- ◆ To everyone who purchased and/or sold tickets for our Rays Raffle! Congratulations to the O'Day family for winning the grand prize!
- ◆ Preserve Vision for conducting vision screenings for our students.
- ◆ Stretch-n-Grow Enrichment Coaches for a great start to our Music, Sports, and Dance classes! Check them out at <https://sng-stpete.com/> . Our Dance stars will perform a Christmas and Spring Recital.
- ◆ Thank you to Corporal Joe May, police officer and parent of one of our students. We appreciated your presentation and the opportunity to experience a real police car up close!
- ◆ To all who purchased a Fall Mum. Our fundraiser earned a little over \$1,000.00 which will be used to purchase needed materials for our classrooms.
- ◆ To Father Blum who presided over our St. Jerome Prayer Service.
- ◆ To the families who celebrated the Feast Day with song and prayer.

THANK YOU FOR  
MAKING OUR FALL  
FAMILY PICNIC  
WONDERFUL!



### **UPCOMING**

- Oct. 1 Tuition (Installment #3) & Pledges Due
- Oct. 2 9-1-1 Education for all ages
- Oct. 1 – 6 FLUFF Animal Rescue Service Project
- Oct. 4 Feast of St. Francis
- Oct. 7 **Pet Blessing** near the north church entrance 10:00 am
- Oct. 9 Family Night: Fitness Fun 7pm in the Parish Center
- Oct. 10 Extended Day Payment Due
- Oct. 10 Individual School Pictures – Rm 1, 2 & 4 M/F and all Tuesday/Thursday students
- Oct. 11 Individual School Pictures – Room 3 and Rms 1, 2 & 4 and all M/W/F students
- Oct. 12 Hearing Screening Permission Forms due
- Oct. 13 **NO SCHOOL (for students)– Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- Oct. 16 **NO SCHOOL – Teacher Inservice**
- Oct. 17 & 25 Hearing Screenings
- Oct. 23-24 Firefighter Visit – Welcome Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue!
- Oct. 27 St. Jerome Church Trunk or Treat 6-8pm
- Oct. 30 Scholastic Book Orders Due
- October 30 Poinsettia Pre-Order forms due to ECC Office
- October 31 Halloween Parade on our playground at 11:30am

## Calling all volunteers!!



I am looking forward to seeing you at the SJECC Christmas Fundraiser this year! Would you be so kind as to donate a raffle prize or volunteer your time? Call my friends at the office to see what is needed for your school. Thank you very much! **Santa Claus**

**We celebrated the birthday of Our Blessed Mother, Mary.**



**9-1-1 Education prepares us for emergency situations!**



**Police Officers keep us safe!**



**St. Jerome Early Childhood Center is selling Poinsettias!**

**Pre-order forms (including payment) are due no later than 10/30/23.**

We accept Checks, Cash and Credit Cards

*\*The 7% Transaction Fee will be added only to credit card payments\**

**All orders must be picked up on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> from 9am-7pm**

Pick up location: Education building parking lot (look for the white tent).



Thank you for supporting our fundraiser!

POINSETTIA	PRICE	QUANTITY	SUBTOTAL
6.5" RED	\$10.00		
6.5" WHITE	\$10.00		
6.5" PINK	\$10.00		
10" RED	\$25.00		
Add a Handmade Bow to your order!	\$5		
		Total Qty:	Subtotal: \$
		<b>Credit Card Payment Only- Add 7%</b>	\$
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>			\$

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: (to receive a reminder)

**OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Manual entry Card # \_\_\_\_\_

CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*Keep this bottom portion:*

**All orders must be picked up on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> from 9am-7pm**

Pick up location: Education building parking lot (look for the white tent).

Contact us: (727) 596-9491 – [preschool@stjeromeecc.org](mailto:preschool@stjeromeecc.org) License# C900209

Thank you for supporting our fundraiser!