

## 4's & LAL - Cornerstone Preschool Fall 2023



### Dear Parents of 4 & 5 year-old's

The 2023-2024 school year at Cornerstone is near and we are so excited about the upcoming school year! Your child's teacher will be calling you between August 22 - 27. She will give you information regarding **Meet the Teacher, which is Friday, September 1 (schedule is attached)**. She can also answer any questions you have regarding the first days of school, nametags, school procedures and other important information. Below is information that may answer many questions. We wanted to give you a few days to read this information before your child's teacher calls.

### WHAT TO WEAR

Send your child in play clothes. During the day, the children enjoy art, outside play and other activities. We offer protective clothing during art, but it feels awkward to children this age and often they choose not to use it. Also, please have your child wear tennis shoes for comfort and safety on the playground. Most children do not like sand and mulch between their toes and running can be dangerous in sandals or flip flops. We cannot apply sunscreen or bug spray according to state requirements, so apply these before coming to school.

### BACKPACK

Your child will need a full-size backpack to carry to class each day. It will need to be large enough to hold their lunch box, coat, diapers and a full change of clothes. If these things do not fit easily inside, then it is too small. Please no drawstring tops or rolling backpacks. The backpack will look huge on their little bodies; nevertheless, they will be able to handle it before you know it. It is important that they have only one thing to carry, keeping their hands free for safety. Please label their backpack where the name can easily be seen. Don't forget the change of seasons when packing the extra set of clothes. Do not keep any bug sprays, medicines or sunscreens in the backpack. We do not suggest backpacks on wheels due to storage concerns. Please leave all toys at home.

### SEPARATION

It is sometimes hard to separate at first and tears are normal, especially in younger children or children who are experiencing school for the first time. Please know that we will do everything we can to help your child adjust to preschool. We want your child to feel safe, welcomed and loved. When you drop off your child, it helps to be cheerful, tell them you will be back soon, and then go ahead and leave. They will realize, as time goes by, that this is a fun place and that you really do come back. Please don't sneak off because it hurts them when they realize you are not there. Many times your child will stop crying as soon as you leave. If you are concerned, feel free to call the preschool office and we will be happy to check on your child and give you an update. We will not let your child be unhappy for long without your knowing about it.

## **ART**

Projects will come home periodically, but not daily. We will be saving special pieces to send home at a later date or to display in our room. Some days we will be busy doing projects other than art, but your child will have the opportunity during center time to participate in free art if desired.

## **VOLUNTEERING**

Look for this sign-up sheet at Meet the Teacher. We are always looking for helpers for special events, projects and lots of other opportunities. We ask that you sign up in 2 areas, and you will be called if needed, prior to the event.

## **ALLERGIES**

Sometimes we have a student or two who have diagnosed severe food allergies. When this happens, it may be necessary to declare the classroom a "peanut-free room" or whatever the circumstance. If this affects your class, you will be informed after your teachers have visited with all the parents. Snacks and your child's lunch may be affected so all is peanut free.

## **LUNCH**

A nutritious lunch should be packed every day. Please see the Parent Handbook and the Snack Suggestions Sheet for ideas and guidelines. Cut items such as grapes and hot dogs lengthwise and into bite size pieces. It is easier if everything is disposable (ex. Ziploc bags, juice box, plastic spoon). We encourage the children to open whatever they can on their own and dispose of their trash. No glass containers or red juice, please, and keep candy for after school. Don't forget to send eating utensils, straws, napkins, etc.

## **SNACK**

Each child will take turns sharing a snack with the class. Send a healthy snack that the children can serve themselves, napkins and necessary supplies. Children will enjoy water with snacks, and preschool will provide cups. Birthday snacks can be a special snack to share – send your child's choice. Your teacher will schedule your child to bring birthday snack close to his/her birthday. Your snack day will be indicated on the calendar with his/her name. Occasionally, teachers will request that a special item be brought for the snack usually to correspond with an activity or theme; this will be noted beside the snack person's name on the calendar. As we all know, simple and healthy snacks are the best. The children really look forward to bringing snack; however, if you forget snack, we do keep a few items in our pantry. You will receive a note so you can send a replacement snack on your child's next school day to keep our pantry stocked.

## **LABEL**

Please label everything! It is very common for several children to have the same lunch box, backpack or coat. Write your child's name on everything they bring to school (preferably using a permanent marker). Labeling your child's things also gives them the opportunity to recognize their name and gives them a sense of belonging. Label the backpack, extra set of clothes, lunch box, plastic containers, etc. Please write their name on a very visible spot (i.e. on the outside of the lunch box vs. the inside of the lunch box).

## **HOME AWAY FROM HOME**

You will get a paper for you and your child at Meet the Teacher. Help your child decorate it and return it on the first day of school. This is a wonderful way for the children to learn more about each other. These pages are made into a class book and rotated throughout each child's family so they can learn more about their classmates. The children learn more about each other and are able to share news about their family with others as well.

## FUNDRAISER

We have a Fall fundraiser each year as well as monthly activities at local establishments that result in revenue for the preschool. This money is used to purchase playground equipment, classroom toys, manipulatives and materials to support the curriculum for the children, as well as teacher training. You will be given your packet at Meet the Teacher. There are prizes for top sellers. If our fundraiser is not for you, please consider a cash donation to help us meet our fundraising goals. We truly appreciate your support.

## CLASSROOM INFORMATION

**Nametag:** The nametags are so important, as they help all of the staff at Cornerstone learn your child's name and whose class he/she is in. Have your child wear it every day. You may pin it on the front or back of your child. The teacher will take the nametag off in October and will keep it at school. We will use these nametags when there is a substitute teacher in your child's class.

**Calendar:** A calendar and newsletter will be sent home the beginning of each month in the backpack and via email. This will inform you of the skills and themes that we will focus on that month. The child that is responsible for snack will be included for each class day on the calendar. Calendar is on one side, newsletter on the other.

**Folder:** You will receive a folder at Meet the Teacher. Please keep it in your child's backpack and check it after each class. This will be used to hold all important papers, book orders, money, artwork and notes for home. Use this folder to send the teacher any important papers, tuition or notes (teachers unpack this every morning).

## DROP OFF AND PICKUP PROCEDURES - UPDATED

**Morning Drop-Off** - Enter the building through the main preschool door and drop off your child no earlier than 8:55 a.m. at the classroom door. Please say your good-byes at the classroom door and allow your child the opportunity to enter the room on their own or let one of the teachers take your child. We will spend the first few weeks of school teaching the children what to do when they arrive and how to begin a fun warm-up activity.

**Afternoon Pick-Up** - Pick your child up in the classroom beginning at 1:50 using the main preschool door. You will need to sign your child out in the office if you pick up your child before 1:45. Let us know who may and, if necessary, who may not pick up your child. If your child is going home with a friend or other adult, you will need to send a note in your child's backpack. The teacher needs these directions and information in writing. A Texas Driver's License will be needed for identification from the other adult who is picking up your child.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

\*Texas state law requires that all required paperwork be complete and in place when your child begins school. If you are missing paperwork, we will let you know. We appreciate your getting it completed as soon as possible so that your child can begin school.

\*The preschool doors are locked during the school day. Please use the door bell on the left to alert office staff that you are waiting to be admitted. After a visual verification has been made, the lock on the left door will be released and you will be able to enter. The door does not buzz after it is unlocked, so be watching for someone in the office to signal that it is ok to enter.

\*If your child has any medical conditions such as an allergy, please let us know in the office. All medications must be brought to the office.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Preschool

Address: 18081 West Rd.

Phone Number: 281-859-1612

Fax Number: 281-859-4567

Email: [psad.cornerstone@gmail.com](mailto:psad.cornerstone@gmail.com)

FACEBOOK: Cornerstone Preschool

INSTAGRAM: Cornerstone Preschool

WEBSITE: [cornerstonegmcpreschool.com](http://cornerstonegmcpreschool.com)

Cornerstone Methodist Church Information

Pastor Heather Sims

Church phone number: 281-859-4141

Sunday Services:

9:15 a.m. — Sunday School

10:30 a.m. — Worship Services