



## **St. Mark's Preschool Start-up Notes for Parents**

**Winter, 2010**

We are anxiously looking forward to and actively planning for the opening of the St. Mark's Preschool in September, 2010. St. Mark's Preschool is an Episcopal preschool welcoming and embracing children of all faiths and socio-economic backgrounds into a supportive community that integrates the arts, academics, health and social and emotional learning. Our school is designed to be a place where children can develop a love for learning and an appreciation of the world around them. Our approach to education is rooted in the Reggio Emilia philosophy.

**Philosophy and Curriculum:** The Reggio Emilia philosophy of teaching is one, which emphasizes child directed learning. Children are celebrated as individuals and their learning as a personal journey that is supported by, and in partnership with, the teacher. This philosophy believes that intelligence is developed from direct interaction with the world around you. Children are researchers in this world, and as researchers, they develop and test theories of understanding about the world around them. Teachers and parents are here to collaborate in that understanding. Because of this individual approach to learning no weekly themes are used, teachers follow the child's natural curiosity and base lesson plans on children's interests.

Partnerships with the parents and community are a cornerstone of our philosophy. Children's interests and curiosities are brought to life through direct interaction with the world around them. Field trips, parent participation and community involvement help facilitate lessons and understanding for the children.

**Classroom Size and Ages:** For the 2010 school year, we will have one classroom with a mixed three and four year old age group. For our second year, starting in the fall 2011, we plan to have two classrooms. We will decide at next year's registration time, if we will do separate age or mixed three and four year old classes.

Classroom size will be limited to 15 children and all students must be three years old by September 1.

**Dates:** School will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:15 to 11:30 am. The St. Mark's Preschool calendar will be aligned as close as possible with School District 41's calendar. The first day of class is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, 2010 (the second Tuesday after Labor Day).

**Enrollment:** For the 2010 school year, enrollment will be on a first come first serve basis. While we work through the required DCFS licensing process, we will maintain an interest list only. We will contact all families on the interest list by March 1, 2010 to confirm that they would like to stay on our interest list. Upon licensing approval from DCFS, we will contact all families on the interest list and request a \$75 deposit.

**Cost:** The current cost for the preschool will be \$250 a month (for a nine month program) or a total of \$2,250 a year. We are happy to offer a discount for siblings. We ask that parents pay the full tuition for their first child. Each sibling enrolled for the same year will receive \$125 off his or her annual tuition. This discount currently amounts to half of a monthly tuition payment.

**Communication:** During this start-up time, we will contact you primarily by email, so please make sure we have your correct email. If you need to reach us, the school email is [preschool@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:preschool@stmarksglenellyn.org). You may also contact Kim or Cindy directly with questions: Kim Reed (630) 545-0662 or [kimreed@wowway.com](mailto:kimreed@wowway.com) and Cindy Flynn (630) 942-8152 or [notnowkato@gmail.com](mailto:notnowkato@gmail.com).

**Please Note:** As we work through our start-up process, we ask that you be understanding of any changes in our planned classroom, schedule and tuition. Our goal is to keep you actively informed of all aspects of this thoughtful school that we are developing for your amazing children.

**St. Mark's Preschool**  
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