



SEASON'S



from the Director

As we bid adieu to 2018, I hope you are able to look back on it with fond memories, and that you are looking forward to 2019 being your best year ever.

The season ahead can sometimes prove to be quite hectic and stressful. When you feel overwhelmed, take a deep breath, and try to make it your holiday mission to not get caught up in the busyness and commercialism that can encompass our lives during this time of year. I always try to remind myself of the little saying below. Keep the spirit of the season; not only for yourself, but as an example for your children. It is so important to remember that

the traditions you set now will stay with them throughout their lives. Help them learn from this early age that this is a season of giving of yourself, not for yourself. Have them *make* gifts instead of buying them. Teach them compassion by finding a project that involves sacrificing something they cherish to a child who is not as fortunate. Help them to understand the world around them – and just how blessed they really are.

Reminder: During this month as we are enjoying many holiday classroom parties, before bringing in a treat, please check the link on your classroom webpage and review the “**Guideline for Treats Brought From Home**”. This offers helpful suggestions, requirements, and a list of items which cannot be accepted. It’s always so disappointing to spend the time and money on a lovely and festive treat that we then cannot serve to the children.

I wanted to offer a big **THANK YOU** for those of you who participated in the **Kids’ Stuff Sale!** Whether you rented a space, shopped, or volunteered to help in any capacity, you made a difference in the success of the sale, and the benefits to your child’s school.

AUMC has invited all our families to participate in the many Christmas family activities occurring at the church this month. Most notably for your children’s enjoyment will be the **Children’s Christmas Pageant** at 8:30 & 11:00am on Sun., Dec. 9 (costumes provided).

Just another reminder to use your **Parent Entry Code** when you enter the building for any reason during the school day at a time when we do not have someone posted at Door 2. Remember not to share this code with anyone!

During this happiest and holiest of seasons, I hope you are able to enjoy the the wonder of it all....through the eyes of your child. From all of us at WPS & ELP, we wish you a most joyous holiday,

Cherrie Welch



This month at a glance...

- Dec. 12 -- WPS and ELP Open House Tour
- Dec. 19 – Jonathan Austin “Juggler Extraordinaire”
- Dec. 17-21 – Various Classroom Holiday Celebrations
- Dec 22 – Jan 6 – Winter Holiday Break (No School)
- Jan.7 – WPS & ELP classes resume

Remember to enjoy the SPIRIT of the season!

Spend less

Play more (find the joy)

Include others

Renew yourself spiritually

Imagine the possibilities

Traditions matter





OUTDOOR PLAY POLICY

We try to get children outside everyday, even

if just for a short while, so please be sure to dress them with appropriate outdoor clothing (*marked with names please!!). The health department says that "there is no such thing as inappropriate weather, just inappropriate clothing." We are required to have the children go outside, even in weather that is below freezing, for at least ten minutes each day (however, we still will not send them outside on days where there is rain or a biting wind). Studies have shown that this practice actually *decreases* the spread of germs in children. The reason there is more illness in the winter is *not* because there are more germs, but because people are indoors [enclosed spaces] more than they are in warm weather. Going outdoors provides for more fresh air exchange in the lungs, as opposed to the stale germ-filled air in the room where others have been coughing and sneezing. Outdoor winter play also allows little bodies to build up the immunities needed to fight common colds and viruses. **Please remember to put names on ALL hats, scarves, coats, and mittens, etc.**

**Please note that mittens are preferred to gloves.*

Nutritious Reminders...



Please remember to feed your child a healthy breakfast before school, and to send in nutritious lunches that he/she is able to eat as independently as possible. Avoid sending in items with little nutritional value, as our teachers are instructed to serve these items only after all the nutritional choices have been eaten.

Remember to use provided dry-erase pens by classroom doors to put the current date on your child's lunch tags DAILY.

VA licensing states that lunches which are not correctly dated may not be served.

Inclement Weather Policy



ELP classes follow the calling of FCPS for closures and early dismissals.

- In case of a delayed opening, all ELP classes will open at 10:30AM.
- In case of a delayed opening, IM class will open at 10 am.
- In case of an Early Dismissal, Late Day classes will be cancelled.

WPS classes follow the calling of FCPS for school closures.

- For all FCPS delayed openings, WPS classes will open at 10:00AM.
- For early dismissals, WPS will close at regular time of 12:00NOON.
- For Early Dismissals, Extended Day classes will close at 12:30PM, and all Late Day classes are cancelled.

It is the parent's responsibility to stay abreast of changing weather conditions throughout the day. A late fee will be assessed for any tardy pick-ups on early dismissal days which will accrue for each 10 minute period past dismissal time. Please stay tuned to local TV or radio, or go to www.fcps.edu during inclement weather.

NOTE: If you would like to have immediate FCPS weather closures sent directly to your phone/e-mail, please sign up for "News You Choose" online at www.fcps.edu. Scroll nearly to the bottom of the page and click on the blue box to enter your contact information. You may choose "Weather Closures" and any additional topics for which you would like to be notified.

We also have an Emergency Notification System in place through www.remind.com. If you are signed up, you will automatically receive notices of school closures, delays, or early dismissals (as long as electric power is available to send). If you have not yet signed up, you may register to receive emails at remind.com (register as a **WPS & ELP Parent**), or you may text The message **@wps-elp** to **81010** to register to receive text message alerts.



WPS & ELP OPEN HOUSE

Tour and Information Sessions

Starts at 10:00AM on:

- December 12
- January 16
- January 23
- February 13
- February 20



AUMC Christmas Pageant The Story of Christmas

An Invitation for All WPS & ELP Children to Participate

who are ages infant through 5th grade - Costumes provided!

Pageant: Sunday, Dec. 9th 8:30 & 11:00AM

Parents and youth are needed to assist the children that participate in the pageant.

For more info, contact Christi Schwarten at cmes21@gmail.com



Looking ahead...



- Jan. 7 – Return to School after Winter Break
- Jan. 16 – WPS and ELP Open House Tours
- Jan. 21 – Martin Luther King Holiday – NO WPS
- Jan. 23 – Peter McCory One Man Band
- Jan. 23 – WPS and ELP Open House Tours
- Jan. 25 –FCPS Teacher Workday-**WPS OPEN**



Christmas Eve Family Service

**Monday, December 24
4:00pm**

Your family is invited to attend a candlelight service at AUMC which engages adults and children alike in singing carols and retelling the story of the birth of Jesus. Child care is available.

