



WESTMAPLE NURSERY SCHOOL FEBRUARY 2012



Don't forget that if Birmingham schools are closed, so is Westmaple. We also encourage you to use your own judgment. If the roads in your neighborhood are bad, please stay home.

Important Notice!

I have registration for those who are returning next year. But please note that if you are holding a spot and have decided to send your child to kindergarten or another school, I need to know ASAP. Here is the problem, last year many held a spot until May, some even later, and then informed me that his or her child would not be returning. While you may assume we have a waiting list and filling your spot is any easy thing, it is not! Sure we have families ready to come in now, but once February and March roll around they have given up and have found another preschool. If you drop out and I have an empty spot then we may have gained your enrollment fee, but we have lost 9 months of tuition and I still need to compensate our wonderful teachers and pay our bills. So please be considerate and let me know if your plans change.

Good Manner's Month is coming in April. Please continue working on this at home.

STAY AND PLAY - Session 5 Began Monday January 30

SIGN UP CONTINUES and PAYMENT is NOW DUE for Session 5. Session 5 meets on Mondays and Wednesdays- January 30, February 1, 6, 8, 13 and 15th. You may also sign up for Session 6 which is a Tuesday/Thursday Session beginning March 6.

See Pat Raezler to sign up

VALENTINE'S DAY PARTIES - February 13 Or 14

PLEASE READ YOUR CLASSROOM NEWSLETTERS FOR DETAILS FOR WHAT DAY YOU ATTEND. PLEASE DO NOT put names on the outside of the Valentine envelopes! Just have your child sign his or her Valentine.

DISMISSAL is at 11:00am.

Winter Break

Winter break begins Monday, February 20. School resumes February 27.

PLEASE SLOW DOWN AND STAY OFF YOUR CELL PHONES!!

We have had several complaints about mothers speeding through the parking lot and being otherwise distracted while on their cell phones. Please remember that children are exiting cars and can dart into your path in a nano second. How awful if one of our little ones was harmed in any way! Please use caution and DRIVE SLOWLY both entering and exiting the parking area. THANK YOU!

Red Wings Days

On February 8 and 9 we will have Red Wing days. Wear your hockey jerseys or t-shirts...or wear red. Go Wings!

Leap Day February 29

Leap Day is another special day. Let's wear mixed or clashing patterns or clothes inside out. Let's be a little goofy that day!

Westmaple 2012-13

Thanks to you, our most loyal and vigorous supporters, we will have a full 3 year old program and will have openings in our 4 year old program, and if you know anyone interested in a Young 5's program, please send them our way. We already have 9 children signed up, with a max of 15 in that class with 2 teachers. Tell your friends who need a 4 or 5 year old school about Westmaple ...YOU are our best advertisement! Thank you to the many who have already spread the word!

Westmaple Sunday

On Sunday, February 12, the Westmaple children will be singing and praying at the 10:30 service. We encourage all of families to make the effort to attend. Our plan is for Room 3 to recite the Bible verse they say everyday, for Room 4 to recite the Lord's Prayer and Room 5 will be signing the Lord's Prayer! This event is designed as a "Thank you" to the congregation of Redeemer which supports us and allows us to charge a really minimal amount for tuition. Coming to that service is a great way to demonstrate your love and support for our ministry at Westmaple. You are invited to come to coffee hour at 10:00am on February 12 and bring your children down to their rooms at 10:20 and then you can proceed to the sanctuary. You are welcome to remain in church for the service, or if you must leave, please pick your child up in the classroom. More details will be coming later. Last year's singing was a memorable and fun experience...come see your children shine!

Daddy/Daughter Dance

Don't forget, Westmaple Dads are invited to attend the Daddy/Daughter Valentine's Dance, here at Redeemer on Saturday February 11 from 6-8pm. Please sign up at the display in the Westmaple hallway.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Lisa Hopkins, Nikole Juliano and all the rooms who gave me gift cards for Christmas. Just wanted you to know that I put all of them together and bought something I normally would not buy...a Northface coat! Just waiting for delivery! Thank you! Just think every time I feel warm, I will think of your arms around me, giving me a hug! You are the best!

Parenting 101

I cannot tell you how many times I have had moms tell me that they feel

unappreciated. Motherhood is not like a job in the regular job market where people recognize the job you do and give you accolades or a monetary bonus! Or at the very least they have adult conversation and a coffee break! YOU do so much, from laundry to nutritious meal planning, shopping, cooking, cleaning up after the meal, cleaning the house, being nurse, chauffeur, time manager, volunteer,...the list could go on and on. In case you have not figured it out yet, this month we will look at the importance of moms! And, just so you know, it's not that you are not appreciated, it just means that people have not verbalized their appreciation! More on finding your satisfaction later! There is so much research which states that mothers are crucial to a child's development. Let me say here that we have several grandmothers who have stepped into the mothering role this year and their influence cannot be underestimated, but what an important job they are filling! Back to moms, the first year of a baby's life is critical, but the first 3 to 5 years are extremely formative in language development, instilling values and religious beliefs, purpose and responsibility. It is during this time that a child develops his/her sense of security as well as intellectual, emotional and mental wellbeing. Moms teach about God and about empathy, cooperation, intimacy, sensitivity and being self-assured! In fact one expert says that the attachment relationship a young child makes with his/her mother "forms the foundation stone of personality." Another expert asserts that love grows the brain! And not just any love, unconditional love that a mom feels for her child, just like our Heavenly Father's love for us!!! A child care expert, Connie Marshner sums it up, "The quality of love and care that a child receives in the first three to five years of life is the main factor in whether that child will be able to think, to learn, to love, to care, to cooperate with other people - in short, whether that child will merely exist or will thrive and flourish and add to human society" WOW!

I want you to think about something. Have you ever realized that the essence of Motherhood is living out Jesus' mission when He was here on earth? Jesus was responding to His disciples who were arguing among themselves about who of them was the greatest. Jesus set them straight in Matthew 20: 26-28 when He said, "... whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave -²⁸ just as the Son of Man **did not come to be served, but to serve,** and to give his life as a ransom for many." Have you ever thought of your job as serving? YOU ARE! Your needs, by necessity, come after the needs of your family. The feminist movement did no service to women by declaring that woman do not feel satisfaction in being at home. What a bunch of hog wash! Don't you believe it! YOU are doing the most important job there is. YOU are touching a child's life FOR ETERNITY!!!! My cousin (who is my age) is the mother of 3 boys in their late to mid 20's, one is an attorney, one is applying to medical school while getting his masters degree and one is a golf pro! Her husband is a cardiologist in Tucson. She said, "Tell your moms to surrender to motherhood, they will never regret it." And if you are, by necessity, a mom who must work outside the home, you have a very difficult position because your life is not your own! You will need to pray constantly and give of yourself deliberately when you are home with your children! If you are divorced, rely on your heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus, for that support you need! NOW let's talk about satisfaction! You will not find satisfaction in the usual way. For me sometimes I would wallow in my own pity party (I had multiple parties over the years) about what I had to do and how no one said any words of appreciation. Interestingly when I would pray about it

and then begin to thank God for all my blessings, my angst would turn to joy...and then He would do something wonderful. He would send someone to say something that made me know that when everyone else did not notice what I was doing, HE noticed! Sometimes it was a child's hug, or a friend's phone call, or my husband would bring flowers out of the blue (I think God was whispering in his ear). From my perspective, looking at my adult children and who they have become and that they have faith in Jesus is a huge source of satisfaction. I hope to hear our Savior's say these words to me one day, "Well done good and faithful servant!" I also found that when I began each morning praying that I would find my satisfaction in Him and that He would fill all my empty places, He was (IS) faithful and He did (does) that for me! Knowing Jesus as my Lord and Savior, and fulfilling my role as a mother, wife, (and director) assures me of living the life He intended for me, a fulfilled life...and that is all I need. One more thing for fun..., google "Mom salary wizard" and you can plug in what you do at home and it will calculate your salary...and print a pay check! Let me know what your replacement value is! Just remember in your Savior's eyes you are worth more than silver and gold and precious jewels, you are worth His life which He gave up in order to have YOU for all eternity! Someone dying for you? That makes you... "Priceless!"

In His Service,
Pat