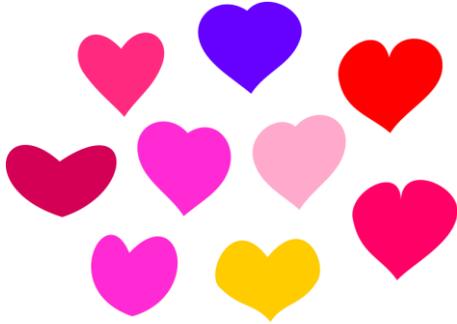


# ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL PRESCHOOL

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## Upcoming Events for February

- Magnificent Monday 2/8
- Valentine's Day Class Parties 2/11

## Outstanding Owls

The Outstanding Owls are beginning their February with an addition to their class! We are very excited that Ms. Jo has joined our staff. We were sorry to lose Ms. Jenn, but we know that Ms. Jo is going to be a great asset to the Owls.

The Owls are working on multiple themes this month including groundhogs, Valentine's Day, and healthy teeth.

Ms. Kristen & Ms. Jo



## FRIENDLY FROGS



In February we will be learning about farm animals, dinosaurs, Valentine's Day, and transportation. We will also continue our numbers starting with 8. Our HWT curriculum will continue with M, N, V, and W. We are always reviewing cutting, pasting, and recognizing letters.

Our Valentine's Day party is Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup>. Please be mindful of everyone in the class. Do not exclude anyone from receiving a Valentine.

Ms. Janice and Ms. Amanda

## Busy Bees



The Bees are beginning February learning about dental health. They are reading books and participating in activities that teach them how to keep their teeth and gums healthy. They are also learning about presidents, space, and pets.

The Bees continue with their Handwriting without Tears curriculum as they improve those kindergarten readiness skills.

Ms. Michele and Ms. Katrina



This is a reminder that our Valentine's Day class parties will be on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Please, remember if you are planning on having your child distribute Valentine's to classmates, have enough for all classmates. We do not want anyone to feel left out. If you need a list of classmates, contact your child's teacher. Thanks so much.

## Winter Time



Baby, it's cold outside! We have just a few preschool reminders as we continue to trudge through the winter months. First, pack coats, scarves, hats, and gloves in your child's backpack. We will go outside as much as possible. The students need to be dressed warmly. Second, check the Facebook page and your email for updates on preschool delays or closings. If FCPS is delayed, we will be delayed. If FCPS is closed, we may or may not be closed. Be certain to check your email or our Facebook page before you head out.



Registration is upon us. We are almost at maximum capacity with our four year old class. If you know of families looking for an amazing preschool, please have them contact the office for more information.

## Director's Notes

Last fall I went on trip to North Carolina with my best mommy friend. One evening we hopped into my car anticipating where the evening might take us. Due to the wooded landscape, I was unable to get a GPS signal. That is when I pulled out the large Rand McNally atlas I keep in my car. After my friend finished map-shaming me, we were able to find our location on the map and proceed to a lovely dinner.

See, I grew up reading a map. My family was always going on summer road trips to see grandparents or experience nature on camping trips. Before the invention of the GPS or Mapquest, we had to rely on our map reading skills with an actual map.

I am afraid this rising generation will not have the map reading abilities that we developed. The skills that are created by map reading are so very important in real life. These spatial skills help us see how things are related by proximity. They help us develop a deeper understanding of the world around us, which helps with our world view.

Before you write this whole column off completely, let me give you some real world examples that even your preschooler can do. My kindergartner and preschooler create treasure maps in the backyard with our neighbors. They draw the map, hide the “treasures,” and have the others look for the “treasures”

using the map they drew. It is really remarkable how much fun they have. During the times when we are cooped up inside due to the blizzard of snow or cold weather, we draw “blue prints” of our house. Our next step is going to be to design their perfect home. Where will the rooms go? What might the backyard have in it? I am pretty sure this will include some Star Wars and princess-themed items!

When the weather gets warmer, I want to map out our neighborhood. This could be just walking up and down our street or exploring the block. We could sidewalk chalk it out on our driveway or draw it on computer paper.

Some good resources that correlate with this topic of learning are listed below. You can get as creative or as basic as you want. But, open up the world to your children no matter how young. You will not regret it.

In God's Love,  
Shelby Low

### Books:

[Kat's Maps](#) by Jon Scieszka

[Henry's Map](#) by David Elliot

[Follow That Map!: A First Book of Mapping Skills](#) by Scot Ritchie

### Online Resources:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids-world-atlas/maps.html>

[http://www.pbs.org/parents/catinthehat/activity\\_mapping\\_tool.html](http://www.pbs.org/parents/catinthehat/activity_mapping_tool.html)