

Saint Joseph Preschool  
October 21, 2011

*"Fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name and you are mine."  
Isaiah 43:1*



Hello Parents,

I am so pleased to announce the birth of Mrs. Bria's first grandchild! Luke Andrew was born on Tuesday, October 18, the feast of St. Luke! Mrs. Bria will spend this week with her daughter, son in-law, and baby Luke. What joy! In her place, Mrs. Beth Freed will serve as my aide in the classroom.

We hope that you are enjoying the beauty of the autumn season. In preschool, we are celebrating autumn by making letters and fun shapes with our orange play dough, and singing fun, learning songs. We will play and learn in some special Halloween centers this week. One of our favorite finger plays is listed below so that you can sing it with your special preschooler:

5 Little Pumpkins sitting on the gate. (Put up 5 fingers. Count! )  
The first one said, "Oh my, it's getting late!" (Put up 1 finger)  
The second one said, "There are stars in the air." (2 fingers)  
The third one said, "But we don't care!" (3 fingers)  
The fourth one said, "Let's run and run and run!" (4 fingers)  
The fifth one said, "We'll have Halloween fun." (5 fingers)  
Then OOOOooooo went the wind and out went the lights! (Clap and turn out the light!)  
And the 5 little pumpkins rolled out of sight! (Roll fist over fist)

While we are singing, we are counting and learning cardinal and ordinal numbers. We will decorate paper pumpkin puppets to help us recite this poem.



Our spider puppets, Cousins Itsy and Bitsy, are visiting from Tennessee. We have had a delightful time with these friends! We sure enjoyed their "southern twang" voice! We wrote information that we knew about spiders using our kid writing techniques. Ask your four year child these questions about our recent spider unit:

- How many legs does a spider have? (Eight)
- To what family does a spider belong? (Arachnid)
- Ask your child to do the "big fat gorilla" version of the "Itsy, Bitsy Spider".
- Why do farmers like some spiders? (The spiders eat some of the destructive insects.)



"Itsy"



"Bitsy"

Mark your calendars now for our next field trip to Brown's Tree Farm. We will be going to the farm on **Wednesday, November 16 at 12:30 PM**. Our rain date is Thursday, November 17. The owners of the farm are only able to accommodate us in the afternoon hours. As a result, we are inviting any classmates from the AM class to join us at 12:30 PM at Brown's. Please note that Brown's Tree Farm is a different location than Brown's Orchard. It is just beyond the Galleria Mall near Rocky Ridge Park. From SJS, travel past the York Galleria on Mt. Zion Road. Turn left onto Druck Valley Road. The farm is the second right off of Druck Valley Road. It will look like you are turning onto a residential drive. Please continue down the stone driveway for parking. This is an outdoor trip, so please dress for the weather. There is no charge for this trip. Permission slips will be sent home soon.



Next week, the three-year-old class will begin a shape unit. They will use tempera paint to create circles and "feed" circles to Mr. Bear. They will be creating a shape mural, rubber stamping with shapes and even eating shape crackers. During our shape unit, please send in shape show and tells as indicated on the November show and tell schedule. Being able to identify shapes is a prerequisite for recognizing and identifying letters.

Tuesday, November 1 is the feast of All Saints and a holy day of obligation. This will be a very special day at Saint Joseph School. Holy Mass will be celebrated in the morning. Every homeroom teacher will prepare a 20 minute presentation highlighting the life of a saint. Beginning at 1:00 PM, each teacher will share her lesson with three different classes. I will dress as Saint Faustina and visit grades 4, 5 and 6. I am quite excited! Mrs. Erb, Mrs. Painter and Miss Slike will visit our afternoon class and share various lives of the saints. At 2:30 PM, the entire school assembly will gather in the gym to pray and sing together the Litany of the Saints.

In the very near future, a letter from the school office will outline the schedule and procedures for the upcoming parent teacher conferences to be held in December. I look forward to talking with you about your children's performance in preschool. I will start meeting with some parents ahead of schedule in order to accommodate the many conferences I will have.

*Thank you, parents for all of your support and cooperation!*

*Marie Bair and Patti Bria*

