

Preschool News

-Ruth Baas, Preschool Director

PRESCHOOL CHILDREN FOCUS ON HEARTS AND LOVE IN FEBRUARY

An important pre-reading skill for preschool children is the recognition of shapes. At Orland Park Christian Preschool, we focus on one shape in each of the 9 months throughout the school year. If you were to take a walk down the preschool hall on a Sunday morning, you would see a large sign that hangs on the wall year-round titled "Fun With Shapes." Young children need hands-on learning experiences and lots of repetition. That is why the teachers in preschool plan an art activity of some kind each month that highlights the shape of the month.

During the month of February, the art work in our hall displays some fun heart creatures that the children had the opportunity to create. (See photos.) Hearts were used to make fish, spiders, cats, caterpillars, foxes, lions, and more!

We also took the opportunity to focus on the meaning of the heart shape and the importance of remembering that hearts represent love – love for God and love for our classmates, friends, and families. It certainly is a privilege to teach the young children about God's love for them. Our Bible memory verse for the month came from 1 John 4:7. The children practiced saying this verse every day at snack time: "Dear children, let us love one another, for love comes from God." Because we have God's love in our hearts, we can share that love with our friends. That's why we give out Valentine hearts to each other.

Our extended day children had the opportunity to share God's love with a friend of Orland Park Christian Reformed Church. They hand-painted a Valentine card for Clair Laning, our praise-team electric guitar player who has been in the hospital since a tragic motor accident over a year ago. When this story was shared with the children, they were eager to let Clair know we were thinking about him and praying for him. One of our children even shared the story at home, and came to school

the next day with a special Valentine for Clair from his family! What important lessons to learn at this young age. Praise God for the freedom and the opportunity to teach about God's love every day at Orland Park Christian Preschool!



SUCCESSFUL REGISTRATION FOR FALL, 2018!

Orland Park Christian Preschool held its annual open houses on January 28 and 30. The opportunity was given to see what a Christian preschool is all about and register for the Fall, 2018 classes. It is always a pleasure to share the mission and goals for offering early childhood education as a ministry of Orland Park Christian Reformed Church with church and community families. It is also a great opportunity to answer questions that parents have about our school.

We enjoyed having some new families of three- and four-year-old children visit us, and most of these attendees have registered their children for the fall. We were also thrilled to have so many of

the parents of our current three-year-old children sign them up for the four-year-old class that will begin in the fall. The September, 2018 four-year-old class is almost full at this time already! There is a good possibility that we will open an afternoon-only session on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for this age group. The September, 2018 three-year-old class is also off to a good start – just as good as last year at this time. With six months to go before the new school year, we are in a good place to welcome new families to our school as they inquire over the spring and summer months. Praise God with us that He is working in and through Orland Park Christian Preschool to plant seeds of faith and learning in many children and their families. Thank you very much for your prayers for and your support of this ministry.