



# St. Jerome Early Childhood Center

## Newsletter



Volume 29, Issue 9

May 2019

*St. Jerome Early Childhood Center, a Catholic Community, provides a loving and accepting environment that fosters respect for all people by modeling Christian values as children grow and learn.*

### Administrator's Message

As you receive our final ECC newsletter of this school year, I want to thank each of you for a most wonderful year. It has been a joy-filled experience getting to know our families and our children. During our final month, we have many experiences ahead to share with you. We will take time to honor our mothers, including our Blessed Mother, Mary. The children have been very busy (teachers, too) with special plans for their Mother's Day Teas.



As an NAEYC nationally accredited educational program, St. Jerome ECC continually strives to improve the quality of our program. This week, all ECC families will be receiving our Annual Program Assessment. Your thoughtful input and prompt return of the assessment is most appreciated.

It is our greatest hope, and reason for existing, that our ECC families will continue in their faith journey. I encourage all our Catholic families to become active, involved members of your Catholic parish community. God has given us each many and varied gifts to share with one another and our faith communities. Seek out where you can become involved – teach a faith formation class, join the choir, visit the sick, lector at Mass, become a Eucharistic Minister, volunteer at Lifeline Ministries, help with Toys for Tots, join and assist with MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers, now active at SJCC)... where is God calling you to serve?

St. Jerome Catholic Church offers Faith Formation classes for children ages 3 through high school. Families are encouraged to register now for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd as you continue the faith journey you began at SJECC. Your child and your family will love this developmentally appropriate method of experiencing our Catholic faith.

After twenty-six years and 234 monthly newsletters, this will be my final edition, with my retirement set to begin this summer. I would like to thank everyone for their part in making my time at St. Jerome ECC so blessed. It's hard to believe that twenty-six years have come and gone, with countless children, families and staff passing through these doors. What a gift each one has been to me throughout this journey. It has been a pleasure to come to work each and every day!

I know you will be in the most capable and loving hands with your incoming ECC Administrator, Phyllis Steele. Welcome her back to SJECC and assist her and our amazing staff any way you can in the year ahead.

All God's best, now and always,  
Denise Roach, ECC Administrator

### Your 2018-19 ECC Staff

- \*Denise Roach, EC Administrator
- \*Terry Porter, Office Manager
- \*Tracy Brett, EC2 Teacher, Rm. 2
- \*Danijela Aslanovic, EC2 Asst. Teacher,
- \*Stephanie Martin, EC3 Teacher, Rm.1 0
- \*Kathya Q. Hidalgo EC3 Asst., MWF, Rm. 1
- \*Kristen Porter, EC3 Asst. TTh Rm. 1
- \*Diana Demes, EC4 Teacher, Rm. 3
- \*Sue Homme, EC4 Teacher, Rm. 4
- \*Julie Cunningham, EC4 Asst. Teacher, Rm. 4
- \*Stephanie Martin, Ext. Day - AM
- \*Diana Demes, Ext. Day – PM
- \*Kathya Q. Hidalgo, Ext. Day -PM
- \*All staff – Ext. Day Assistants as needed

### Our Additional Substitute Staff:

Kristen Porter    Nina Meyers  
Cynthia Shaw    Kathya Q. Hidalgo  
Cindy Travis

### Our Volunteers:

Madeline Moore

### ***St. Jerome Summer Program***

***June 3 – 28 Attend 1 to 4 Weeks***

***Full & half day options.***

***(Registration fees increase after May 2)***



***Join the fun!***

***Details inside...***

**Space Available for 2019-20:** We are asking our ECC families to let other families with young children know about our wonderful EC program. Our hours of operation are 8:00am-5:00pm each day.

Thank you to those who have re-enrolled for the upcoming school year. Families are reminded that our policy does not permit teacher requests or requests from parents to place certain children together. Everyone's cooperation is needed and greatly appreciated. Our efforts, along with your support, will help to ensure a smooth transition from one year to the next and will also allow your children to have new experiences with teachers and children. Teacher assignments are not final at this time. Families enrolled for the upcoming school year will receive a packet in late May with our school year calendar and additional items needed for the 2019-20 school year. Reminder to upcoming four-year-old VPK families – children are not considered 'enrolled' until they attend their first day. School is set to begin as follows.

**Calendar Information:** Parents are reminded that St. Jerome ECC has set its start of the **2019-20** school year as outlined below. Please keep these dates in mind as you make summer plans. Our 2019-20 school year calendar will be posted shortly on the ECC website.



*Parent Orientation (Required for all.)	August 15
*4's Open House (Required as First Day)	August 19
*2's & 3's Open House Only	August 19
*2's & 3's First day for TTh & M-F Classes	August 20
*2's & 3's First day for MWF Classes	August 21

**Denise is Retiring!:** Please join us on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> for the 4:00 Mass at St. Jerome Church to honor Denise for her dedication and devotion to our center and our families over the last 26 years. Our children have been invited to sing one of their favorite songs at this Mass. A reception will follow in the Parish Center.

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**Mothers' Day Teas:** All classes will host their Mothers' Day Teas next week. The children and their teachers have been busy preparing for your arrival. Families are to have **only one adult** attend. Reminder: Siblings or other children cannot be accommodated as the teas are held in the classrooms. Please make arrangements for other children so that you can attend this *special event* for you and your preschooler. **Room 2 will have their tea at 8:20-8:50 on Thursday, May 9. Rooms 1, 3, & 4's Teas will be from 8:15-8:45 on Friday, May 10.**



**Parent/Teacher Conferences:** Parent/Teacher Conferences are held twice each year. These conferences help to ensure communication between home and school; to help ensure a smooth transition from one year to the next; to provide parents with materials, which will help your child transition to kindergarten. Our second semester Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on May 13. **School will be closed for students.** Sign-Up Genius invitations were sent to all families on April 29<sup>th</sup>. If you have not yet scheduled your conference, please do so by this Friday. You will receive a confirmation email a week before your scheduled conference.

**Fours' Farewell:** Our outgoing four-year-olds will share a sampling of their favorite songs on Wednesday, May 22, at 7:00pm in the Parish Center. Families are invited to join us. Mark your calendars for this special end of the year event. Invitations are coming home this week in your child's communication folder (four-year olds). As mentioned earlier, it is important for our four-year olds, to be in school on Tues. & Wed., May 21 & 22, to be 'comfortable' with the setting prior to the night of the Fours' Farewell. Our four-year olds must attend school on Wed., May 22, as part of the VPK program.

### **Assistance Needed:**

- We are asking for 3 or 4 parents from our two and three-year old classes to volunteer to assist with this event so that the teachers and the parents of the "graduates" can enjoy the evening. Volunteers needed from 6:30–8:30pm on the evening of the May 22. Please call the ECC office, 596-9491 if you can assist.
- We need 5-6 parents who can assist with decorating for our Fours' Farewell. You would be needed Friday morning, May 17 and/or Wednesday morning, May 22, right after the morning car-line.
- We need 5-6 parents (especially dads) to help set up the Parish Center on Tuesday AM, May 21, right after the morning carline. With a good number of volunteers, we should be able to do this from 9:00-10:00.
- Thursday, May 23 – (School is not in session) \*We need 4-5 parents to reset the Parish Center from 8:45-9:30am.

**Prayer Service:** Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:45am. We will have our end of the year prayer service in the chapel to thank God for another wonderful year.

**Teacher Appreciation Luncheon:** Our Annual Teacher Appreciation Luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to show a little love to all our amazing ECC Staff.



**Last Day of School Picnics:** Families are invited to join us for our end of the year picnic on our playground at 11:30am on Wednesday, May 22. TTH children, who normally do not attend on Wednesday's, are invited to come to school at 11:30am with their families for the picnic. Pack a lunch for your family and bring a blanket for seating. Siblings and family members are invited to the picnic, as it will be held on the ECC playground. All are welcome.

**St. Jerome ECC Foundation Information:** Our outgoing four-year old families are receiving a letter and brochure regarding our Early Childhood Foundation. We are asking our families, grandparents, and family businesses to consider a contribution to our growing foundation. It is through this Foundation that our center will continue to provide affordable tuition while offering a quality program to our families. The foundation will allow us to offer scholarships to families in need of financial assistance and it will provide funds for major building upkeep. Our ECC families are asked to consider contributing to this worthwhile, tax-deductible foundation. If you cannot personally contribute at this time, please be proactive in seeking out a business with which you are affiliated, or a business that you support, who would contribute a tax-deductible gift to this worthy cause. Families are encouraged to check with your employer, as many companies offer matching funds when their employees contribute to or volunteer at a non-profit entity. Your efforts are needed as we look to the future with the continued hope of providing the high-quality program with extremely qualified teachers and teacher/child ratios much lower than those required. Your generosity is most appreciated. **Respond by May 15** to have a plate with your family or child's name added to the tree before the end of the school year.

**St. Jerome Summer Program:** Children ages 3\* to 5 (\*2 if the child completed the EC2 class at St. Jerome ECC this school year) may attend. Our Summer Program is offered to ALL children, not just those who attended St. Jerome ECC, so spread the word. The Summer Program will be offered Monday through Friday, June 3 – 28. Children may attend from one to four weeks. Registration packets are available at the ECC Office and on our website. Register for camp by May 2<sup>nd</sup> before registration fees increase. Reduced rates for those attending all four weeks. Please contact all the ECC office for additional information. Spaces are filling up!



**Annual Program Assessments:** Each year, our families are asked to assess our EC program. The assessment relates to various aspects of our program and assists us in improving our program quality. Surveys are coming home to all ECC families this week. Please return your Program Assessment to the ECC office by **Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**. Your input is *extremely* valued and greatly appreciated as we continue to improve the program we offer to our families and children.

**Extended Day Billings, April:** Billings are being emailed on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> and are due May 14<sup>th</sup>, late after May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Extended Day Use – End of Year:** As our school year comes to a close, extended day users are reminded:

**\*There will be NO PM Ext. Day on Wednesday, May 22, as noted on our calendar.**

**\* 'Routine' Extended Day Use –For those using Ext. Day on a routine basis, with set monthly payments, your final payment for the school year will be due May 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**\* 'As Needed' Extended Day Use is by prepaid reservation only beginning May 6<sup>th</sup>. Reservation forms were due April 30<sup>th</sup>. Emergency situations may be considered on a pay per day basis if space is available.**

**Upcoming Communications:** Please watch for the following items on the dates noted below. We have quite a bit going on during this last month of school and wouldn't want you to miss anything.

**\*This Week –Coming home:** Program Assessments (All); Final Scholastic Book Order – Stock up for summer reading! (All); Foundation Letter (4's), Four's Farewell Invitations (4's)

**\*Week ending May 10 – Kindergarten Attendance Information;**

**\*Week ending May 17 – Packets to returning families for the 2019-20 school year**



**Summer Hours ECC Office:** Please note that our ECC office will have reduced hours during the summer. Please call the ECC office before stopping by to assure someone will be available.

**Keep Us In Mind:** St. Jerome ECC asks our out-going families to keep us in mind and continue to do the following, if possible, after you move on from St. Jerome ECC:

-Boxtop items & Ink Cartridges (Deposit in church, ECC or Parish Center)

-Outgrown items: If you outgrow dress-up clothes, Little Tykes picnic tables, etc. – that are in good condition, we'd be happy to take them off your hands!

## **REMINDERS:**

**NON-VPK Day – Friday, May 3. No class for four-year olds unless preregistered for Fun Friday.**

**NO PM EXTENDED DAY: Wednesday, May 22.**

**Visit St. Jerome ECC's Website:** Stay current by viewing our website at [www.stjeromeearlychildhoodcenter.org](http://www.stjeromeearlychildhoodcenter.org)

**Returning Families:** The first tuition payment for the 2019-20 school year is due July 1. Returning families will receive a packet before the current school year ends, which will include next year's calendar, final tuition fees, forms, and a welcome letter for the upcoming school year. For families using 'Routine Extended Day' for the 2019-20 school year, your first monthly Extended Day payment will be due August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Mommy & Me Playgroup:** Mommy & Me will resume in September. Thank you!

**Family Lending Library:** Please return all lending bins by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Speed Limit/ECC Carline Route:** All persons entering St. Jerome Parish property are asked to observe the posted 15mph speed limit. Please be sure that all ECC cars/drivers are following the car route. Please be aware that many people are on the grounds, including employees, parishioners, and visitors, as the safety of all is paramount! Cell phone use is not permitted while in the car line.



**Program Participation:** St. Jerome ECC participates in the following programs. Your support of these programs earns our center equipment, supplies, and funds to purchase needed items.



GENERAL MILLS "Boxtops for Education" Cereal boxtops and other GM products that have this logo.

INK CARTRIDGES: Send in your used ink & toner cartridges to redeem for products and funds.

## **THANK YOU**



\*To Madeline Moore, Debbie LaDrig, and Cynthia Shaw for their faithful volunteer service to SJECC.

\*To all our parents, parishioners, and friends who were able to attend our Volunteer Brunch in their honor.

\*To all the parents who are assisting with our upcoming Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.

\*To Olive Garden for providing the Pasta Party to Room 3 for collecting the most \$\$ for the Leukemia Society.

\*To Happy Feet, Coach John, for providing our soccer enrichment program. (Last class May 15)

\*To Stefanie Valentine, for providing dance class as an enrichment program. (Last class May 6)

\*To Cassie Dixon, for providing our yoga enrichment class. (Last class May 14)

\*To Anthony & Larry for hours of work on various EC projects that needed repair and/or replacement. What a blessing!

\*To all our four-year-old families who have participated in our Annual Pledge Drive this year, to offset the lack of adequate funds provided by the state VPK program. (We could not offer VPK without your support!)

\*To those families who have contributed to our Birthday Gift Club this school year. This month, we thank Isabelle, Room 3. Your contributions have enhanced the classroom environment for your children and those to come!

\*To all of those who support our Boxtops for Education. Submit them here at school now or during summer hours or in the bins located in the church or save them until the fall.

\*To Terry Porter for coordinating our monthly Scholastic book orders.

\*To all our parents who came into our classrooms this year to share their talents with our children.

### **MAY BIRTHDAYS:**

Anthony	Room 1	May 4
Mrs. Ruan	Staff	May 10
Aiden	Room 1	May 15
Maggy	Room 1	May 15
Mrs. Shaw	Staff	May 17
Rory	Room 4	May 20
Alex	Room 2	May 24
Alexis	Room 4	May 24
Msgr. Muldoon	Pastor, Retired	May 25
Joey	Room 2	May 26
Addy	Room 2	May 27



### **JUNE BIRTHDAYS:**

Brooke	Room 2	May 7
Alaina	Room 4	May 19
Nico	Room 1	June 22

### **JULY BIRTHDAYS:**

Emerson	Room 4	July 21
Caleigh	Room 1	July 22
Kaden	Room 3	July 24
Jackson M.	Room 4	July 28

### **CONGRATULATIONS:**

- ◆ To Quinn, Room 2, on the birth of his baby brother, Martin.
- ◆ To Juliana, Room 1, on the birth of her baby brother, Michael.
- ◆ To Rebecca (Meyers) Ahern, on the birth of her new daughter, Adalyn. (Rebecca, former SJECC employee and granddaughter of our current substitute staff, Ms. Meyers.)
- ◆ To Coach John & Lauren as they celebrated their wedding on April 7.
- ◆ To Mrs. Terry Porter as we celebrate her 20<sup>th</sup> year as Office Manager of SJECC.
- ◆ To Ms. Kristen, ECC Alumni & current employee, on her recent hire with Disney as a pastry chef in their upcoming new tower addition. Way to go, Kristen!
- ◆ To St. Jerome ECC's thirteenth graduating class (Class of 2006), who are graduating from high school this year!
- ◆ To all those who will be confirmed on May 19, including St. Jerome ECC Alumni.
- ◆ To St. Jerome ECC Alumni & Friends who will receive their 1<sup>st</sup> Communion here at St. Jerome Catholic Church this Sunday, May 5 at the 12:30 Mass, as well as those receiving at our other local Catholic churches.

### **PRAYERS:**

- ◆ To Ms. Danijela, Room 2, and her family, on the recent loss of her brother-in-law.
- ◆ To Mrs. Roach, on the recent loss of her brother.

**UPCOMING: Many Items Coming Home and Due ...**

- 5/1 Tuition and Pledges Due (As applicable)
- 5/2 **Last day – ‘on-time’ Summer Program registration**
- 5/2 DVD Orders Due (4’s)
- 5/2/3 **IMPORTANT: PROGRAM ASSESSMENTS COMING HOME – RESPONSE NEEDED!**
- 5/3 Non-VPK Day for 4’s – Fun Friday
- 5/6 April Ext. Day Bills Emailed
- 5/7 Final Book Order Due – Last day to place your order – online or submitted forms.
- 5/6-5/22 Prepaid Extended Day Days Only
- 5/9 ***Mothers’ Day Tea Rm 2 Only - 8:20am-8:50am***
- 5/10 ***Mothers’ Day Teas Rms. 1, 3, & 4 - 8:15am-8:45am***
- 5/12 ***Happy Mother’s Day to all!***
- 5/13 ***Parent Teacher Conferences – No School for Students***
- 5/15 ***Prayer Service 11:45am***
- 5/15 Final ‘Routine’ & ‘As Needed’ Extended Day Payment Due
- 5/15 Program Assessment Due - IMPORTANT! All families!
- 5/15 Foundation Contributions (4’s) Due
- 5/16 Teacher Appreciation Luncheon 12:30
- 5/16/17 Packets Coming Home to Returning Families
- 5/17 Extended Day Payments Late After Today
- 5/18 Denise’s Retirement Mass 4:00 – Church, followed by reception in the Parish Center
- 5/21 Last Day for TTh Classes
- 5/22 ***Fours’ Farewell (Four-year-olds) 7:00pm***
- 5/22 End of Year Picnics – 11:30 –All Classes
- 5/22 Last Day of School - All Classes
- 5/22 No PM Extended Day
- 6/3– 6/28 Summer Program
- 6/16 Father’s Day
- 7/1 First Payment & Paperwork Due for Upcoming School Year

**Thank you to all those who were able to attend our Annual Volunteer Brunch in April.**



Our Staff's Salute to Mrs. Porter on her 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with  
St. Jerome Early Childhood Center



## *Top 20 REASONS WE ALL LOVE MRS. PORTER*

20. Your office is always festive!
19. You can fix anything.
18. You always have emergency chocolate.
17. You give tours to perspective families and are so comfortable and informative.
16. You never complain.
15. You make the best zucchini bread.
14. You know everything about all our electronic stuff.
13. You can find anything we are looking for.
12. You unlock the front door before we even get our keys out.
11. You are a talented baby-whisperer.
10. You have a memory like an elephant – never forgets, but always forgives.
9. You are the birthday coordinator queen.
8. You are our free counselor, with great advice.
7. You create everything we need with your super computer skills.
6. You comfort children with ice packs and snuggles.
5. You are the master 'un-jammer'.
4. You are the lollipop lady.
3. You are great in helping parents and staff with any doubts or questions.
2. You do so much for all of us and still like us.

And the NUMBER ONE reason...

**1. You are an indispensable, unrepeatable, gift from God.**