

FALL 2019



# St. James Preschool

## Meet Our New Teacher - Makerspace Studio!

**Susan Viers, Director**

In thinking about developing its Makerspace/Art Studio, SJP realized Makerspaces and children are a natural combination. Children are tinkers or natural makers. They enjoy taking things apart and being challenged to put it back together. Long before the term Makerspace came into common use, SJP and other Early Childhood educators were providing opportunities to create and make things through science and math projects. Even as adults, we have fond memories of tinkering with random items and then making ramps for our toy cars, building playhouses from washing machine cardboard boxes, and constructing forts with blankets and furniture. Sometimes we would encounter problems with a design and had to start over or we needed to get different materials. In any event, through this process, we became engineers, architects, construction managers, and builders.

The goal of the preschool's Makerspace/Art Studio is to provide the alternate workshop for those children who learn best by doing. The idea is to provide multidisciplinary thinking and learning. In doing so, children will be developing foundational interests in engineering, architecture, and construction, expanding their building, creating and making skills, learning to take a concept and applying it to create something or resolve a problem, and taking risks and trying out new ideas. SJP hopes the emphasis is in the process of making, not in the final product. Makerspace is also an excellent place for children to learn and develop perseverance. It is where a child may encounter an obstacle and then try different things over and over. Outcomes such as hands on learning, critical thinking skills, and developing self-confidence are additional skills that will result from making and/or tinkering. Further, Makerspace encourages conversation as students collaborate to find solutions. An essential part of this is learning how to express themselves in a way that fosters discussion. SJP wants the space to foster not only communication, but creativity, innovation, curiosity, collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving, and community.

The Krystal Foundation grant helped SJP by allowing us to make an investment in implementing STEAM education into our curriculum. The preschool converted the Handwriting room into a Makerspace studio with monies from the grant so children could learn STEM initiatives on a larger scale by using this space and not just their classroom. With the resources to purchase materials to make the environment stimulating, as well as to encourage creative design, SJP was able to launch this type of learning. Funds from the St. James Club will help sustain this project as we move along and continue to build on it.

The educators in the TK, PreK and the Three Year Old programs teach science in their classrooms now. However, by transforming this space into a Makerspace/Art studio, students have an opportunity to share the materials and even collaborate in a different way. Every Makerspace/Art

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**10/2: Curriculum Coffee**  
9:30 am, St. James UMC  
Parlor

**10/7: Education Connection  
Advisors - "Life after  
Preschool"** 9:30 am,  
[Peachtree Presbyterian  
Church](#), Room 2303

**10/9-10/11: Individual  
Pictures**

**10/14: NO SCHOOL -  
Columbus Day**

**10/18: Reptile Show**

**10/23: Prospective Parent  
Tour** 9:30 am

**10/24: Family Night** 6:00 pm

**10/30 or 10/31: Halloween  
Parties**

**11/1: NO SCHOOL**

**11/4: NO SCHOOL –  
Fall Conferences**

**11/11: Registration Opens**

**11/11-11/12: Speech &  
Hearing Screening**

**11/14: Prospective Parent  
Tour** 9:30 am

**11/25 – 11/29: NO SCHOOL -  
Thanksgiving Break**

lesson plan designed by the teachers is incremental and able to build off of each other so that many materials will be used again. For example, materials such as, funnels, clay, playdough, rolling pins, and others will be used over and over again as the students create and design each week.

The items placed in the Makerspace are similar to things found in the Art center. We organized the room in a way that children may easily see all the materials with which they work and learn. Clear plastic bins allow the children to see what materials will work best for their project.

SJP had been looking for an opportunity to further focus on STEAM education. By having a separate classroom devoted to Makerspace/Art with funds from The Krystal Foundation, SJP is now able to make it available on a larger scale offering multiple types of opportunities for our future engineers, architects and builders. So when your child comes home with his/her Makerspace creation think Frank Lloyd Wright, John Portman, and Alexander Graham Bell started out this way.

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## ST. JAMES CLUB 2019-2020 ANNUAL DRIVE

Thanks to all the families who have sent in their donations for the 2019-2020 school year! We are hoping to get all of our families to participate this year. Whatever you can donate is GREATLY appreciated and is used to benefit the education and preschool experience for all of our children. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you so much for your support!

Anne Howell, *Chair, 2019 Annual St. James Club Drive*

### St. James Club Donation Levels

Level 1: \$25 SJ Preschool car magnet

Level 2: \$100 Level 1 + SJPS Therm-O Tote

Level 3: \$250 Level 2 + Library book in your child's name

Level 4: \$400 Level 3 + Spring Carnival wristbands for your children

Level 5: \$500 Level 4 + VIP benefits at this year's Parent Social

**How to Donate:** You can drop off checks in the labeled basket in the preschool office or donate online at <https://sjpatlanta.org/donate/>.

## SCHOOL NOTES

### Curriculum Coffee – October 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:20 am, St. James UMC Parlor

Not every child develops in the same way or at the same rate. We provide a familiar routine that incorporates structured group activities, individualized attention and lots of playful learning and "learningful" play. Learn more about our curriculum and all the ways it is implemented in our classrooms and throughout the Preschool!

### Education Connection Advisors - "Life after Preschool" – October 7<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am, Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Room 2303

This free event is open to all preschool parents as we discuss a variety of relevant educational and developmental topics. Bring your own questions!

Panelists: Barbara Levy, Fontaine Draper, Betsy Metcalf, Dr. Carol Drummond

### Individual Pictures – October 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>

Teachers will let you know which day your child is scheduled!

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## ST. JAMES UMC EVENTS

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### TRUNK OR TREAT (10/23)

Join us on October 23<sup>rd</sup> for a fun time at a special Halloween Edition of Wednesday Night Supper! This is a fun event for ALL ages!

Children join the costume parade and then enjoy visiting each trunk for treats!

Adults, sign up to decorate your trunk! Decorating is easy and fun, and there are prizes for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trunk awards!

NEW this year, Food Trucks will be on site!

To sign up to help with Trunk or Treat or to volunteer your trunk, visit the St. James Website.

The Trunk or Treat schedule is as follows:

2:00PM - All cars vacate the Trunk or Treat Parking Lot for layout to begin

4:00-5:30PM - The parking lot opens for Trunks to arrive and begin decorating

5:45PM - Supper begins

6:30PM - Costume Parade beginning at the Sanctuary Doors to kick off Trunk or Treating

7:30PM - Trunk or Treating ends

### Prospective Parent Tours – October 23<sup>rd</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am

The preschool will host tours for parents considering St. James for their children and want to learn more about our special preschool. Feel free to tell friends and neighbors interested in the preschool to join us for an introduction and tour of the school!

### Family Night – October 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm

Come see what your child has been working on since school started, interact with their teachers, get to know the families in your classroom and enjoy light refreshments. We look forward to seeing everyone.

### Registration for 2020-2021 Opens November 11<sup>th</sup>

Can you believe it's already time to think about the next school year!? Beginning 11/11/2019, registration will open to both new and currently enrolled students for the next school year!

**Volunteering Sign-up** Donating your time at St. James is a wonderful way to be involved in your child's activities and see what truly makes St. James a special place. From the book fair, class parties, spring carnival, or serving as a room parent, there are many ways you can contribute while having fun and getting to know other families.

*Visit the SignUpGenius for this year's classroom and event volunteer opportunities.  
Point your phone's camera at the QR code to pull up the link!*



**Who are my room parents?** A sincere thank you to our wonderful parents who have volunteered their time to serve as room parents! Our room parents work with your child's teacher acting as a liaison between the school and other parents in your child's class. They will reach out to you throughout the year regarding classroom parties, Preschool events, and volunteer opportunities as they come available.

<b>Infants</b>	Sharrie Stratas, Melanie Rigdon, Courtney Lott
<b>Toddlers</b>	<b>T/TH:</b> Natalie Moody and Amanda Carnes <b>M/W/F:</b> Megan Filipovic and Kylie McElveen
<b>Young 2's</b>	<b>T/TH:</b> Emily Rose Terrell <b>M/W/F:</b> Courtney Woodall
<b>2's</b>	<b>Five Day:</b> Anna Rocker, Brandi Salters, Courtney Lott <b>M/W/F:</b> Ashley Letson <b>T/TH:</b> Rebecca Bailey and Emily Faucette
<b>Young 3's</b>	<b>M/W/F:</b> Cindy Parker
<b>3's</b>	<b>M/W/F Winfrey:</b> Jenna Hamilton and Elizabeth Abston <b>M/W/F Currie:</b> Luisa Mullis <b>Five Day Cimowsky:</b> Kelsey Davis and Hilary Bayer <b>Five Day Binder:</b> Alye Moran <b>Five Day Macaluso:</b> Karen Probst <b>Five Day Money:</b> Jessica Sheehy
<b>Pre-K (4's)</b>	<b>Barnes/Meade:</b> Shaden Tavalaei and Melissa Briley <b>Holmes/Gregory:</b> Meghan Germano and Melanie Rigdon <b>Hamel:</b> Kylie McElveen and Danielle Blair
<b>TK (5/6)</b>	<b>Ayrault:</b> Sara Lerner and Erin Masters <b>Dryden:</b> Sarah Brunn and Catherine Hagaman

*Our mission is to provide a loving place to learn where the seeds of Christian values and academic curiosity are sown in a safe environment and nurturing community of staff, parents, and church.*

### St. James Preschool

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