

# Angelic News

## September 2017

### A Message from the Director Kathy Stinson

#### Welcome to the 2017- 18 Littlest Angels Preschool Year...our 21<sup>st</sup> year of operation!

As I anticipate the beginning of the school year, I contemplate all the little ones that we will soon meet and get to know over the upcoming year. I remember my first days of school as a child and the mix of excited anticipation and fear that I felt. I also remember the first day of school for each of my children and I remember, again, the mix of anticipation and fear that I felt for them—perhaps I was more nervous than they!

I say this because I want you to know that we understand these feelings. We all know the fears, the hopes, the problems, and the joys of nurturing children. Because we are Early Childhood Educators, we understand how very important the task of educating the young child is. We want for your children a true education. We hope to provide an environment rich in a variety of meaningful experiences and materials so that your child can explore and discover and engage. Through this play, your child will grow in ability and confidence to move forward to explore, discover, and develop a life-long love of learning!

**Who are we?** We are the Little Bunnies, Busy Bees, Little Bears, Little Lambs, and Little Lions, and Little Tigers! Why do we have class names? A unifying title stresses the fact that it is not the teacher's class. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ Class! It gives children a sense of ownership and helps create a cooperative classroom. Preschool is the first community to which many children belong. We teach them to love and take care of each other. Social skills are learned and practiced, practiced, practiced! Children need to be taught these skills to foster friendship and peace-making skills. Each class ends the day on a positive note, knowing that no matter how the day went, we can always try again tomorrow! I love hearing (way up in my office) each group of children rather exuberantly saying... "I'll see you again for another great day!"

**Cookies...Bite Size Life Lessons** by Amy Krouse Rosenthal is the book we are using this year to learn about virtues. The author cleverly uses cookie baking to impart wisdom, making it easy for kids to understand some pretty complex ideas. She uses the story line of baking cookies as a means of illustrating some basic principles of behavior. We all know cookies taste delightful but these cookies also have something virtuous to say! Each month you'll be hearing your child talk about each virtue cookie. Please encourage this virtue at home also by modeling it and chatting about it (over and over and over again)!

**SEPTEMBER VIRTUE COOKIE: COOPERATION - How about you add the chips while I stir?**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>September 4</b>	<b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>September 5</b>	LITTLEST ANGELS OPEN HOUSE	9:00 am – 11:00 am
<b>September 6</b>	LITTELST ANGELS OPEN HOUSE	9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
<b>September 7</b>	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL/EXTENDED CARE	<b>REGULAR HOURS</b>
<b>September 24</b>	BETHANY BLOCK PARTY	



**OPEN HOUSE:** We look forward to visiting with you at one of our Open House days. The hours are **9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** You are encouraged to come and briefly meet the teachers, acquaint your child with the classroom and setting, and **drop off your child's school supplies and Emergency Kit.**

Hopefully, **you have turned in all of your paper work.** If not, please bring it directly to the preschool office when you attend the Open House. It would be best to attend the Open House that occurs on your child's first scheduled day of attendance. This will enable your child to meet some of their new friends who attend on the same day. It also gives parents a chance to meet and greet each other!

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:** The first full day of school and extended care is Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Remember, it is normal for some children to cry the first week or two of school. Separation anxiety will lesson with time. Your constant reassurance will help build your child's trust in us. As soon as you have said your good-byes and reassured your child leave the room quickly. We realize that as parents we have our own fears about leaving children but we don't want to transfer any of our fears to them. Rest assured, if there is a serious problem we will call you and you are always welcomed to call us! Again, please know that we are here to help make the first day of school a happy transition!

**BLOCK PARTY: Welcome friends, neighbors and preschool families! Don't miss this annual celebration!** Come and enjoy some wonderful fellowship time at Bethany! Food, games, crafts and lots of fun will be on hand! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**9:30 a.m. Worship Service**

**10:45a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Fun and Food!**

*Thank you again for allowing us to support your family by providing care, love, and nurturing for your child. We hope that you and your child have that "home away from home" feeling. Please contact the preschool office with questions, concerns, comments, or new ideas.*

*We are looking forward to spending the year with you!*

**Kathy Stinson,  
Preschool Director**

ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE. TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH.

Helen Keller

**Our COOKIE VIRTUE for the month of SEPTMEBER is COOPERATION!**  
**"Cooperate means, How about you add the chips while I stir?"**

Another quote I like a lot is "**Getting good players is easy. Getting 'em to play together is the hard part.**" (Casey Stengel) And so it is at preschool. Just think for a moment what's involved in learning how to cooperate. Cooperation requires compromise, listening, sharing, encouraging, taking turns, being patient, and doing your part. Whew! That's a big list of requirements in order to be successful!

Cooperation is a new concept for most preschoolers. We spend months teaching babies and toddlers that they can do things by themselves; they've just discovered that they are capable and they are so proud that they don't need any help. Then, along comes learning to cooperate. Building cooperation skills begins in the family where kids learn how good it feels when everyone works together. As children mature their world gets bigger and bigger and we begin to teach them that they can work with others to get the job done.

Here are some ways that can greatly boost the chances that children will cooperate.

**Don't make demands.** Refrain from saying things like; "Because I said so!" or "You have to do it this way." Lay a foundation of trust and teamwork and ask nicely! The goal is to have cooperation be internally motivated. We don't want children to cooperate just because we make it a demand. The goal is that the cooperation be sincere and genuine.

**Children's work is play so make cooperating fun!** It isn't just a way to gain cooperation but it's a way to enjoy time spent together. Sing a silly song. Have a race. Hop like a bunny. Whistle-or at least try to! Just have FUN!

**Stop repeating yourself!** If you repeat, repeat, repeat you are training a child to stop listening. They will tend to just wait until you are totally frustrated and then they will cooperate. Children can be skilled manipulators don't we know!

**Cooperate with them.** If they come to a bump in the road offer some help...we get by with a little help from our friends!

**Let them be in charge once in a while!** Ask questions like; "Can you tell me more about your idea?" "What would you do differently?" "Let's try this again." "Can you show me your way?" Let them know they are capable!

Our Father in heaven knows how important cooperation is too! He knows that we need Him and we need each other. Can't you just see Him smiling knowing that if all His children work together, His work will get done on this earth!

God bless our growing and cooperating!

Kathy Stinson,  
Director