



The Giraffe

Feb. 2010

Calendar

Thursday, Jan. 28	Teacher Conferences for Karen Herman/Kate Roehm's class
Thursday, Feb. 4	Teacher Conferences for Nancy Chancler/Ann Daly's 3x/week class
Tuesday, Feb. 9	Egg Hatching Project Begins
Friday, Feb. 12	No Extended Day (Staff Meeting)
Monday, Feb. 15	School Closed for President's Day
Thursday, Feb. 18	Teacher Conferences for Barb Raser/Keir Potts's 3x/week class

A Note from Margot

Many people are remarking that time seems to be passing quickly. Here we are in a new year and September seems like yesterday. We must remember that for young children, each moment is valuable as they grow, experience life, and learn. Maybe it's time to slow down a bit and savor the moments.

Children thrive on routines and on one-to-one (parent and child) or larger family group times. "Quiet, together" activities such as reading, playing games, eating, or taking a walk, are invaluable; children feel listened to and important. One child and one parent doing an activity together makes the child feel very special. Four and five year olds love family meetings during which simple plans or activities and family routines can be discussed.

Unexpected, unplanned, spontaneous times are a delight for children: for example, if you are driving past the zoo and your child expresses a desire to go in...if you don't have other plans, why not stop and visit the zoo? Children can understand that this flexibility can't happen every day, but when it does...WOW!

There can be a delicate balance between all the routines that make life sane and healthy and special activities that add a little spice. Think simple and not complicated. Sometimes what you plan, or do on the spur of the moment, doesn't work. It's not a big deal. The important thing is that children know they are heard and considered and that spending time together is something you value.

We hope you find the enclosed article [Creating Family Rituals](#) helpful in your pursuit of some "together time".



Notes & Calendar Highlights

Quiver Farm: Arrival of the Eggs

On February 9th the eggs and incubators arrive for the classrooms from Quiver Farms. The farmer will show the children pictures of chicks developing in the eggs and tell them how to care for the eggs and the new born chicks, which hatch in about a week. The children patiently(!) wait for the chicks to hatch and then watch their rapid growth; fortunately, just as the chicks are ready to climb out of their bin, they are picked up by the farmer. Each year, this project is a big hit.



Mark Your Calendar for Spring Break!

Please note that spring vacation begins on **Thursday, March 25th**. We'll see you again on **Monday April 5th!**

Finding Family Time

Sometimes, the key to finding family time is to look in unlikely places. Here are some suggestions of how to make even car rides fun.

Play a Silly Story Game.

Begin a silly story as soon as you get in the car, then each time you stop at a stop sign or stoplight, a different person continues the narrative. This is a great way to practice taking turns and using your imagination. Just how silly can you get?

Riddle Me This...

Checkout kids.yahoo.com/jokes for riddles or jokes kids have to figure out. If you keep a list in the car you'll always have a laugh waiting.

Map Quest

Have your children look for landmarks while you're driving. See how many they can remember and find on the return trip. If they're familiar with the trip — see if they can predict what is coming up (ie. The Library is in the next block). See if they can tell you how to get to your destination, when and where you need to turn, etc... (This is a great way to work on *left* and *right* too!).



Spanish Vocabulary

Como estas?	How are you?	Cual es tu nombre?	What is your name?
Como esta usted?	How are you? (formal)	Mi nombre es...	My name is...
Muy bien	Very well	Vaca	cow
Donde estas?	Here are you?	Caballo	horse
Aqui estoy	Here I am	Conejo	rabbit
Si	Yes	Café	brown
No	No	Morado	purple
Gracias	Thank You	Negro	black
Ya me voy	I am leaving	Amarillo	yellow
Pulgarcito	Thumbkin		
Manos	Hands		

Parent Comments:

Is there a topic you would like to see covered in *The Giraffe*? Would you like more information or reminders? What would you like to see in upcoming issues of our newsletter?

Please let us know your comments/suggestions and return this sheet to Margot so that we can keep improving!

I would like to see an article about:

Other comments and suggestions:

Happenings at the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill

Look here for a listing of family friendly events happening at PCCH, including concerts, lectures, special events, and holiday services. Nursery care and Sunday school are offered each week during the worship service, which begins Sundays at 10:00am. All are Welcome!

- Sunday, Feb 21 **Family Service Project** - creating "Hygiene Kits" for Church World Services and Lenten prayer/activity chains for Lent.. Immediately following 10am service in Widner Hall. All are welcome.
- Wednesday, Feb. 24** **Ash Wednesday.** 7:00pm Service (no childcare for this service)

The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill is an inclusive community of faith, committed to excellence in worship, music and the arts, education and outreach. More information about these events and our church community can be found on our website, <http://www.chestnuthillpres.org/>, or by calling the church office, **215-247-8855**.

Help for Haiti

Like many area churches, PCCH has a special link to Haiti - many of our members have participated in Mission trips to our project area in L'Acul which receives a large part of our mission funding. We have many friends there that we are continuing to support as best we can in this crisis. Donations for Haiti are being accepted in our Church Office. Checks may be made out to either "The Haiti Fund" or "Presbyterian Disaster Relief". On Sunday, Feb 21st our Sunday School children will also be working to create "Hygiene Kits" to be sent to those in need. If you would like to contribute to this project we are collecting new wide toothed combs, nail clippers, individually wrapped toothbrushes, and bars of soap (regular bath size) - these items may be placed in the basket marked "Hygiene Kits" in the front of the school near the giraffe. We thank you for your generosity and your continued prayers for the people of Haiti."

-The Congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill

New Faces

PCCH welcomed Rev. Diane Jamison Fitch to our staff as part-time Director of Christian Education this past October. Diane grew up in Newtown, PA, graduating from *Council Rock, Bucknell University*, and then *Princeton Theological Seminary* in 1993. Her focus on Children's Ministry at PCCH includes offering her support and presence to the Preschool staff and students and she will have a story-time with the pre-school every month or so. Diane's husband John works for Dow Chemical, and her children Josh (10) and Caroline (8) attend Jarrettown Elementary School.

Welcome Rev. Diane!