



## Celebrating 46 Years of Serving Tucson's Children

July 2012

Dear Parents,

Welcome to St. Mark's Preschool and Kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year! I am excited for a wonderful year as Director here at the school. I look forward to continuing the strong tradition of education, community and excellence that has always been a part of St. Mark's Preschool and Kindergarten. I would like to welcome everyone to the start of a great year! Your children will be filled with learning, laughter, smiles and wonder.

The new school year officially begins on Monday, August 6th; but there are two important events before that date. On Thursday evening, August 2nd, there will be a Parent Information Night beginning at 7pm in Geneva Hall. We will be introducing staff, discussing updates and the upcoming school year. After that, there will be individual class meetings in your child's classroom. Your child's teacher will give you important information regarding your child's preschool or kindergarten experience at St. Mark's. This evening is for adults only; no child care will be provided.

The following morning, Friday, August 3rd, there will be a Classroom Visitation for all children. Students and parents may visit their classroom and teachers between 9:30-11am. This is an excellent opportunity for your child to become acquainted with their new school environment.

**Kathy Meakins** and **Norla Jarvis** are busy getting ready for another year together in Room F. They look forward to guiding the children as they learn and grow during this very important kindergarten year. **Corinne Lewis** and **Bobbie Machado** will be in Room E. They are planning a great year with the four year olds and have many fun activities already set. **Leticia Fagg** and **Anna Kolb** will be working as a team again this year in Room D. Both Leticia and Anna are anticipating a terrific year filled with many adventures.

**Catherine Pearson** and **Robin Martin** are also paired up again this year for some fun and learning with the three year olds in Room C. **Leslee Higginbottom** and **David Phinzy** are working with our young threes class in Room B. They are looking forward to helping our youngest children learn about school, friendships and making daily discoveries. **Shayna Smith** and **Shyleigh Scott** are back for a fantastic year with the Wild Things in Room A. They have lots of great ideas already in the works for a truly exceptional year.

**Ann Brewster** will be leading the Extended Day program once again. Ann will be assisted by **Jaimee Fagg** and **Brian White**, who is new to our staff this year. Brian has had lots of experience in the early childhood field. He has worked previously as a

teacher aide through Head Start and also as a team leader with Arts for All. We are excited to welcome him to our teaching team.

We are also lucky enough to have **Hilary Myli** and **Annie Tong** return this year to provide excellent quality and consistency in the office. They continuously work hard to keep parents informed, costs down, and the school in running order. Hilary is our Office Manager and Bookkeeper. She also teaches the gymnastics class as part of the school enrichment program. Annie Tong is our Office Assistant and Librarian. She wears many hats and the school could not run without her!

St. Mark's is pleased to offer four quality enrichment programs as part of our regular curriculum. **Alicia Haggerman** will teach Music and Movement. Alicia is an experienced early childhood music educator and a violinist with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra. **Hilary Myli** will be bringing gymnastics lessons to the kids and **Annie Tong** will offer a check-out library day. Finally, we will be offering a Spanish program. At the present, we are still searching for a qualified teacher to fill this role. If you would like your child to participate in an enrichment class which occurs on a day (s)he is not enrolled, you may bring your child to school for the enrichment class time. We ask that you stay at school during the class as it is only for 30 minutes, and we cannot accommodate extra students before and after the class. There is no additional cost for participation in the enrichment programs.

Friday will continue to be pizza lunch day. The cost is \$4.00 per lunch, payable with the following month's tuition. Sign up in the front of each class sign in book. Pizza lunch and the enrichment programs will begin in September.

Thanks to everyone's hard work at the Spring Fundraiser and other fundraising events last year, we were able to purchase some new computers for the office and offer some wonderful scholarships to families in need. I hope many of you will get involved again this year to make our program great and a continuing success!

I would also like to report the results of our parent survey from last year. 31% of our families returned the survey. Overall, the majority of people reported that they strongly agreed with our program and the experience they have had here. For example, 100% of returned surveys marked that they strongly agreed that "My child's teacher is approachable and willing to talk about my concerns". The only disagreement that was reported was for interest in attending parent education classes. In general, the results from the survey were positive; although, I am hoping to have more surveys returned in the future.

As the school year quickly approaches, I want to remind everyone to return all their paperwork and forms, including immunization records, to the office. Please return this important paperwork by Friday, July 27th! Finally, please make sure to pick up your copy of the Parent Handbook. The handbook as well as other vital information, including schedules and keycards, will be presented in a folder at the parent meeting. Take a moment to read through the material, especially the parent handbook, as it explains many of our school policies. We look forward to seeing you in August.

Here's to a wonderful year!



Accredited by the  
National Association  
for the Education  
of Young Children

Alicia Durbin, M.Ed.