



St. Mark's

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

TUCSON, ARIZONA • SINCE 1966

July 18, 2017

Dear Families,

Welcome to St. Mark's Preschool & Kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year! I look forward to continuing the strong tradition of education, community and excellence. I am proud to be the Director of this great school. Your children will be filled with learning, laughter, and wonder as they embark upon this adventure to prepare for the future.

The school year officially begins on Monday, August 7. There are two important events before that date. **Parent Orientation is Thursday evening, August 3**, beginning at 7pm in Geneva Hall. This evening is for adults only; no child care will be provided.

We will introduce our 2017-2018 staff, discuss updates, and go over items for the upcoming school year; then your child's teacher will give you important information regarding your child's experience at St. Mark's in the individual classrooms. We have a social component to the evening as well and hope you can join us for a **Parent Mixer** just before the Orientation starting at 6:30pm. This is a fun time to come and reconnect with other parents and meet new faces for the coming year. We hope to see you here.

The following morning, Friday, August 4, is the **Classroom Visitation** for families. Students and their families may visit their classroom and teachers between 9:30-11am. Please note: this visitation is for families—parents should stay with their children for the duration of the visit. The gates to the school will not be open until 9:25am so please arrive after 9:25. This is an excellent opportunity for your child to become acquainted with their new school environment.

I would like to take a moment to introduce our 2017-2018 St. Mark's teachers and staff! **Shyleigh Scott** is getting ready for another great Kindergarten year in Room F. This year she will be joined by **April Gering**. April has been involved in the school for the past couple of years as a parent. Last year, April has been subbing at the school and we are excited to welcome her into the full-time position.

Corinne Lewis and **Bobbie Monjaras** will be together once again in Room E. They are planning a great year with the four year olds and have many fun activities already in store.

Anna Kolb and **Veronica Hamm** are looking forward to creating another fun, learning environment together in Rm. D with the Nature class.

Sydney Lunsford and **Christina Gutierrez** are anticipating a delightful year filled with many learning adventures in Rm. C with the Giraffes.

Sarah Barber and **Martha MacMaster** will be helping our youngest children learn about school, friendships and making daily discoveries in Room B with the Monkeys.

Shayna Smith and **Carina Porcelli** are looking forward to another fantastic year of student-led activities with the Wild Things in Room A.

Ann Brewster will be leading the Extended Day program once again. Ann will be working with **Lisa Depascal** and **Breanna Trejo** to create a fun, enriching program in the afternoon.

Hilary Myli and **Annie Tong** return this year to provide excellent quality and consistency in the office— keeping parents informed, costs down, and the school in running order. Hilary is our Office Manager/Bookkeeper and gymnastics coach. Annie Tong is our Office Assistant, Substitute Teacher, and Librarian.

St. Mark's is pleased to offer quality enrichment programs as part of our regular curriculum. **Annie Tong** will offer a check-out library day on Tuesdays, **Hilary Myli** and **Lisa Depascal** will be bringing gymnastics lessons to the kids on Wednesdays, our Spanish program will be taught by **Breana Trejo** on Thursdays, and **Alicia Hagerman** will teach Music and Movement on Fridays. Please note enrichment classes will begin in the first full week of September, starting September 5. If you would like your child to participate in an enrichment class which occurs on a day they are not enrolled, you may bring your child to school for the enrichment class time, at no additional charge. We simply ask that you stay the 30 minutes with your child in the class.

We have excellent substitute teachers as part of our staff including alumni parent **Jennifer Davenport**, and alumni staff **Leslee Higginbottom** and **Kathy Meakins**.

We will continue to offer a **pizza lunch** option on Fridays. This will begin the first Friday, August 11, of the school year. The cost is \$4.00 per lunch and is billed to the following month's tuition. The sign-up for pizza is in the front of each class sign in book.

I want to thank everyone for all of their support of the Spring Fun!Raiser last year as well as other **fundraising events**. With your efforts we are able to offer some wonderful scholarships to families in need this year. We also were able to purchase new classroom materials and provide all staff with a raise. I hope many of you will get involved again this year to make our program great and a continuing success!

As the school year quickly approaches, I want to remind everyone to return all their paperwork and forms, including immunization records, to the office ASAP. Lastly, any important information, including schedules and keycards, will be presented in a folder at the Parent Orientation. The Family Handbook will be emailed to families. Take a moment to read through the material presented, especially the Family Handbook, as it explains many of our school policies. We look forward to seeing you in August and we hope you can come early for the Parent Mixer. Here's to a wonderful year!

Warm Regards,



Alicia Durbin, M.Ed.



Celebrating **51** Years of Serving Tucson's Children