

A vibrant illustration of seven children flying kites. The children, dressed in colorful striped shirts, are positioned along a dark, grassy horizon line. They are holding long red strings that extend upwards to various colorful kites: a pink one with a yellow '囍' (double happiness) symbol, a teal one, a yellow one, a red one, and a purple one. A large, bright white circle, resembling a full moon or a sun, dominates the background. The entire scene is set against a solid orange background.

October

Noreen

5	Labor Day, NO SCHOOL
6	Orientation for new students & parents
7	First day of Preschool, MINIMUM DAY
15	Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival
28	Confucius's birthday/Teachers' Day

10	Columbus Day, NO SCHOOL
13	Free Dress Day
	Back to School Night (Parents only)
24-25	Teddy Bear Days
26	Pajama Day
27	Crazy Hair/Hat Day
	Fire drill, 9:40am (school playground)
28	NO SCHOOL
31	Halloween Parade



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CONFUCIUS'S BIRTHDAY / TEACHERS' DAY (SEPT. 28)

In China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, and South Korea, festivals are held to commemorate the birth of Confucius. On this special day, people also celebrate the teachers who have taught, nurtured, and shaped them throughout their lives.

"Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace." (Confucius)

Get excited for SPIRIT WEEK! (OCT. 24-27)



Teddy Bear Day (Oct. 24 & 25)

Bring your favorite teddy bear to school with you! He/she can play, sit, work, and eat with you all day... and best of all, meet all the other teddy bears in the class!

(Parents, please be sure to label your child's teddy bear so that it is not misplaced!)

Pajama Day (Oct. 26)

Wear your pajamas to school today! It's going to be a comfy day!



Crazy Hair/Hat Day (Oct. 27)

Come to school with your craziest hairstyle or hat on! Let's see some creative heads!



SAVE THE DATES!

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B a c k



N i g h t

...and Parents' Meeting

Thursday, October 13

6:15pm

St. Mary's Preschool

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DIRECTOR & ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

10/12/2016, 4:45pm

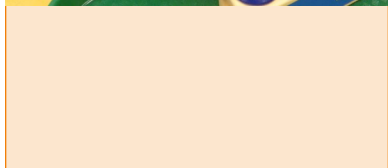
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Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences

November 1 & 2

Sign up online at <http://stmaryspreschool2016.setmore.com/>





For Parents Who Worry (Isn't that all of us?)

"The education of our day is rich in methods, aims and social ends, but one must still say that it takes no account of life itself."

—Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*

By now your child is settled in our classroom and is being cared for and educated by our extended "village." Perhaps you're still concerned about whether your child is adjusting well and learning enough. Like all parents, you want your child to be happy and learn the skills he/she needs for success.

As Montessori suggests in the above quote, young children naturally grow and learn from their surroundings without being directly taught.

No Need to Be Anxious

It's hard not to be anxious, especially with your first child. You learned to do all the right things as your child grew from infancy to childhood. Now your child is more capable and independent.

Because of their absorbent minds, preschoolers do not need direct teaching in order to learn. This is the period of children's *self-construction*, learning from the environment in which they live.

Try not to worry about what the latest expert or neighbor says. Take time to just be with your child. Adapt your home so your toddler can explore safely. Observe his new independence and sense of self. Remember to relax and have fun, too.

Did you know that children learn best when exploring the world with hands-on activities? Research shows that children who are prematurely pushed into academic drills become less creative and enthusiastic learners, and do not retain information any better than those who learn facts later. Instead, a focus on play is key at this age, helping children to develop so-

cial and emotional skills that are important for long-term success.

Everyone Compares

It's easy to look at your friend's child and compare. However, it's important to remember, we are not all alike! No two children are on the same timetable, even if they are the same age. Keep your expectations in line with *your* child's abilities. Change is constant with a growing child.

Beware of the accelerated-learning industry. Baby DVD's or reading programs have proven worthless and sometimes detrimental to development. It's actually more productive to let your child scoot around the floor, play with pots and pans, or sing silly songs with you. Reading and talking to your child, and helping him learn to care for himself are better options. Your job is to expose him to the world without any pressure.



Basic Child Development

Of course, all of our children are intelligent! Notice how easily they learn to sing the ABC song or count to 20, even if the real understanding of what letters or numbers actually mean comes much later. Remember, these little imitators continually absorb our habits and language. Before the age of three, learning is unconscious. As children's brains and bodies develop, they spontaneously work to perfect their movements.

Your neighborhood is filled with learning opportunities: backyards, nature, friends, games, playgrounds, libraries, and more. The whole world is there for a young child to experience. This is taking *"account of life itself."*

Stay in the Present

Notice how the phrases roll off your tongue: "She needs to have all A's if she's going to get into a good college," or, "That will look really good on his resume." Extra-curricular activities can easily become obligations rather than enjoyable opportunities. In this competitive era, it's easy to overlook your children's natural abilities and desires, and instead place them in something that may not be a good fit.

Trust your child to find his own path in his own way. Can we respect our child enough to see where his real interests are and then help him get the experience he wants right now, letting go of our anxieties about the future?

"If you observe children doing purposeful activity independently and with concentration, let them be. Observe, and know that they are headed in the right direction, even though the work might not be what you would choose for them to do."

—Maren Schmidt, M.Ed., *Building Cathedrals, Not Walls*

Respecting Your Child

Your child has natural likes and dislikes. If she shows an interest in something, give her room to pursue it on her own. For example, a friend's daughter saw a snake in her yard and became fascinated. Her parents patiently waited to see if the interest persisted. When it did, they got their daughter a book about snakes and took her to the science museum to see live ones. As a teenager, the girl had several pet snakes that she bought and cared for on her own.

As parents, we are often ready to pounce on any little thing our child does and latch onto it (though typically not with snakes). If he likes music, we hurry to buy musical instruments, get him piano lessons, compliment his singing, and brag about his musicality. Instead, we recommend slowing down and simply enjoying music together, whether by going to a concert, singing, dancing, or clapping out rhythms. If the interest lasts, you can offer your child more opportunities for practice in the future.

At birth, children are equipped with everything they need to survive and be successful in this world. As adults, we must respect their innate capabilities so we can enjoy their amazing absorbent minds. Children will learn and grow without our pushing. In fact, not much more is needed from us than basic food and shelter, along with our respectful attention and unconditional love while we are just living *life itself*.





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