

# ENGLEWOOD BAPTIST WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL

February 28, 2022

## LOOKING AHEAD

- 3/25 Scavenger Hunt Due
- 3/29 Progress Reports
- 4/15 Good Friday Holiday
- 4/18 Spring Break Begins
- 4/25 Classes Resume
- 5/2 WPS Closed
- 5/3 WPS Closed
- 5/16 End-of-Year Program

## COVID-19 AND CHILDCARE SETTINGS

Recently, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) announced updates to the ChildcareStrong NC Public Health Toolkit – guidance that differs somewhat from that for public schools. The guidance, as before, identifies **requirements** for childcare centers while also sharing information that centers *should* and *could* consider. The focus of the guidance is on strategies that are most effective at this stage of the pandemic, including vaccines, boosters, testing and masking. Additionally, NCDHHS recommends staff no longer be required to stay home from school following a COVID-19 exposure, if they can mask and unless they have symptoms or test positive.

During a ZOOM Childcare Directors' meeting, health consultants advised centers to draft policy how centers will respond to COVID-19 exposures, masking, etc. Weekday Preschool staff were given opportunity to review the ChildcareStrong Toolkit along with a draft policy and the opportunity to share input – suggestions, questions, etc. Staff input will be considered as final policy is drafted. The local (Nash County) health department and the childcare health consultant will also share input before policy is finalized.

Parents may expect the final policy early March. In the meantime, parents can access the Toolkit online at

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/media/220/download>.



*Valentine's Day was about goodies, fun, friends and hands-on-learning!*



Get your smile ready. We're taking school pictures with Christina Valentine March 29, 30 and 31. Watch for details!

# SPOTLIGHT ON MRS. PATRICIA, LEAD TEACHER



It's **NOT** about a bunny!

Don't forget to submit your Scavenger Hunt entries by March 25<sup>th</sup>.



Awesome 18-year veteran educator, Mrs. Patricia has served Weekday Preschool for three years. Currently, she leads the All-Day Two-Year-Old Class. She is the mother of three, the grandmother of four and, unbelievably, the great-grandmother of one!

Mrs. Patricia wears her years well, perhaps because she enjoys working with little ones – especially teaching them about Jesus and God's Word. She also enjoys volunteering with the local Red Cross and engaging in outreach ministry at her church. Free time is spent with family. She also enjoys hiking, fishing and travel.

Mrs. Patricia received her Early Childhood Degree from Nash Community College in 2008 and a Certificate in Social Work in 2016.

## Meet Mrs. Hayleigh, Teaching Assistant

Mrs. Hayleigh is the teaching assistant in the All-Day Two-Year-Old classroom at Weekday Preschool. While she has only been part of the WPS family since 2021, she has always had a passion for working with children and teaching them about Jesus. She recently graduated from Nash Community College with an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Development. Mrs. Hayleigh is married to her high school sweetheart, and they are expecting their first child this August! In her free time, Mrs. Hayleigh enjoys shopping and spending time with her family and close friends. You might even see her out with her best friend and co-worker, Mrs. Shannon!



# KING'S ACADEMY

Research and data, such as that from the Fall 2020 Heart + Mind Strategies' Coronavirus Tracking Poll, show that parents want school choice more than ever. Not only the coronavirus but overall world events seem to be impacting parents' attitudes toward education and causing many to reevaluate their educational options.

Englewood Baptist considers it a privilege and a joy to come alongside families in the critical work of laying a child's spiritual foundation, hence King's Academy – a new, private, Christian School opening August 2022 on the campus of Englewood Baptist Church!

King's Academy seeks to prepare each student to excel academically through intentional, classically-informed learning environments. Recognizing that every individual is created in the Imago Dei, King's Academy welcomes students from a diversity of racial, social, economic and faith backgrounds who desire to grow through learning experiences expressed from the Christian worldview. What does that mean? We welcome YOU!

Registration has already opened for kindergarten and first grade. Call to schedule an appointment: (252) 937-9829 Plan to bring your child along with a certified copy of his/her birth certificate, immunization record, proof of residency and the NC Health Transmittal Form – completed and signed by your child's pediatrician or primary care physician. While most doctors' offices have this form, it can also be found at [https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Portals/0/documents/pdf/N/NC-Pre-K\\_HAForm.pdf](https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Portals/0/documents/pdf/N/NC-Pre-K_HAForm.pdf)

King's Academy is finalizing the steps to be added to the NC Opportunity Scholarship Schools List. Interested parents should go ahead and apply for the scholarship, indicated UNKNOWN for school and later, once King's is added, change the intended school. Parents who apply for the scholarship BEFORE March 1 better position themselves to receive \$\$\$.



## Opportunity's Knocking

The NC Opportunity Scholarship is a program that helps families that make below a certain income pay tuition and fees when their child is enrolled in a participating private school.

Are you interested?

Do you qualify?

How do you apply?

Answers to these and other questions may be found at the NC Opportunity Scholarship website:

<https://www.ncseaa.edu/k12/opportunity/>

Should you have additional questions, contact the NC State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) at (855) 330-3955



# HANDS-ON LEARNING



*Imitating Michaelangelo's painting of the Genesis scenes on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel*



*Washing dishes*



*Fishing*



*Painting in our PJs*

Build Your Future writes, "While most of the education world has turned into a textbook-and-lecture format, arguably the best teaching method is much different. Hands-on education gives students both the freedom and responsibility to learn through real experience – rather than through simply reading or listening to somebody else."

Is hands-on-learning really better, and does it make a difference? YES! Hands-on-learning has proven to be significantly impactful to student memory while also helping students better grasp and understand what is being taught. Why or how? There are two key reasons:

1. Hand-on-learning better engages both sides of the brain. Listening and analyzing processes occur in the left hemisphere of the brain while visual and spatial processes occur in the right hemisphere. Simultaneously activating BOTH sides helps the brain form stronger connections and store more relevant information.
2. Brain scans have shown increased activity in sensory and motor-related areas of the brain when students think about concepts that were linked with hands-on experiences.

Students also tend to be more attentive, better engaged and more likely to take pride in their work when their hands are actively engaged – when they are up and moving in meaningful ways and not just listening or "doing another worksheet."



*Waiting for Pick-Up*

## THINKING SKILLS

We all think. Yes, some more than others and, perhaps, some better than others. While children do not have to be taught to think, they do need to be taught to think critically.

Learning to think critically is an essential skill – one that needs to be taught early then strengthened so that children become adults who think critically – who analyze, compare contrast, make inferences, define problems, create plausible solutions, make creative connections and engage in logical reasoning.

### Contact Us

#### Englewood Baptist Weekday Preschool

Dr. Debbie Rollins, Director

(252) 937-9829 x227

[debbie@englewoodbaptist.com](mailto:debbie@englewoodbaptist.com)

[ebcpreschool.org](http://ebcpreschool.org)

The nature of school is receive and regurgitate. Much emphasis can be put on children simply learning to repeat what the teacher (or later a textbook) says. Many classrooms are characterized by drills and rote memorization. A teacher must be mindful of designing lessons that require students to think. Further, a teacher must be intentional in asking questions and engaging with a child, creating opportunities for him/her to think. Teachers and parents must start early, encourage questions and foster curiosity. Take advantage of every opportunity

you have to ask your child question and every opportunity to “really” listen and respond to your child’s questions, including the dreaded WHY. Do not be quick to ignore or dismiss a child simply because he/she is young. Answer their questions, and explain in child-appropriate language your responses. Knowing why something is done the way it is or works the way it does is a crucial first step to strong critical thinking.



*It's a game called Suspend, and it requires thinking, focus, planning and concentration*