



# Jack and Jill Jottings

Website: [JackandJillLeighton.org](http://JackandJillLeighton.org)  
Email: [jackandjillpreschool@yahoo.com](mailto:jackandjillpreschool@yahoo.com)  
Phone: 610-377-6562  
Facebook: Jack and Jill Preschool



Welcome to a new school term. This is the **Jack and Jill Jottings**, your prekindergarten class newsletter. You will receive a copy each month to keep everyone updated on what is going on at Jack and Jill. Please be sure to read the newsletter and all accompanying papers each month, they will provide necessary information to help you to know what is going on at Jack and Jill every month. Each month's newsletter and snack calendar will also be posted on the preschool's website, so if you lose the newsletter, you can check there.



### Important notes:

Please sign and return the signature page of the preschool handbook (the orange sheet of paper). Make sure that you designated whether or not you give permission for your child's image to be used in the various sites. The full handbook is available online at the preschool's website. If you do not have access to the online handbook, Jack and Jill can provide a paper copy of the handbook, just ask a teacher.



Provide either the completed Immunization form, a copy of your child's immunization records or send in your child's immunization records for us to copy. The preschool needs this information no later than September 27.

**If you have not yet paid your first tuition installment** of \$116, it is due immediately. The rest of the monthly tuition installments will be in the amount of \$108. Tuition installments are due monthly beginning in August, 2017 and ending in April, 2018.

Each month, certain students will get a blank **All About Me** poster sent home with them. When it is your child's turn, please go over the poster with them and help them to answer the questions and fill it in. Then, be sure to return the completed poster to the preschool as soon as possible. We will review your child's poster during circle time and hang it in the snack room for the month. Every child will have the opportunity to get a poster, I find that it is easiest to assign them alphabetically, so **the first children who will get their All About Me posters are: Zachary Andreas, Tristan Balliet and Vera Berger**. We look forward to learning more about these friends.

Attached to this newsletter is an outline of the activities that will be taking place at preschool during September. This way you can keep track of the topics that are being introduced at school. The outline is also a useful tool to help you discuss your child's day at school. You can ask them what was in mailbox, and what story or game was played at school to help reinforce the theme of the day.



If you have not yet done so, please consider sending a friend request to **join the preschool's facebook page**. There are two facebook pages associated with our Jack and Jill preschool. One is for the preschool itself, the other is for the parent's organization. It can be confusing as to which page is which. The preschool's page features a photo of children wearing hats and looking down at something in the grass. Facebook allows the teachers the opportunity to post updates and to share important information with the families in an immediate fashion this is especially useful in bad weather, or as a way to remind families about events. Since there are some families who only belong to one or the other of the facebook pages, I do try to post to both when I put things online about the preschool.



Be sure to check the preschool's **bulletin board** which is located to the right of the door on the porch. (the larger of the two bulletin boards on the porch) We place a lot of information on the bulletin board including snack calendars, fliers, sign up sheets and other important pieces of information for our preschool families. Please check it while you are waiting to drop off or pick up your children. When the class has a holiday party or special event, sign-up sheets will be posted on this bulletin board and families can volunteer to provide snacks and other items for these special times. The smaller bulletin board to the left of the door belongs to the Parent Organization and they will keep it updated with information about their upcoming events. Be sure to keep up to date with their functions too.



**Folders, backpacks and pencil cases:** each child has been asked to bring a folder, pencil case, pack of 8 primary colored crayons, a pack of glue sticks and a backpack to school. We will keep the pencil case with the supplies in it at school and your child will use it here. The folders will travel back and forth between home and school. The folders are our way of communicating between home and school each day. The teachers will take the folders from the backpacks and check them daily to see if any notes, homework, book orders, tuition installments, etc. are coming from home. Likewise, any papers or information to go home will be placed in the folders. Be sure to check them daily. We have found that this is the most convenient way to exchange information between home and school. Many of the children's backpacks have multiple zippers, pouches, etc. and papers that are slipped into one of them may be overlooked when the teachers are checking backpacks.

**By being sure that all papers are in the folders, there is less of an opportunity for things to be misplaced.** We thank you for your cooperation.

Please be sure to mark all of your child's school tools with your child's name, including the backpack. Again, it makes keeping everyone's things together much easier. Many families also choose to keep a change of clothing in the backpack in case of emergency. We may need to change the children's clothing due to spills, bathroom mistakes, or other reasons. The preschool keeps a supply of emergency clothes, but they are a mis-matched group of items which may or may not fit well for the children, that's why families can choose to provide their own clothing. If you are keeping emergency clothes in the backpack, be sure to keep the supply of clothes updated for the season.

Each child has a hook marked with their name where their backpack and coats are hung. This keeps all of their supplies together.

**Remember to check your monthly snack calendar and to send snacks to school on your child's snack day.** The preschool provides milk, juice or water as well as paper products for each day's snack.

There are 16 children in the morning class and the afternoon class currently has 8 children in it. The number for these classes may change as enrollment settles down, until you have heard otherwise please plan on providing snacks in an amount sufficient for these number of children.

**If your child has any food allergies, or if your family follows any specific food guidelines** please let me know. If it is an allergy, **you must fill out an ALLERGY ALERT form,** copies of the form were placed in your child's folder. If you follow a specific food dietary guideline, be sure to outline how you will be handling it with regard to snack time for your child. The preschool will strictly adhere to whatever plan the families outline. If a child in a class has a food allergy, the rest of the families in that class will be informed.

On some days on the calendar, you will see a **\* along with a name written in bold**, that is the date when we will celebrate that child's birthday snack at preschool. I try to schedule birthday snack as closely to the child's actual birthday as possible. The children who are listed that way are invited to bring a birthday snack to school to share. The preschool will give the birthday child a birthday crown, pencil, candles and a birthday card for their special day.

Many families ask for suggestions about what to send for their child's snack day. A good 'rule of thumb' is that if your child enjoys something, chances are very good that the rest of their classmates will as well. Most four and five year olds still have limited food preferences. Some of the snack items that we have seen the children enjoy in the past include things like: apple slices, grapes, cheese, goldfish, fruit snacks, cookies, pretzels, cheese curls, chips, Doritos etc. The children have also enjoyed clementines, bologna, lunchmeat, veggies and dip. Hope this gives you some ideas for snacks.

**Outside play:** We like to have the children go outside to play at every opportunity. Please be sure that your child has shoes and clothing that allows them to play safely. If the children are out in the playyard at dismissal time, they will be brought into the preschool building, given their backpacks and dismissed through the door one at a time. **Although you are welcome to watch your child when they are out in the playyard, please do not open the gate, or enter the playyard. This is for everyone's safety.**

In addition to outdoor play, we also have gym activities in the classroom, outside, or next door in Luther Hall. These gym activities occur throughout the year and vary to include: parachute, obstacle courses, scooters, bowling, games, beanbags, etc. You do not need to dress your child in any special clothes for gym activities, just be sure that their shoes and clothes allow them to run and climb.

**Scholastic book orders:** Each month we send home book offers from Scholastic. Mrs. Howells handles the book orders and she has a letter from Scholastic with all of the information that you need on it. Each month, the date when orders and money are due either online or at the preschool will be listed on the order form. The preschool does not benefit financially from Scholastic book clubs, however every time a family places an order Jack and Jill received bonus

points which we can redeem for books, toys or useful classroom items.

The pre-k's will start their **weekly worship** on Monday, September 18. Each week, weather permitting, we will walk over to Trinity's sanctuary for worship. Families do not need to make any special arrangements for the children's worship.



**Buddy Day Wednesday, September 20** Everyone has a special stuffed buddy who keeps them company and this is the day to bring them to preschool for fun and games. The stuffed animals do NOT have to be limited to teddy bears and can be any stuffed creature that the children want to bring to school. We will have some special buddy events on that day and I'm sure the stuffed friends will have a good time while at preschool. Be sure to mark the stuffed animals with your child's name. Sometimes during the excitement of coming to preschool, the buddies forget who they belong to. When we are not doing special activities with the buddies, they will wait in the backpacks for their human friends. We don't want anyone getting mixed up with the preschool's regular toys.

**Reminder that your second tuition installment of \$108 is due at the preschool by Wednesday, September 27, 2017.**

**Show & Tell will be on Wednesday, September 27.** We will try to hold Show and Tell once a month, please check your snack calendars for the date of show & tell. Remember to **mark your child's show & tell items with their name if at all possible.** Show & tell items are kept in the backpacks (if they fit), and are taken out during show & tell time. They are NOT to be played with in preschool. We don't want any toys to be broken or lost. Participation in show & tell is NOT mandatory. Please be sure to **limit show & tell items to only one or two things per month.** It can be hard to get the children to only choose a small amount of things to bring, but they will have many opportunities to bring things from home throughout the term.

**Due to allergies, we do NOT allow pets to come to school for show & tell. If the children wish, they can bring in a picture of their pet, or items that their pet uses.**



**I cannot stress this enough: The preschoolers do NOT get mandatory homework assignments! They are too young, and it is not necessary.** However, I often send papers in the folders that can be completed at home with adult help which enrich and add to the themes that I am teaching at school. Other times, I may send papers home on a topic for extra practice. Completing these papers will help your child to practice skills learned in school.

I have found that the children LOVE to call these papers their homework. Remember, they're still young and the concept of homework sounds very grown up and exciting! The difference is that there is no obligation, or deadline for the papers to be returned to school. If your child is interested in the work, and they would like to complete the paper, I hope you will support their interest. If the children complete a paper and if you send it back to school in their folder, we will go over the paper with them in school, and give them a sticker to put on the page to celebrate their extra work.

Another thing that you will find in your child's folder from time to time is our 'envelope games'. These are usually small manipulatives that each child receives in school to use to follow directions to a game, song or story that is read in school. When the envelope games go home, I also send the words to the song, the rules of the game, or the title of the story that goes along with them so that you can share the fun at home. You may find that your child really enjoys explaining how to use the pieces of the game to their adults.

Remember to keep saving those Box Tops for Education symbols. Extra collection sheets are available on the bulletin board. If you don't have a collection sheet, loose Box Tops symbols are always welcome too

Communication between home and school is important, and I try to stay in touch as quickly as possible. If you send a note to school in your child's folder, I will reply during class and send it back home that day. If you send an email to the preschool, I will get back to you at some point during the day. If you call the preschool, I will try to answer the phone. If we cannot get to the phone, please leave a message, we will hear it and if necessary, and I will get back to you as soon as possible. If you post on Facebook, I will reply when I have the opportunity. In whichever way that you get in contact with us, please remember that our first priority is your child, and our job is to spend class time with them, that will always be our focus, so don't worry if you don't always get an immediate response from the staff.