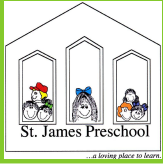


# st. james preschool

OCTOBER  
2011



## Walk a Mile in My Shoes

Sue Hardrath, Director

*Walk a mile in my shoes, walk a mile in my shoes.  
Hey, before you abuse, criticize and accuse  
Walk a mile in my shoes.*  
- Joe South, songwriter

In his song lyrics, Joe South is referring to the second essential life skill that Ellen Galinsky discusses in her book, Mind in the Making - perspective taking. While focus and self-control are considered two of the most important skills for future success, perspective taking is less often considered essential. We know from studies done, however, that, young children who learn perspective taking have a better adjustment to kindergarten, and that makes it mighty important to those of us who parent and teach preschoolers.

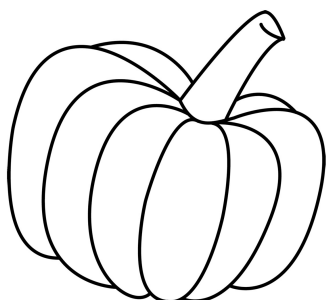
Perspective taking is defined as the ability to relate to others, to look at a situation from someone else's point of view. It causes us not only to recognize and understand thoughts of others, it also leads us to empathize with other's feelings and to be helpful when others have needs. What we want our young children to understand is that other people have beliefs, wants, and intentions that are different from their own. Once they recognize that they can then begin to consider how a friend is behaving, more accurately predict what he will do in a given situation, and finally, respond appropriately. It is what makes us socially adept.

Children who master perspective taking are more likely to be ready for school and to succeed in school because they better understand what their teachers want and expect. They are better at learning to read because they recognize how language

works, and perform better on literacy tests because they understand the behavior of characters in books they are reading. They are less likely to get into fights since they are more skilled at making sense of other children's behavior and less likely to jump to false conclusions about what is going on. They make and keep friends with ease.

We help our children learn perspective taking by first listening to them and building trusting relationships with them. They will listen to and understand others when they feel understood and secure themselves. Because no man is an island, we want to actively teach our children how to live with others. We want to discuss feelings, both theirs and ours, and when children misbehave, show them how their behavior affects the other person. We want to embrace all kinds of pretend play for our children. When they are pretending, they are adopting a different persona, thinking and feeling like the person or character they are portraying. Finally, as they get older we want to teach "appraisal skills" - how to figure out someone else's intentions.

We all do it every day. We watch what someone does or listen to what someone says, and make judgments based on what we would do or say. We forget that if we put on their shoes, we might feel or act in just the same way. We have a responsibility to give our children that other pair of shoes and to teach them how to walk in them because when we do, we will be raising children who are patient, tolerant and sensitive to the needs and feelings of others.



## Annual Halloween Parade!

Dress up your little ones and join us for our annual Halloween parades, October 27th (T/TH classes) and October 28th (M/W/F classes), in the Fellowship Hall. This is a wonderful event. Don't forget your cameras!

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## Volunteer Spotlight:

### Thank you, Comforters!

A huge thank you goes out to the parents who volunteered their time as Child Comforters during the first two weeks of school. Many of them were there for several mornings wiping tears, reading stories, singing songs and walking our little friends through the halls ... all to help them adjust to their new environments. Thank you for helping our little ones realize that St. James truly is "a loving place to learn."

Courtney Deitz  
Tammy Eckstein  
Jennifer Entreklin  
Dana Escher  
Laura Glenn  
Ellen Grisette  
Kristin Hall  
Caroline Harris  
Betsy Hasson  
Becca Herndon  
Laurie Knowles  
Marlies Lepore  
Julie Logan  
Heather Means  
Lesslie Meier  
Mary Ann Mullins  
Agie Rutkowski  
Mary Schoeffler  
Ashley Shippey  
Carey Tanner  
Kirsten Uyham  
Marianne Zalenski  
Cissy Zelickson

## Atlanta School Fair

Every year St. James Preschool joins other area schools in sponsoring the Atlanta School Fair. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet independent and public school staff, learn more about local elementary schools, and receive registration information. We strongly encourage parents to attend!

- Date: October 6, 2011
- Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Location: Peachtree Presbyterian Church, The Lodge  
3434 Roswell Road, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30305  
[www.peachtreepresbyterianpreschool.org](http://www.peachtreepresbyterianpreschool.org)  
404 842-5809

Atlanta Classical Christian Academy  
Atlanta International School  
Atlanta New Century School  
Bolton Academy  
Christ the King School  
Cliff Valley School  
Cross and Crown Lutheran School  
E. Rivers Elementary School  
Education Connection  
First Montessori School of Atlanta  
Garden Hills Elementary School  
George Kirkpatrick  
Greater Atlanta Christian School  
Heards Ferry Elementary School  
Heritage Preparatory School of Georgia  
High Point Elementary School  
Holy Innocents' Episcopal School  
Holy Spirit Preparatory School  
Intown Community School  
Kings Ridge Christian School  
Morris Brandon Elementary School  
Mount Vernon Presbyterian School

Mt. Bethel Christian Academy  
Our Lady of the Assumption School  
Pace Academy  
Sarah Smith Elementary School  
St. Benedict's Episcopal School  
St. Francis Day School  
St. Martin's Episcopal School  
Teasley Elementary School  
The Children's School  
The Galloway School  
The Heiskell School  
The Howard School  
The Lovett School  
The Paideia School  
The Walker School  
The Westminster Schools  
Trinity School  
Wardlaw School  
Warren T. Jackson Elementary School  
Wesleyan School  
Whitefield Academy  
Woodward Academy

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## Prospective Parents Open House: Spread the Word!

On October 12th, St. James Preschool will host an Open House for parents who are considering preschool for their children and want to learn more about our special school.

Spread the word! Information will be mailed to families who have inquired about St. James, but feel free to tell friends and neighbors interested in the preschool to join us for an introduction and a tour of the school.

October 12, 9:30 a.m.  
Church Parlor

## Parents Club Donations Due October 28!

Thanks to all of the families who have sent in their donations for the Parents Club. Please keep in mind that this is the only fundraiser for the 2011- 2012 school year.

**On October 21, we will be collecting forms in the carpool line during drop-off and pick-up.**

Please make checks payable to St James Parents Club. All donations are tax deductible. Charitable matching with your business is appreciated! This year we are hoping to update our IT systems. We are continuing with the same levels as last year. All enrolled families are automatically members of the Parents Club.

★ **\$0 to \$49 : Basic Membership**

Car magnet

★ **\$50 to \$99 : One-Star Membership**

Book donated to the library in your family's name and basic Membership benefits

★ **\$100 to \$249 : Two-Star Membership**

All One-Star benefits PLUS an umbrella

★ **\$250 to \$399 : Three-Star Membership**

All Two-Star benefits PLUS a carnival band for all enrolled children in your family

★ **\$400 to \$549 : Four-Star Membership**

All Three-Star benefits PLUS a "garden" lunch bunch (noon to 1:30 PM - date to be announced)

★ **\$550 and above : Five-Star Membership**

All Four-Star benefits PLUS a pizza, pajama and movie party for your children (date to be announced)

## Many Thanks!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the parents who provided a yummy breakfast buffet for our teachers and staff during their August staff meeting. St. James Preschool has the best group of teachers and parents and this breakfast was a very special way for our teachers to kick-off their school year. Thank you to:

Christina Barnette

Nancy Black

Tiffany Bok

Margaret Celecia

Donna Cobb

Jan Cummings

Hilary Dixon

Jennifer Entrekin

Robyn Farmer

Jocelyn Foust

Lanie Jacquin

Becky Jordan

Errett Kirkland

Julie Logan

Amy Sabo

Mindi Shelton

Ashley Shippey

Sarah Silver

Trang Vu Smith

Lindsay Wilson

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## PARENTS CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Child & Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Child & Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support of the Parents Club Annual Membership Drive. Please return your form and check to the preschool office by October 28, 2011.

*All gifts are fully tax deductible. Make checks payable to St. James Parents Club.*

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## Staff Spotlight

### Jenny Castro, Assistant Director

Jenny was born in Evansville, Indiana and grew up in northern Indiana. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Business from Purdue University, lived in Florida for several years before moving to Atlanta in 1991 where she met her husband, Joe.

The Castro's have been married for 18 years and have a daughter, Abby, in 11<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Pius X, a daughter, Maria, in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and a son, Joseph, in 4<sup>th</sup> grade both whom attend Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School. They also have a dog, Bella.

Jenny loves traveling, reading and spending time with her family. This year is her 12<sup>th</sup> year at St. James and she has loved every minute of it!

## Miss Library Recommends

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**For Children:**  
One of my favorite books for October is "The Berenstain Bears and the Spooky Old Tree." It is a great book for October and the approach of Halloween.

**For Moms and Dads:**  
A very interesting read: "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand. It is an inspiring true story of survival, resilience & redemption from World War II.

## St. James UMC Welcomes Kids, Families and Community

### St. James 101

Beginning October 2nd, meet in the Small Parlor from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. (gathering starts at 9:30) for a five-week discussion on everything you have always wanted to ask about the Church and God.

### 3rd Annual TrunkFest

Wednesday, October 26; Sponsored by the Children's Council

Dinner: 5:30 p.m.

Costume parade: 6:00 p.m.

Festival: 6:15 - 7:00 p.m.

Trunk or Treat: 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

### Wednesday Night Supper Programs

Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. Programs start at 6:30 p.m.

October 5: Annual Chili Cookoff; Contact David Wofford if you'd like to enter!

October 12: Join us & make "College Care Packages" for our college age St. James members

October 19: Stop Hunger Now Event

October 26: 3rd Annual Trunk Fest

For more information about these events and other St. James UMC-sponsored events, please visit [www.stjamesatlanta.org](http://www.stjamesatlanta.org) or contact the church office at (404) 261-3121.

## Lunch Bunch Begins: 3s & PreK!

Join us beginning  
October 3!

For \$7 per day, your child can enjoy an extra hour of food and fun at St. James. Pack a light snack for your child (remember, no nuts!), and enjoy a little extra time to yourself! Look for Sign-Up Materials in your child's backpack.

Please  
Join Us  
on Oct  
20th....

### St. James Open House

Share a good meal. A fun time. And great interaction with teachers, preschool staff and fellow preschool parents.

**6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**

**Dinner in Fellowship Hall**

Watch for more information in your child's backpack!

### After St. James, What?

Barbara Levy & Fontaine Draper with Education Connection will be at St. James to share information on finding the right school for your child. They will also entertain parent questions related to the selection process.

**9:30 a.m**

# october 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 Lunch Bunch Begins (3s & PreK)	4	5	6 Atlanta School Fair, 6:00 p.m., The Lodge @ Peachtree Presbyterian Church	7	8
9	10 <b>Columbus Day NO SCHOOL</b>	11	12 Prospective Parents Open House, 9:30 a.m., Church Parlor	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 <b>Staff Meeting NO LUNCH BUNCH</b>	20 After St. James, What? Education Connection, 9:30 a.m. Open House & Dinner 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Halloween Parade (T/TH classes) Fellowship Hall 9:30 a.m.	28 Halloween Parade (M/W/F classes) Fellowship Hall 9:30 a.m.	29
30	31					

plan ahead!

## november

- 7 Fall Conferences (Young 3s, 3s & PreK)  
SCHOOL CLOSED for conferences
- 8 SCHOOL CLOSED for Election Day
- 10 Individual Pictures (T/TH classes)
- 11 Individual Pictures (M/W/F classes)
- 16 Staff Meeting; NO LUNCH BUNCH
- 14 & 15 Speech & Hearing Screening (3s and older)
- 23 - 25 SCHOOL CLOSED for Thanksgiving
- 28 - Dec 2 Scholastic Book Fair

### Noteworthy Ideas?

If you have ideas for future St. James newsletters, contact Ann Cooper, PR Coordinator: [ann\\_eyman@yahoo.com](mailto:ann_eyman@yahoo.com).

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