



September 2019

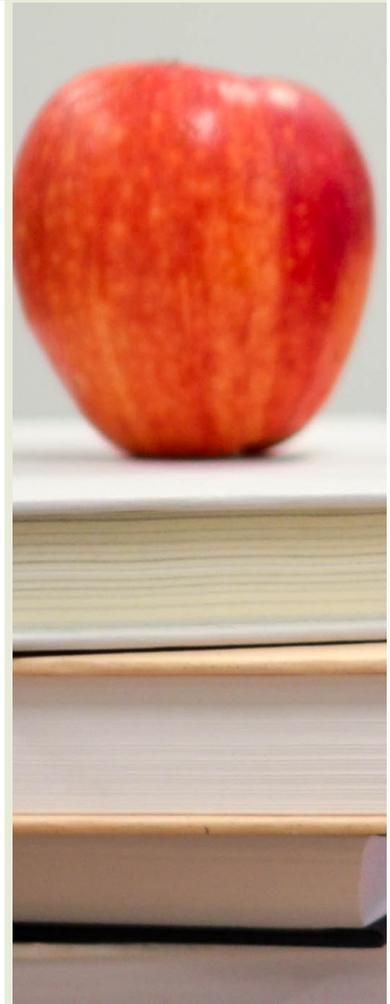
Head of School's Hot Topics

WELCOME BACK!

It's mid way through the first week of school and I am seeing many happy faces, both on children and parents. My hat goes off to our Green Room teachers who are working beautifully with one of our youngest classes (the age group when separation anxiety is in full swing). They are so patient with these babies and each day it gets better and better. What a great start to our new school year!!

Upcoming Dates:

- Sept. 4 PTF meeting, 8:30-9:30 AM, Wright House
- Sept. 9 Grandparents Day, 8:30-9:30 AM
- Sept. 12-13 River Kids Hearing, Vision, and Speech Screenings
- Sept. 18 Family Picnic, 5:30-7:00 PM, Big Playground
- Oct. 1 & 2 Children's School Photos (individual and class)
- Oct. 4 & 5 Conscious Discipline Training
- Oct. 14 First Parent Conferences – No School



Head Of School's
Educational Corner

This month's topic:

*Play! The Purpose
Behind the Fun*

on

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GRANDPARENTS DAY

According to *Legacy3*, there are 3 purposes for National Grandparents Day: 1) to honor grandparents 2) to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children and 3) to help children become aware of the strength, information and guidance older people can offer.

We too believe it is important to recognize those in our lives who bring our traditions, values, and purpose to life. Please invite your parents to join us for a quick celebration on Sept. 9, 8:30-9:30 AM. We'll start in the grandchild's classroom and then go to our playground to finish the hour.

PTF Meeting: Did you know that your child can attend Early Birds for free, if you attend the PTF meeting? Just call the office and let us know to expect your child, and we'll take it from there. First meeting, Sept. 4, 8:30-9:30 AM.

River Kids Screenings:

You will have the option to sign-up your child, ages 3-5 years, for hearing, vision, and/or speech screenings. Look for the forms in your child's cubby on Tuesday. There will be a make-up day on Sept. 19.

River Kids, <http://riverkidstexas.com/>, is a private home health company specializing in providing speech, physical, and occupational therapy for

young children who might need additional support in any of those areas. River Kids will come to your home or they will come to the school to provide the therapy.

Family Picnic

Hosted by our Parent Teachers Friends Committee and meant to be a wonderful time for fellowship with old and new friends. The Hot Dog King will serve hot dogs (and promised to bring extra support this time), along with Kona Ice for a special treat. Feel free to bring extended family or neighbors.





Housekeeping items:

Security gates – gate repairs are expensive, so we ask for your help in:

Not allowing your children to ride the gates. It causes them to become misaligned and therefore won't close properly

Not allow your children to punch in the codes. An unexpected open gate can lead to supervision issues.

Gabi's email is now gabi@stgeorges-asutin.com

Birthday Books

Don't forget about our Birthday Book Program. As a way to replace our books that have been so loved, we offer you a chance to donate a book to our library by purchasing a book for your child's birthday. This dedicated book will be labeled with your child's name, read to your child on or near their birthday, and left in your child's classroom. The book will eventually wind up in our school library for all children to have a chance to love it too. Choose [Birthday Book](#) and learn more on how to purchase.

SPIRIT DAY!

Friday is Spirit Day!! All staff and children are encouraged to wear a St. George's T-shirt. Shirts can be purchased [here](#). The school receives a percentage of all products purchased from the Zazzle Store.

Conscious Discipline

If anyone is interested in this 2 day training, you can sign up [here](#). The Austin Chapter is sponsoring this incredible opportunity. Two of our teachers are going, and two went last year. Brandy has been trained in Conscious Discipline techniques and mentors to our teachers on how to use it appropriately.

Parent Conferences

During parent conferences, we will offer babysitting for children enrolled in our school, while you conference with your child's teacher. Unfortunately, during our business hours we cannot babysit children not enrolled. I'm sorry for any inconvenience this might cause.

Please keep in mind, we schedule parent conferences on a school holiday, so our teachers can spend face to face time with each family and discuss your child's growth and development. We cannot promise to re-schedule outside of that day as it requires us to cover the teacher during his/her teaching time.

PLAY! THE PURPOSE BEHIND THE FUN

At St. George's, you hear us say things like, "children learn through play", "we are a play-based school", "play is important", but what do we really mean?

Play is a part of a child's everyday life. And it is through this play that children learn pre-academic skills that will lay the foundation for future learning. Research says that children who engage in uninterrupted play for 50-60 minutes a day score higher in literacy and math than in controlled classrooms.

When teachers are purposeful with the play activities, what they place in the learning centers in their classrooms, and outdoors, children learn cooperation, problem solving, language, and math. They also develop memory, curiosity, self-esteem, strength and coordination, self-direction, and values.

The role of the teacher is to:

- engage the children in creative, open-ended play experiences that are child centered.
- help children build friendships
- provide multi-purpose props in dramatic play to spark imagination
- when children are wondering around the room, help them plan their play
- talk about the people in our community and not just the things
- provide a variety of activities for boys and girls

The teacher also needs to understand the levels of social play in order to help children build language, increase vocabulary, and learn cooperation. These stages begin as early as one and by the time they are five we hope to see the most advanced level of play—Cooperative Play. The levels we look for are:

- Solitary play—children play alone and independently with toys that different from those used by children within speaking distance. The child pursues his own activity without reference to what others are doing.
- Parallel Play—The child plays independently with toys that are like those which the children around him are using, but he plays beside rather than with other children.
- Associative Play—The child plays with other children. The conversation concerns the common activity; there is a borrowing and loaning of play material; following one another with trains or wagons; mild attempts to control which children may or may not play in the group. All children engage in similar, if not identical, activity.
- Cooperative Play—The child plays in a group that is organized for the purpose of making some material product, or striving to attain some competitive goal, or dramatizing situations of adult and group life, or playing formal games. There is a marked sense of belonging or not belonging to the group. The control of the group is in the hands of one or two of the members. The efforts of one child are supplemented by those of another.