



GRACE CHURCH

OF WEST FELICIANA PARISH

17 May 2018

Grace Preschool Staff and Parents  
2018-2019 Academic Year

Dear Staff and Parents of our Returning and New Students,

As our preschool year wraps up, I find myself reflecting on the various factors that made 2017-2018 such a successful year: Our excellent curriculum and the expert teaching of Diana Weller; our Music Program, a favorite of our children, led lovingly by Nancy Hendrick; our Afternoon Guided Play Program, led by Mrs. Gretchen Eppling, a maverick Pied Piper; our Preschool Chapel, taught by Meg Kendrick and I; our story time and library days, led by Grace volunteer, Sharon Gauthier, and the WFP Library staff; the love and care of our excellent staff; and the support of Grace Church's vestry. Most importantly, however, the greatest factor in our success were the children themselves. We had an excellent class and it has been a true honor to watch these precious little children grow in faith, social skills, and academic abilities.

Now, we look forward to 2019. This will be a year of opportunities and enhancements. First, we will welcome Lisa Foster as our new Preschool Director. Lisa is a certified teacher with two years of teaching experience. She is in the process of training a team that will include Stacy Loyacono, Alyssa Louis, Madison Pollet, a yet-to-be announced assistant teacher, and herself. We will also have Sharon, Gretchen, and Nancy return for another year of their beloved support programs. Children's Chapel will continue every Wednesday and the several field trips we do every year will take place as usual.

This will also be a year of enhancements to our physical plant, as some of you have already heard. We are currently undergoing major restoration in Grace Church, after which we will undergo major restoration in Jackson Hall and our kitchen. As of yet, we have not obtained construction bids for our restoration, so it is a bit premature to announce the dates of construction. As soon as we have these dates we will announce them to all of you. I do want to reassure you that the construction will not interfere with or limit our preschool program in any way. We have a committee composed of Dr. Pat Schnider, Leslie Daniel, Lisa Foster, Meg Kendrick and myself who will work closely with our Architects and builders to ensure that the Preschool remains undisturbed during construction. That subcommittee will keep you abreast of all construction as it unfolds. You will hear more information about this in the upcoming months.

Lastly, I want to encourage you all to remain involved in our Preschool. Get to know your child's teachers, volunteer to drive and chaperone events, ask questions about your child's progress, let us know of any difficulties your child may be having at home, and keep us informed of any major changes that might affect your child's behavior. We want to partner with you to care for your child in a comprehensive way. We want to nurture our children's intellectual, social, spiritual, and physical life. Please call me if you have any questions. Blessings and welcome to a new academic year.

The Very Rev'd Dr. Roman D. Roldan  
Head of School and Rector