

St. Peter's Preschool Newsletter

December 2024



From the Director's Chair-By Rita Dai Wang

Parents' Night Out: We have a few more spots open for Parents' Night Out this Friday 12/6! You drop your kids off at school, we feed and love on them, and you get a kid-free night to do whatever you want. Registration form below.

Donuts With Dad: How can you go wrong with donuts, coffee, and hot chocolate? Dads, grandpas, uncles, and other special adults invited. RSVP at <https://forms.gle/rjcYGzWTQUXcm5mg8>

Christmas Singalongs: Come one, come all to our Christmas Singalongs! We are hard at work teaching kids holiday songs to perform for you in our beautiful St. Peter's Chapel. All family members invited. We hope you will be able to attend!

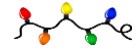
Registration: Believe it or not, planning for the 2025-26 school year is underway. Registration information for next year will be coming home before Christmas Break. This information will also be posted on our website by mid-December. We offer a \$50 referral bonus to families whose recommendations result in a new enrollment. Thank you in advance for spreading the word about our great school!

Registration Dates:

- 1/6/25 - Registration opens to *PLEDGING MEMBERS OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH*
- 1/13/25 - Registration opens to *CURRENT FAMILIES*
- 1/20/25 - Registration opens to *FORMER FAMILIES*
- 1/27/25 - Registration opens to the *GENERAL PUBLIC*

Self-Help Skills: One of our priorities at St. Peter's is to help children learn to be self-sufficient. To this end, we encourage them to hang up backpacks and coats in their cubbies, open their lunch containers, clean up their spills, etc. They need to practice these important skills so they can grow up to become independent adults. See the article below for ideas on how you can help foster self-sufficiency at home.

Dates to Remember



12/5 Jump Bunch – 4's in school field trip

12/6 Parents' Night Out 5:30-8:00

12/12 Donuts With Dad – 2's/4's, 9:30

12/13 Donuts With Dad – 3's, 9:30

12/15 Children's Christmas Pageant during St. Peter's Church service 9:45

12/18 Christmas Singalong – 3's/4's, 12:40 (no Extended Day)

12/19 Christmas Singalong – 2's, 12:40

12/24 St. Peter's Church Children's Christmas Service 4:30

12/23-1/3 Christmas Break

1/6 School resumes

Happy Birthday!



12/1 James

12/2 Isla

12/3 Greer

12/6 Haley

12/10 Mylah

12/27 Ms. Mina



During inclement weather, St. Peter's Preschool will follow Howard County Public Schools' (HCPSS) closing and delay policy.

- If Howard County Schools are closed, St. Peter's will be closed.
- If Howard County Schools have a two-hour delay, St. Peter's will be closed.
- If Howard County Schools have a one-hour delay, St. Peter's will open at 10:30.

If worsening weather causes HCPSS to close during the school day, St. Peter's may also close early, depending on the situation. We will notify parents of any changes via email, Facebook, phone call, or text.

Even if HCPSS is open, there may be times that we arrive at school to find our driveway or parking lot icy and unsafe. In that situation, you may receive a phone call stating that St. Peter's is closed. We will give you as much notice as possible. Also, our driveway can become extremely slippery, so feel free to use Smith Ave (the 'street' next to our driveway on the left) because it is not as steep.

If you would feel more comfortable picking your child up early or not bringing him/her to school at all due to weather concerns, we completely understand. The safety of your children is our highest priority.



We hope you have a wonderful holiday with your family!





St. Peter's Preschool
Friday, 12/6/24
5:30-8:00pm

Please return by Tuesday 12/3/24

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Best Phone number(s) to reach you: _____

Pizza, applesauce, and a juice box will be served.

Does your child(ren) have any allergies or special needs that we need to be aware of?

___ No ___ Yes (if Yes please list and explain)

Payment Information

Please submit payment along with this form. Please pay in exact cash or checks made out to St. Peter's Episcopal School.

\$30 first child; \$15 each additional sibling (siblings 2-10 years only, maximum payment \$60/family)

_____ total amount paid

Due to the popularity of this event and our limited space, registration will be limited to a total of 30 children.

Consent and Authorization

I understand that I will be notified in case of emergency. However, in the event that I cannot be reached, I authorize the calling of 911/medical services in the event my child is injured or becomes ill. I do not hold St. Peter's staff or facility liable for any injury my child may incur while I am away. St. Peter's will not be responsible for medical expenses incurred; such expenses will be my responsibility. St. Peter's assumes no personal liability in case of accident or sickness, and I consent to allow my child to participate in Parents' Night Out.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

The Importance of Raising a Self Sufficient Child

From *SleepingShouldBeEasy.com*

Sep 02, 2021

Are you doing too much for your kids? Learn the importance of **raising a self sufficient child** and tips to encourage independence.

HOW TO RAISE YOUR CHILD TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT



Sometimes we assume kids still need our help with everything. We save them from struggle, making it easy to overlook the importance of self sufficiency.

After all, taking a step back to allow them to try is *hard*.

We save five minutes to tie their laces ourselves than teaching them how to do it. We avoid the big messes that follow when they feed themselves. And we feel needed and can't believe how quickly they're growing up.

The importance of raising a self sufficient child

But at some point, our kids will demand to do things themselves. Or they're forced to, especially if we're welcoming a new baby and need them to be more independent.

Encouraging self sufficiency is crucial to raising the future adults we want them to be. Raising a self sufficient child offers many benefits, such as:

1. Feeling confident

Imagine the delight of a three-year-old as she realizes she can wash, soap, and dry her own hands. Or the pride in a first-grader as she chooses which clothes to wear for the day.

Self sufficiency builds the confidence kids feel in being more independent. After all, being self sufficient is another achievement or milestone they reached. And especially after many tries, finally being able to do something themselves feels gratifying.

Your child will beam with confidence as you encourage self sufficiency. She gets to do what *you* had always done for her. He loves to feel grown up, and his self-confidence grows right alongside his self sufficiency.

2. Saving time

If you're like me, you'd rather undress your child for her than watch and wait what seems like forever for her to do it. Or she takes a good two minutes to tie her laces when you know you can do it in five seconds flat.

Doing everything for her is tempting when you know you can do it faster, especially when you're in a rush.

But in the long run, you'll save everyone more time by encouraging self sufficiency. Sure, she'll take two minutes to tie her laces the first few tries, but after a while, a miracle happens: she'll eventually do it in five seconds. By doing more for herself, she frees up *your* time.

I love that my kids can do so many things I used to have to do for them, like tying their laces, cleaning the bathroom, and washing the dishes. Yes, it took time to teach them how to do these things, but now that they've learned, their independence has saved *me* a lot of time.





3. Learning essential skills

We forget what our number one job is as parents. It's not to make our kids happy, or even provide them with everything we never had. It's to raise them to be future adults.

Think about it. If, after 18 years, your child still can't do the things most adults can, then that can't be a good thing. Practicing self-sufficiency now prepares her for many of the requirements she'll need as an adult.

Even as a child, she'll still need to learn skills to go through childhood independently. She needs to learn how to brush her own hair, cut her own food, or problem-solve without giving up.

Opportunities to be self sufficient teaches her important skills she'll need throughout life. Grit, [perseverance](#), independence, strategy, discipline, and a positive attitude are some examples.

How to raise a self sufficient child

Now that you know the importance of raising a self sufficient child, what are a few ways you can practice it at home? Below are a few ideas:

1. Doing chores

- **An easy chore to start is having your child wipe surfaces. You can spray while she wipes with a rag.**
- She can bring **dishes to the sink** after mealtimes. Teach her how to properly hold a plate so it doesn't spill crumbs.
- **Implement a cleanup time** where she put away toys on her own.

2. During mealtimes

- **Encourage your child to take the next step up.** If you're spoon-feeding your baby, scoop the food but put the spoon in her hand and guide it toward her mouth. If you've been cutting her sandwiches into bite-size pieces, slice it in quarters so she can bite it off.
- **Introduce new feeding items.** [Graduate from sippy cups to regular cups.](#) Introduce a fork so she can poke food. And allow her to use a child-friendly knife to cut her own meals.



3. Using the bathroom

- **See if your child can** pull his pants and undies **up and down to use the toilet.**
- Allow him to **turn on the faucet**, pump the soap, and scrub and dry his hands.
- Have him **undress himself for bath time** and place his dirty clothes in the hamper.

Conclusion

The thought of letting your child do things on her own can be scary. Between my husband and me, I tend to be the one who still does things for our kids. It's faster, less messy, and I can do it much more efficiently and effectively than they can.

But that's not the point. Raising a self-sufficient child isn't about who can get it done faster, cleaner, or quicker. It's about raising a child with the confidence and skills to do things on her own—no spoon-feeding necessary.

p.s. A fantastic children's book to read about self-sufficiency is [All By Myself by Mercer Mayer](#):

