



St. Edmund's Nursery School

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER – 2025

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” Anne Frank

Welcome to St. Edmund's Nursery School – We are so excited to get started! We have been working extremely hard over the summer to prepare a spectacular school year for your children. We can't wait to see our returning families and offer a warm welcome to our new families joining the SENS community!

September

Color: Yellow Number: #1 Shape: Circle

SENS Character Trait: Friendship / Respect

Bible Verse: “A friend always loves you.” Proverbs 17:17

Our wonderful staff is:

Pre K - Mrs. Leslie Long and Mrs. Lani Di Bona

Shining Stars - Mrs. Sylvia Grimes and Mrs. Carol Schraer

Friendly 4's - Mrs. Kelley Terrazas and Mrs. Michelle Alexander

Lucky Ducks - Mrs. Suzanne Holder and Mrs. Jeannie Lu

Zookeepers - Mrs. Angela Alo, Mrs. Rebekah Macleod and Mrs. Kristin Mitchell

Busy Bees - Mrs. Angela Hopf, Mrs. Sarah Schoettler and Mrs. Alyssa Kilpatrick

Bear Cubs - Mrs. Cheryl Elffers, Mrs. Erica Pegram and Mrs. Erin Ferraro

Musical Director: Mrs. Susan Norman

Administrative Assistant to the Head of School: Mrs. Angela Hopf / Mrs. Kelsey Sotomayor

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Lani Di Bona

Assistant to the Head of School and Staff: Mrs. Kelsey Sotomayor

Assistant to the Head of School and Administration: Mrs. Gloria Morales

Head of School: Mrs. Liz Westphal

Our Board of Directors are:

Rector – The Reverend Jenifer M. Chatfield, St. Edmund's Episcopal Church

Head of School – Liz Westphal

Chair – Ashley Paulus

Treasurer – Kathy Perez

Assistant Treasurer – Christine Le

Secretary – Morgan Clougherty

Publicity/Personnel – Danielle Herring

Community Development/Minor Fundraising – Samantha Fritch

Major Fundraising – Alex Bottala

Special Events and Room Parent Coordinator – Anne McGilvray

Enrichment – Amy Lechler

Building and Grounds – Kylie Bottala

Hospitality – Simone Haralambos

Long Range Planning & Annual Fund – Michael Noser

Fall Festival Chair – Carolina Kokoris

Vestry Representative – Linan Ukropina

Preschool Chaplain – The Reverend Susanne Wright-Nava

Upcoming Activities:

Class Playground Parties for the 3 year old classes, start time 9:00

Wednesday, September 3 – Zookeepers

Thursday, September 4 – Busy Bees

Friday, September 5 – Bear Cubs

Class Orientations, 5:00 and 6:00 pm. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and hear about the exciting year ahead. There will be Spirit Wear available to purchase at the Orientations. Please bring a check or cash to purchase. Adults only at Orientations, please.

Wednesday, September 10 – 5:00 pm – Pre-K – Fellows Hall

Wednesday, September 10 – 5:00 pm – Zookeepers – Cowan's Room/4 year old classroom

Wednesday, September 10 – 6:00 pm – Shining Stars – Fellows Hall

Thursday, September 11 – 5:00 pm – Busy Bees – Fellows Hall

Thursday, September 11 – 6:00pm – Bear Cubs – Fellows Hall

Monday, September 15 – 5:00 pm – Lucky Ducks – Fellows Hall

Monday, September 15 – 6:00 pm – Friendly 4's – Fellows Hall

September 15 – Picnics start – 12:00-2:50

October 2 and 3 – Julie Lilly Photography – Picture Days

October 6 - Chapel for MWF classes and Shining Stars – 9:05

October 7 – Chapel for T/Th and Pre-K Classes – 9:05

October 9 and 10 – Our first Spirit Days, come in SENS t-shirts!

October 18 – Kindergarten & Elementary Options Event – Barnhart School – 9:00-11:00

Special Announcements:

- Save the date for our family **Fall Festival** – Friday, October 17th - More information to come!
- We encourage children to wear our SENS spirit gear every day (not just designated days) to show their SENS spirit. This allows children to “save” their other clothing from paint and play!
- On sunny days please remember to protect your child's skin with sunscreen!
- Please no open shoes, this includes Crocks.
- Please, no backpacks, water bottles, or other items from home.

Thank You!

St Edmund's Nursery School Signing "In and Out"

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Please read the following message very carefully! It pertains to every child in our school, each school day, and must be followed as outlined. This is a regulation of the State Department of Social Services requiring that every child in every preschool in California must be signed in and out by authorized persons, as designated by the parent, every time the child attends school. **(*school staff are not authorized to sign your child in or out of school.)**

- Each class is assigned a drop off/pick-up time frame. **Please only come at your designated drop-off or pick-up time.**

Arrival Times:

MWF

8:40am - Pre-K & Shining Star Arrival

8:45am - MWF 3 & 4 Year Old Classes Arrival

T/TH

8:40am - Pre-K & Shining Star Arrival

8:45am – 3 Year Old Classes Arrival

Pick-Up Times:

MWF

11:40am Pre-K & Shining Star Pick-Up

11:45am MWF 3 & 4 Year Old Class Pick-Up

T/TH

11:40am Pre-K and Shining Star Pick-Up

11:45am 3 Year Old Classes Pick-Up

The pick-up color cards are:

Pre-K - Pink

Shining Stars – Yellow

Friendly 4's – Orange

Lucky Ducks – Green

Zookeepers - Blue

Busy Bees - Orange

Bear Cubs - Green

Details for Arrival:

1. **Always enter the parking lot at the northern most driveway**, being sensitive to the cars behind you; don't let them hang out onto San Gabriel Blvd. Please avoid lingering at the entrance and please park in the first available space. **Please note the entrance and exit signs and do not park in the 3 designated parking spots.**
2. After parking, parents or caregivers will walk their child/children to the drop off line. For safety, please hold your child's hand (please do not carry them, as it makes separation more difficult).
3. Parents or caregivers will sign in their child/children using **BRIGHTWHEEL**, our mobile attendance program. Parents will select check in/out from their Brightwheel app and then scan the SENS unique QR code posted at drop off. Parents are then prompted for their personal 4 digit check-in code and electronic signature to complete the process. **(Signature in this process denotes child is free from illnesses, such as Covid-19, colds or flu, which include fever of 99.5°F or higher, dry cough, shortness of breath, chills, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, or muscle aches).**
4. If you arrive before your scheduled drop off time, please wait in your car until your designated time.
5. After your child/children are admitted into school, **exit the parking lot via the second (southern) driveway.**

Details for Pick-Up:

1. The Pre-K, Shining Star, Friendly 4's and Lucky Duck families have the option of walking in to pick-up their child. It is advised to park in the North lot (not on San Gabriel Blvd., due to heavy traffic and safety concerns). Walk on campus, staying next to the low brick wall alongside the church building. Do not walk through the large gate where the car line is driving. There is a small pedestrian gate at the end of the brick wall. Pre-K and Shining Star parents go directly to the courtyard to pick up their child. The Friendly 4's and Lucky Duck parents will walk through the courtyard to the crosswalk in front of their child's class to pick up their children.

Some Safety Rules for walk in pick up -

- Once you have signed your child out, they are in your supervision/care.
- Do not allow your child to play/run around in the courtyard or grass areas.
- Do not allow your child to press the green button to open the San Gabriel gate. Only Adults are allowed to use this button.
- Never walk through the large gate where the car line is entering campus.

Due to the location of the Zookeepers, Busy Bees and Bear Cubs dismissal locations, and safety concerns, there will not be walk-in pick up for the 3 year olds. The car line will form along Gainsborough and onto San Gabriel Blvd. before entering campus.

2. Parents and caregivers will sign their child or children out using **BRIGHTWHEEL**.
3. If you are picking up children from multiple classes, please arrive at the earliest scheduled time to collect all of your children. Ex: If you have a Pre-K student and a Young 3 student, please arrive at 11:40 for both children.
4. **PLEASE stay in your car**, the teachers will bring your child/carpool to your car.
5. The teachers would love to talk to each of you about your children, but long conversations at dismissal time will only delay everyone. Should you desire to talk to your teacher, please feel free to arrange a time with your teachers other than dismissal time.
6. Remember for the safety of all, **no cell phones are allowed in the carpool line, including hands free.** We hope this will make it safe for all the children and parents.
7. **NEW THIS YEAR - For our T/TH classes and the MWF classes, please make sure car seats are placed on the right-hand side so that no teacher and child will need to pass between vehicles to get your child safely into the car.** Parents in the Pre-K, Shining Stars, Friendly 4's and the Lucky Duck classes may park and walk in for pick up. **If any of our Shining Star or Pre-K parents choose to drive through for pick-up please make sure to have the car seat for your child on the left-hand side of the vehicle so that no teacher and child will need to pass between vehicles to get your child safely into the car.**

If these safety measures are not followed, we will discontinue walk-in pick up. Thank you so much for your adherence to this safety procedure.

SENS staff are NOT allowed to check your child in or out on Brightwheel. You must know how to use the app and be sure that anyone that is scheduled to drop off or pick up your child has the app on their phone and knows how to use it.

If you arrive late:

Parents will need to enter through the San Gabriel gate. Please go directly to Liz's office through the red doors and follow the regular check in process using BRIGHTWHEEL and scanning the SENS unique QR code hanging in the office. A SENS Administrator will escort your child to class.

On rainy days, everyone will drive through for arrival, just like at regular dismissal.

St. Edmund's Nursery School

Hand Washing

Reminding your child to wash his/her hands with soap and water should be an everyday routine practiced many times a day. Sometimes we all forget that you are actually washing away unseen germs that can make you and your child ill. Germs can spread many illnesses quickly; colds, sore throats, flu, conjunctivitis (pink eye), impetigo and covid, just to name a few. Proper hand washing with liquid soap should become a habit that you and your child practice together to help fight the spread of unwanted germs.

When should hands be washed with liquid soap and warm water?

1. Before and after diapering (baby's hands too).
2. After toileting.
3. Before preparing food.
4. Before and after eating meals or snacks.
5. After playing outdoors.
6. After blowing a nose or covering a cough.
7. After house cleaning.
8. Before and after treating cuts or scratches.
9. After handling pets.

Washing hands together can be a pleasant and soothing way to set the tone for the next event and time to engage in special one on one conversation with your child. To develop your child's hygiene awareness and important language skills, you may wish to talk with your child about proper hand washing steps:

1. Use warm running water to wet hands
2. Rub hands together with soap to work up a lather, scrubbing the backs and fronts of your hands, in between your fingers, and under your nails to help kill germs in their favorite hiding places. You should spend at least 20 seconds washing your hands.
3. Rinse your soapy hands well with warm running water.
4. Dry hands with a clean paper towel. When finished, throw towel away.

Start practicing these tips with your child early in his/her life to help promote good hygiene habits.

Happy Hand washing!

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PICNIC INFORMATION 2025-2026

St. Edmund's Nursery School will be offering picnics on **Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday** afternoons starting September 15th through May 29th. These picnic afternoons are from 12:00 to 2:50p.m. and all children enrolled at St. Edmund's are welcome to attend any days throughout the month. Please be sure your child is picked up no later than 2:50pm. There will be a late charge of \$15 for any child picked up after 2:55pm.

Each child should bring their own lunch in a bag or lunchbox with their first and last name on the outside. AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE, NO PEANUT BUTTER OR NUT PRODUCTS ARE ALLOWED. The school will serve water or you may provide your own healthy choice.

Sign-ups for Picnic Days will be sent home through both email and a paper sign up mid-month for the following month's picnic. All sign ups are first come, first served. Price per picnic is \$38. If you turn in your picnic invoice after the date it is due, picnic will be upped to \$42 per picnic. Once a picnic is full, that day is closed to additional sign ups; this is for staffing purposes so that we may maintain a safe and optimal ratio of teachers to kids. If spaces become available, there will be a signup at the gate in the morning during check in. A minimum of 8 children is required to have a picnic afternoon.

The cost of each picnic is \$38.00.

Picnic information will be discussed and your questions answered at all the class orientations.

If you have any further questions, you can email Kelsey Sotomayor at stedmundsinfo@gmail.com

From the Church



Associate Rector, and Chaplain of our School, C. Susanne Wright-Nava+

I have a unique view here at the crossroads of our church and our school. As the Chaplain of St. Edmund's Nursery School, I have watched the community grow in our monthly chapels. Last year, our little chapel was jammed packed with students, teachers, parents, siblings, and grands. We are sharing the Good News of Jesus with the SENS community each day and we are seeing the fruits of our labor in tangible ways; our school is now a Spirit-filled worshipping community in its own right! Join us for our first Chapel's 10/ 6 and 10/7!

I have the best job as your Chaplain. In fact, the children look forward to worship and Godly Play time almost as much as I do! I feel the Spirit moving here at St. Edmund's- among our youth and children, and with you, our nursery school families. My heart is full.

Peace and Love, Susanne+



Sunday School and Childcare, for young children

We have an exciting announcement for our community! We have been preparing to offer Sunday School every Sunday in the fall starting on October 5th! Several volunteers are being trained in Godly Play at the Diocese on September 18, 19, and 20. We will then bring what we have learned and share with the Sunday School volunteers on Sunday, Sept 21st with a brunch, and story-crafting session. Volunteer teachers, please RSVP for brunch on Sept. 21st: susanne@saintedmunds.org

We will have childcare available from Kick-off Sunday, Sept. 7th through Sept. 28th. Sofia Nava and Gloria Morales will be our childcare providers. The Sunday School program will begin the following Sunday, October 5th, in lieu of childcare.

Joyful Noise is our Sunday School Program created for little ones through 5th grade. We use Godly Play, a Montessori-based program incorporating storytelling, wonder, art, and play to introduce children to the

rhythms of Episcopal worship, Scripture, and the Way of Jesus. We invite older children to help facilitate story-telling and art projects during our time together. We rejoin the congregation in time for Eucharist.

Godly Play is a part of our curriculum for both SENS and for our Sunday school program, Joyful Noise. Godly Play can be deeply formational for children and adults facilitators alike. I am moved by the beauty of our shared narrative and the joy and wonder of sharing it with our children.

There will be a hiatus from 12/ 21 to 1/11 for Sunday School and Childcare

Youth Group at St. Edmund's

Our Youth Group welcomes young people between 6th and 12th grade for fun, fellowship, and service. We engage in faith-based discussions, creative expression, practical skills, and contemplative practices, to support growth and resilience. It is our dream that each of them will move on into adulthood with a deep sense of their own belovedness and a profound sense of mission.

We meet once a month, on Sunday afternoons.

Dates for Fall: 9/28, 10/26,

11/2 All Saint's Day, with Bishop's visitation, Baptisms and Confirmations- for more info, susanne@saintedmunds.org

11/23- Friendsgiving, communal meal and service project

11/30 Gingerbread House Making Event for families of all ages, RSVP, susanne@saintedmunds.org