 Preschool Director’s Letter

 Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year!

 I am excited to tell you about our new Preschool 4’s half-day class, “the Sea Turtles!” This class will be in the former ESC room and in the Fellowship Hall. Tammy Shelver, our new lead teacher, comes to us with an extensive Early Childhood background, as well as Child and Family Studies. She worked at Childhaven for 10 years. Tammy is energetic and bursting with ideas. I have known Tammy for the past 2 years. We have sat together many times on hard cold, outdoor bleachers, watching our sons in football and track. This is also where we learned we both share a love and passion for working with young children.

 Joining Tammy as her aide is Christi Sonheim. I have had the privilege of getting to know Christi the past several years as her children’s Preschool teacher. Christi has consistently been an active room parent and has also introduced us to many fun art projects. She also plays an active role at Hope Church with young children at VBS and recently accompanied, and worked alongside a large group of youth in Mexico building houses. My son was also on the Mission trip, and Christi acted as “Mom” to all the kids. She showed so much love to all the kids, and I for one, was thankful to have her looking after my kid!

 Tammy and Christi have been planning, brainstorming, cleaning, sorting and dreaming up whimsical ideas for making the new space come to life! They are busy bees, buzzing around, getting ready to grow our amazing program and invite more families to our school! Please join me in welcoming them!

 Our full day Preschool 4’s teacher is Mairi Seraile. She has worn many hats at Hope; preschool teacher for the past few years, preschool aide, and Extended Care Director for many years before that. She has 3 girls of her own and works hard to provide a fun environment for learning. Kids are drawn to Mairi’s bubbly personality and her exciting circle times!

 Ruth Gardner is Mairi’s aide. She has 2 daughters and has spent many years working with kids through church programs and girl scouts. Ruth loves art and provides creative settings to promote imagination and exploration.

 Carol Christian is returning to me as my Preschool 3’s aide! We started working together in these roles 8 years ago, and it is a treat to have her back. Carol has also been working at Hope the past few years as the Preschool Extended Care Aide. She is so talented and gifted at setting up inviting activities. And she has such a kind heart!

 As for me, I am the Preschool 3’s teacher and the Preschool Director. Each day I am thankful that God has placed me in a position to be with children. They are so honest and open. They remind me to be silly, to laugh, to truly own my emotions. I have 3 children and they are everything to me. So, I take this into consideration each day you drop off your child to us. Your child and your family are valued and loved!

 What a blessing that our preschool program is growing and expanding! The biggest blessing is that our growing preschool team has an even richer abundance of resources to foster your children and your family. We are here by God’s grace and love to serve! We look forward to learning and growing with each of you. At Hope School we emphasize the importance of love, kindness and empathy: “Fruits of the Spirit” – you’ll be hearing more about this throughout the years to come. ☺

 So, let’s create this new beginning together. Let’s step out of our comfort zone and meet new people, try new things. Let’s STRETCH, GROW, and LEARN!

Blessings,

Christina Figgins

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