

# WELCOME TO ST. THOMAS EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Friday, September 2, 2011

## Your Friday Newsletter from St. Thomas Early Learning Center

### First Week of School !!



Zoey's driving two friends!



Pre K loves blocks!



Time for Journal Writing!



Getting a cool drink and relaxing in Mrs. Calvin's Courtyard!

Mrs. Lawrence's Kindergarteners are listening and getting ready for the day's activities.

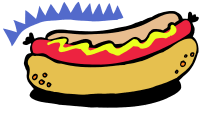
*We're off to a great start at St. Thomas!*



and painting!



**DON'T MISS THIS!**



## **Annual Hot Dog Picnic & Sunflower Art Show**

**Wednesday, September 28**



**11:00 Welcoming Chapel** with Rev. Rhoda Montgomery. All children will attend with their teachers, and we welcome all parents to join us for this beginning chapel service for our new school year. Enjoy walking through our **Sunflower Art Exhibit** featuring paintings from ALL of the children! Then at 11:30, we begin our **Hot Dog Picnic** on the school lawn. It's a big event, so plan now to attend with the whole family. Many of our former students will be joining us, too!

Please refer to the **Calendar on our website** at [www.stthomasehc.org](http://www.stthomasehc.org) for all other dates, including all school holidays.



**Will Heyman** and **Pablo Granados** are getting our classroom gardens ready for fall planting. Thanks so much!

Many thanks to **BLUE BAKER** for providing the lunch for our Teacher In-Service day in August. This

**THANK YOU**

generous lunch gave the teachers a delicious treat for our Noon Meal. Thanks to *Dave and Susan Fox* and **BLUE BAKER** for remembering our teachers and staff!

*We have amazing parents and volunteers at our lovely school! Thanks to these parents and many more who help make St. Thomas Early Learning Center such a wonderful school for the children!*



A Big Thank YOU to Rob Altman.....spreading many loads of mulch around our playground area, making St. Thomas ELC a beautiful place for your children to play and explore!



### Why Swing???

Children have a great need for physical exercise and activity and a chance to use their muscles to run, swing, jump, skate and ride a bike, and to be out in the fresh air and sunshine. They like to use their whole body when they play outdoors, and find such physical activities interesting and challenging.

#### Learning while swinging?

When children are pushed in a swing, or when they propel a swing themselves, they engage all of their muscles to hold on, balance and coordinate their body to the rhythm of moving back and forth.

Swinging provides children with first-hand knowledge and experience of cause and effect and of understanding spatial learning, such as up and down and back and forth. Also, while swinging, children get a chance to see the world from a new perspective. Plus.....it's FUN!!

[Comments or Questions?](#)

Mary Skow [muskow@stthomaselc.org](mailto:muskow@stthomaselc.org)

## Box Tops for Education

St. Thomas Early Learning Center will be participating in a year long fund raising effort this year called Box Tops for Education. The great thing about this project is that it doesn't require you to purchase anything extra. Many of the items you already buy at the grocery store have a Box Tops

for Education coupon on the box or can or bag somewhere. Just look for the little pink rectangle that says Box Tops on it. All you have to do is cut them out, collect them in a baggie or attach them to the Box Tops forms you received on the first day of school, and bring them to your child's classroom. St. Thomas will receive 10 cents for each BoxTop we collect and submit. I know that may not sound like a lot, but if every family collects 10-15 of these pink rectangles each month, then over the course of the year we will reach our goal of \$1000. In fact at HEB right now until September 6, if you purchase 10 BoxTops products at a time, they will give you a certificate at checkout worth 70 BoxTops! If every St. Thomas family does this, that would be at least \$700 the school would receive. It's that easy! At the website [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) you will find a list of products that have the coupons on them - things like Cheerios, Ziplocs, Pillsbury, Scott, Kleenex, Betty Crocker, Juicy Juice, Hefty, Nature Valley, Totinos, Gold Medal, Yoplait, Land O'Lakes, Hanes, Avery, Brita, etc. You'll find it's not hard to get in the habit of looking for the coupons and remembering to cut them out before you put them in your pantry or before you toss the empty container in the trash. And remember the opportunity to earn 70 Bonus BoxTops is available at HEB until next Tuesday. Some of the items are even on sale right now! Thank you for supporting St. Thomas. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Hilary Guillen (Abraham's mom) at [quillenmom@verizon.net](mailto:quillenmom@verizon.net) or 693-0822.

**Thanks, Hilary, for being our school coordinator for this!**

## News from Reverend Rhoda

(Nursery is provided for all events)

Sunday September 11th In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the terror attacks, St. Thomas is hosting a cultural fair and concert. Entitled "Convivencia" or living together, the fair and the concert will feature music and art representative of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish cultures. The fair runs from 4pm to 6pm in the church parish hall. The concert will be at 6pm in the church followed by a reception in the parish hall. This event is free and open to the public.

Sunday September 18th the Houston Chamber Choir will be featured in a concert benefitting the St. Thomas music program. Tickets are \$50 and are for sale in the church office or online at [www.HoustonChamberChoir.org](http://www.HoustonChamberChoir.org)

October 16, 23, 30th a three week class entitled "Parenting with Love and Logic" will be offered. Sundays 9:30 am to 10:15 am in the ministry center on the St. Thomas Campus. Cost for the class is \$5 per family per week. Nursery and programs for children are available during this time as well.

For more information about any of these events please contact the Rev. Rhoda Montgomery at [rhoda@stthomasbcs.org](mailto:rhoda@stthomasbcs.org)