



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Strong minds. Healthy hearts. Full spirits.

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This is a school of **firsts** and **onlys**.

All Saints' Episcopal Day School took a bold step forward in 1997 when it applied to be accredited by the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES). It was **the first stand-alone preschool** in this six state region to successfully meet and exceed the rigorous standards required by SAES, an association empowered by the Texas Education Agency to accredit schools.

It was the **first** accredited preschool in Austin to offer Before School Care beginning at 7:45 and After School Care ending at 5:30, five days a week. And, it was the **first** Episcopal preschool to offer a four-week Summer Camp session. It is the only Austin preschool to bring in nationally known speakers to lead professional development workshops for its own Faculty. Recognizing the value of continuing education for all teachers, the School invited faculty members from the other local preschools to take advantage of the opportunity to learn from different experts in early childhood education. This is the School's **first** year to offer a program for two-year olds and this class for Early Learners, like the other classes at All Saints', is of the highest quality.

Although there was **only** one award and preschools were not originally invited to apply for the Ken Bastian Award for Community Service, the School sent a letter to SAES asking that it respectfully consider that even preschoolers could develop a genuine and lasting "heart for others." All Saints' was awarded the Ken Bastian Award for the 2003 – 2004 school year, the **first preschool to win it**. Afterwards, SAES created 4 different categories for the award, including one for stand-alone preschools.

In 2016, Head of School Cindy La Porte was awarded the Ruth Jenkins Award from the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES). This prestigious award recognized and celebrated Cindy's leadership in and service to Episcopal schools for the past 29 years. Cindy is the **first head of a stand-alone preschool** in Austin to receive the award and one of only 14 individuals nationally to ever receive the Ruth Jenkins Award. And, she is the **only** Austin preschool Head to co-author a curriculum that was awarded the U.S. Department of Education's National Blue Ribbon Award, in the private schools division, for grades kindergarten through eighth. Cindy is also the **only early childhood head** to be invited to write an article for the second edition of the NAES book, *Reasons for Being, The Culture and Character of Episcopal Schools*.

And now in 2017, the School has earned another **first**. For the first time ever, SAES will present at its Biennial Conference on October 26, the Connie Wootton Teaching Awards for Excellence in Education. Orange Room Teacher and Chaplain Melanie "Mo" Kowalik will be the **first winner in the preschool division**. The award honors Mo for displaying a passion for teaching and innovation as well as always striving to help her students achieve their personal best.

The School has just finished everything necessary to continue its accreditation through SAES. This is the third time the School has completed a year long Self Study and has hosted an On-Site Visiting Team for a three day visit on campus. Although the School will celebrate its 71st birthday this year, there is nothing old school about **this** preschool. It continues to be identified by SAES and NAES as a school that is always looking to improve itself and as a result, **is recognized as a leader in early childhood education in this city, state, region, and nation**.

You be the **first, but not the only**, to share this amazing information with your friends.

BOARD CORNER - SEPTEMBER 2017

Welcome to the new school year. I am so pleased that our returning families are back, and that we have so many new families this year. We are also blessed with the addition of a very vibrant class for two-year olds class in the Red Room. The addition of the Early Learners to the School meant that every space in the facility was considered anew. Cindy and the full Faculty worked exceptionally hard over the summer to make sure that the space truly fit the needs of the School. They cleaned, sorted, reorganized, and have succeeded in making the space functional and attractive. If you have not already, please take a moment to walk around the School, view all their hard work, and thank the Faculty for all they do to make sure the students have a wonderful year.

I have been part of the All Saints' Community for more than 20 years, but this year I have the pleasure of being a Day School parent for the first time. As a friend of the School, I have always been impressed with the quality of our Faculty, but that feeling has increased exponentially now that my child is attending the All Saints'. The careful preparation and planning that the staff did made the start of my son's first year an exciting, fun, and smooth transition.

The 2017-2018 school year is my second year on the Board of Trustees, and the beginning of my tenure as President of the Board. You may be wondering, as I did before joining the Board, "Who is on the Board? What are their responsibilities? What does a Trustee do? What can I expect from them?"

The Board of Trustees is comprised of nine members; the members are drawn from current and former parents and other family members, and All Saints' parishioners. Father Mike Adams, Rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church, is the Chairman of the Board. Trustee's responsibilities are set out in the School's by-laws and policies and procedures documents. To paraphrase a line from those documents, each Trustee holds in trust the welfare of the School and is responsible for promoting and supporting the School in its mission.

The Board is responsible for the governance of the School. The Board determines and preserves the School's mission and purpose - if you have not seen the recently revised mission and purpose printed just inside the double red doors, please to take a moment and read them. The Board provides financial oversight, and is responsible for ensuring that the School has adequate resources and facilities to carry out its mission.

The Trustees are responsible for supporting our Head of School, Cindy La Porte. The Head of School is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school. Cindy is the Chief Executive Officer of the Day School. Board members have the difficult task of staying focused on the governance and "big picture" for the School, and not getting involved in the work of management. Any questions about the School's operation should go through the Head of School.

To help elucidate the difference between the Board's responsibilities and Cindy's responsibilities, please consider the recent addition of our Early Learners class. The Board made the decision to add two-year olds to the School. Together Cindy and the Board determined that the two-year old class would be two days per week, and set tuition. Cindy, as Head of School, decided what room the class would be in, hired Brenna to teach the class, collaborated with Brenna to develop the curriculum, and worked with the Faculty and Staff to integrate the new class into the daily logistics of the School.

The full Board meets once per month during the school year, and as needed during the summer break. There are multiple committees that allow the Board to work efficiently; Finance Committee, Head Support Committee, and Development Committee to name a few. Members of the committees meet, gather information, and bring recommendations to the Board for decision.

I have not forgotten the fourth and maybe most interesting question that I posed earlier, "What can I expect from the Board of Trustees?" You can expect that each member is committed to the integrity of the School. You can expect each Trustee to be a custodian of the School's mission and purpose. You can expect us to advocate for and promote the School at every opportunity. You can expect that, to the best of our ability, we will make decisions to maintain and improve the School, preserving the School for future generations.

It is an honor to serve All Saints' Episcopal Day School, and I look forward to a wonderful school year.

Best regards,

LisaDiane Etheredge

President, Board of Trustees

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All Saints' does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, religion, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its admissions and education policies, financial assistance programs, employment practices, and other school-administered programs.

Day School Mission Statement

*The mission of
All Saints'
Episcopal Day
School
is to educate
the minds and
hearts of children
by providing a
developmentally
appropriate
curriculum
that fosters a
love of learning
in a spiritually
inclusive
environment.*

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