

First Immanuel expands Early Childhood Program

CEDARBURG — First Immanuel Lutheran School, W67 N622 Evergreen Blvd., expanded its Early Childhood Programs for the 2015-16 school year. The expansion included a school-year-long program for 2-year-olds and a full school day program for 3- to 5 year-olds.

The program for 2-year-olds, First Steps 2K, offers families an educational option for their children to experience an early start to the preschool experience. The other new program, Pre-K School Day, offers families an educational option with longer days that allows their children additional time to spend on curricular activities. The approach taken by this multi-age group program is developmental with a focus on enhanced personal and social development; language rich experiences; mathematical explorations; and problem solving.

According to First Immanuel's admissions director, Teresa Hajdu, the expansion has allowed the school to serve many families who are new to the school and almost 50 students are enrolled in the new programs. Hajdu added, "The community's interest in these programs has been marvelous. We were able to offer families a variety of unique program and class options and I think they really appreciated that."

The school added to their Early Childhood Program teaching team as part of the expansion.

Denise Kegley was hired as the lead teacher for the new Pre-K School Day

program and will also serve as Early Childhood Programs director. She brings 25 years in the teaching ministry to FIL. Kegley has taught all grades within her PK-6th grade teaching license, most recently teaching second grade at Our Redeemer Lutheran in Wauwatosa. Kegley graduated from the LCMS School Leadership Development program in 2014. In 2011, Kegley was the SWD Early Childhood Teacher of the Year. She brings a passion for innovative strategies utilizing technology, literature, music and fun into her classroom.

In the traditional 3-year-old preschool program, Maria Steingart was hired as the lead teacher. She brings seven years of early childhood experience and was previously the lead teacher in First Immanuel's Extended & Summer Care Programs. Her philosophy for education focuses on hands-on learning using literacy, music and multi-modal activities in an exciting, fun environment.

Martina Buchberger was hired as the lead teacher in the First Steps 2K program. A graduate of Concordia University Wisconsin, she brings years of early childhood experience to the classroom. Her educational background and know-how for creating an environment where even the youngest learners are encouraged to grow mentally, physically, socially and spiritually are the building blocks of the program.

For more information, contact Hajdu, via email at thajdu@fils.org or at 377-6610.



Denise Kegley



Maria Steingart



Martina Buchberger