

# St. Matthew's 2009 Pumpkin Patch News



Dear Parents,

**Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**, is our Pumpkin-Picking, Family-Fun outing to Belvedere Plantation southeast of Fredericksburg. Each family will drive or carpool down, and a map and directions follow. If you are not able to drive or attend, you may be able to find another family in your class who would provide transportation and supervision for you. Let your teacher know if you would like to ride with another parent, or whether you are willing to share a ride. **There will be NO CLASSES at St. Matthew's on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Tuesday / Thursday children are encouraged to attend even though Wednesday is not a regular class day for them. Their teachers will be at the Pumpkin Patch, expecting to welcome them. There WILL BE class as usual on Tuesday and Thursday, October 6 & 8.

Friends and siblings are also welcome. Their fees must be paid in advance as described below.

## Here are a few things children (and adults) will be able to do at Belvedere:



- see and touch the farm animals at the petting zoo (Feed is available, so bring quarters.)
- take a hay ride to the pumpkin field where the pumpkins are waiting on the vine
- choose and pick a pumpkin to take home (included in the price of the day)
- swing on the ropes in the Fun Barn
- slide, climb, crawl and ride on play equipment
- enjoy a picnic (bring your own bag lunch or buy from the concession stand - see below)

[www.belvedereplantation.com](http://www.belvedereplantation.com) has more information and photos

**Schedule:** You may make arrangements with other parents to leave from St. Matthew's parking lot, or drive to Belvedere directly. To reduce hurry and stress - **allow an hour for the trip**. Because teachers with two classes have trouble being in two places at once, we've arranged the schedule to enable them to share the experience with both their classes. The Pumpkin Patch closes at 2 PM which means that the 11 AM group has less time after picking and lunching to enjoy the barn rope swing, petting zoo, and playground. You might plan to arrive at 10 AM and do those things before you get on a wagon to go picking.

- **10 AM groups:** If your child has one of the following teachers, plan to meet her at Belvedere at 10 AM: Jeralyn Lorenz (AM & PM class), Jenni Booth, Jen McLaughlin, Christa Wallace, Pat Victorson, Diane Hughes.
- **11 AM groups:** If your child has one of the following teachers, plan to meet at Belvedere at 11 AM: Patti Parente, Tina Occhiuzzo (2-day & 3-day), Kathy Lundgren, Tina Wyckoff, Lisa Dravvorn.

**ALL PUMPKIN PATCH MONEY IS DUE BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 (M(T)W(Th)F classes), or TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 (T/Th classes).**

To simplify matters for Belvedere, money is collected in advance. Enclose the form (at the end of this note) and your payment in a sealed envelope, and send it to school in your child's tote. The fee for adults is \$6, for children 2 and over \$8.50 (Children under 2 who wish to pick a pumpkin, \$3.00). (You may send cash or a check made payable to St. Matthew's Day School.)

Belvedere Plantation is located 7 miles southeast of Fredericksburg on Route 17. Take I-95 to Exit 126. Turn onto Route 17 south and drive 6 miles past the flashing light at New Post. Continue straight ahead on Route 17 for 1 mile to the entrance on the left. See the map below or on [www.belvedereplantation.com](http://www.belvedereplantation.com) , or key "1410 Belvedere Drive, Fredericksburg" into your GPS.

Once at Belvedere Plantation, park and look for one of your teachers holding your child's class sign. Join her and proceed as a group. If you miss joining your class at the beginning, it's no problem - tag along with another class. The folks at Belvedere suggest class-groups as an easy way to divide people for the hayride and petting zoo, etc. But there will be opportunity to meet and visit with your teachers and the others in your class, before and after the tours.

Each year has its own surprises. Sometimes we pick pumpkins first and then drive to another area for the fun barn tour, sometimes the sequence is reversed. One year, because of wet field conditions, we gathered already-picked pumpkins. Since it's difficult to predict exactly what will happen, be open to a little adventure.

**A FEW NOTES -**

Tours are held even during a light rain by using covered wagons and eating lunch indoors. Since Belvedere closes its doors to other groups when we visit, it may be impossible to reschedule. If the weather looks threatening, the "farmer" will call us the morning of the tour. IF we have to cancel, we will put an announcement on our answering machine, after 8:00 AM, and will put a notice on the Day School website [www.stmatthews.us](http://www.stmatthews.us). We WILL have classes, if the trip is cancelled.

Wear your oldest shoes if it's been wet.

The straw in the barn clings to clothing, so if it's chilly, a jacket is preferable to a sweater. The barn has an irresistible swing and lots of hay to jump into. Take your medication if you have an allergy.

As mentioned, you may bring a picnic lunch. There are tables and an area where blankets may be spread. If you'd rather not fix your own lunch, there will be lunch and refreshments available to buy (Items such as hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, Bar-B-Q, chips, ice cream, pretzels, popcorn, and beverages can be expected.) If you think you'll be buying, please indicate that on the form at the end of this letter. Belvedere needs an estimate of how many folks to prepare for. You'll pay for food items at Belvedere, when and if you purchase them.

There are also gourds, pumpkins, delicious fresh baked and frozen pies, jams, and beautiful mums for sale in the market.

The Patch closes at 2 PM. You may linger or leave, as your schedule demands.

ONCE AGAIN: Send your fee in by October 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> - \$8.50 for each child age 2 & over (\$3. for child under 2 who wishes to pick a pumpkin –non-participating infants under 2 are admitted free) adults \$6.00 each.

Please put the form and your money in an envelope with your child's name outside. **(Make checks payable to St. Matthew's.)** Remember, siblings and friends are welcome to share this day with us, just include their fees with yours.

*1410 Belvedere Dr., Fredericksburg 22408.*

Belvedere Plantation is located 7 miles S.E. of Fredericksburg, VA. From I-95, take Exit 126. Follow South 17, 7 miles to entrance on left.

**Detach the following form and return it by Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>,**

-----  
PUMPKIN PATCH FAMILY FIELD TRIP

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Total number attending & amount enclosed:

\_\_\_\_\_ (# adults) x \$6.00 + \_\_\_\_\_ (# children) x \$8.50 + \_\_\_\_\_ (# children under 2) who wish to pick a pumpkin x \$3.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ (total # in party) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (total amount enclosed)

Make checks payable to St. Matthew's Day School.

We WILL be buying our **lunch** at Belvedere. There will be \_\_\_\_\_ adults and \_\_\_\_\_ children.

You will pay Belvedere for food items if/when you purchase them.