

## Good Shepherd School Opens in Charlestown

Good Shepherd School, a bilingual Catholic preschool in Charlestown for children who are 2.9 to 5 years of age, opened its doors on October 29. The school has the capacity to embrace 60 learners, but welcomed 22 new students on the first day. Opening day was followed by a Halloween parade and storytelling session on October 30. Good Shepherd is the first Catholic school to open in Charlestown in six years.



The school is housed on the garden level (1<sup>st</sup> floor) of St. Mary's Church. Good Shepherd will eventually have 4 classrooms and a faculty of 8, but opened with 2 classrooms and a faculty of 3 teachers. The school plans to open a 3<sup>rd</sup> classroom in January and the last classroom in September 2010.

The children who had been waiting for preschool to open were excited to finally be in the school. "I like music time," said Roberto, who is 4 years old and enjoys playing the tambourine. "I like to play with Playdoh," said Sarah, who is also 4 years old. "I like to go to the park," said Morgan, who is 3 ½. "I like the swings there."

Robyn Flagg from Malden is one of the 3 new faculty members. She seemed as excited as the children to start the 2009-2010 year. "I love my classroom," she exclaimed. "It's huge – much bigger than any other classroom that I have ever taught in – and the stained glass windows are beautiful." Robyn has helped Good Shepherd School director, Beth Tanner, and her new colleagues on the Good Shepherd faculty to write the Good Shepherd School curriculum, which is based upon the Massachusetts Preschool curriculum framework.

Good Shepherd is continuing with open enrollment this year but intends to start the 2010 school year with 4 full classes. Director Tanner has been busy touring interested families since the school opening. "I'm excited to help the children enrolled in our school to fall in love with not only Good Shepherd School but especially learning itself," she said. "Hopefully, children and parents will find beauty in not only our space/classrooms that are unusually stunning, but also in our curriculum and especially our interactions with children and parents alike."

Tanner also anticipates that Good Shepherd parents will continue to tell their friends with young children about the new Catholic preschool. She has already received many phone calls from parents interested in a Catholic elementary school experience. "Who knows what possibilities the future holds," said Tanner with an excited twinkle in her eye.



**For more information on Good Shepherd School, call (617) 242-8800.**