

First United Methodist Church Preschool / MDO Newsletter - December 2008



FROM THE DIRECTOR

What a great fall semester we have had with your children. It is a joy having them in our program, watching them grow and change. What a gift!

Dates to Remember

Dec. 10 Tuition Due
Dec. 18 Last Day of Classes
Dec. 22 - Christmas Break--
Jan. 4 No School
Jan. 5 Classes Resume (Monday)

Cookie Dough Thank-You

Your generous ordering of cookie dough raised \$2324 for our Preschool/MDO! With these funds, we will be able to purchase toys and teaching tools for each of our classrooms. What an early Christmas present you have given our teachers and the classrooms! Thank you to all of our families and friends for your sweet tooth support!



Teacher/Staff Highlights

You may have seen Laterus Hudson in your child's class. She works in various classrooms when needed, and is a super resource to our school!

The Preschool is also privileged to have our Curriculum Consultant, Susan McCasland as part of our team. Mrs. McCasland works with Glennis Peterman and our teachers to help ensure activities in the classroom are developmentally appropriate for each age. Learning outcomes for each Preschool/MDO classroom are followed, helping your child's progress and development blossom day-by-day. Mrs. McCasland is available to parents who wish to discuss parenting or behavioral changes in their Preschool/MDO child.

Advent Activities

On the back page of this newsletter are church activities for your family during this holiday season. If you do not have a church home and would like to participate with us, please consider this your personal invitation. We'd love to have your family share this holiday with ours.

Glennis J. Peterman, Director

BUNNIES (Tuesday/Thursday)

The theme for December is, of course, Christmas! This is a very fun time of the year, especially for children. We have some great Christmas stories and crafts planned for this month. "The Christmas Story" will be told by our own Wally the Worm. We hope all of our families have a very merry and blessed Christmas.

Ms. Janice and Ms. Lisa

BUNNIES (Wednesday)

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We have really enjoyed the Bunnies this month. They have adjusted well and are enjoying themselves.

We will introduce more hands-on crafts this month as well, as different textures (soft, rough, wet, cold, etc). The Bunnies are working on gross motor skills by running and climbing in the activities center.

Don't forget to label blankets and sippy cups with your child's name. Also, please change your child's summer clothes in their diaper bag to warm ones. We hope you enjoy the holidays. Merry Christmas!

Mrs. Tracey and Mrs. Cheryl

BUSY BEARS

Fall is here and winter is fast approaching. Busy Bears will work on many things during the month of December. Our colors for December are red and green.

Some parents have requested the words to our prayer. The tune is *Are You Sleeping, Brother John*:

Recite: *Our little feet are quiet,
Our hands we fold with care,
Our heads are bowed,
Our eyes are closed,
We're ready for our prayer.*

Sing: *Lord, we thank you,
Lord, we thank you,
For our food,
For our food,*

*and for all our school friends,
and for all our family,
We thank you, we thank you.*

With winter upon us, please be sure to change the spare clothes in your child's backpack to warmer ones. Also, send a blanket for nap time and a coat. Don't forget to label everything.

Blessings to you all for a very Merry Christmas!

*Ms. Amanda, Ms. Stephanie,
Ms. Cheryl, Ms. Tracey*

GUMMY BEARS

The Gummy Bears had a great November. The weather held out for awhile, so we played outside and kicked up the leaves!

Thank you to all the families who came to our Open House. It was great fun to watch the children show you our classroom. We really appreciate the support you give us.

The Gummy Bears are practicing good manners in our classroom. They are learning to say "Please" and "Thank you," wait their turn, and share. (Gummies practiced sharing when we read *Stone Soup*, and learned how the villagers cooked and shared a great pot of soup.) The children are doing very well with manners, and we hope they practice these behaviors at home. We continue to work on colors, patterning, sewing, counting, sorting and recognizing shapes.

December promises to be a month of fun activities.

We will focus on Christmas colors--red, green, white, silver, and gold. The children will observe shapes in many Christmas related things--for example, circle ornaments and triangle trees. Gummy Bears will paint candy canes using marbles, decorate ornaments, trees, wreaths, and lace-up stockings. We will close up the semester with a pajama day and Christmas party.



We hope each of you have a wonderful and blessed Christmas time!

Mrs. Bivens and Mrs. Glades

EXTENDED ENRICHMENT

Happy Holidays! What an exciting time of year! We have a lot of fun, hands-on art, cooking, and science projects planned for this special season (including Ms. Frizzle and the Magic School Bus.)

We're encouraging our students to take chances, make mistakes, and get messy. Send your child to Enrichment in comfortable clothes. You may want to ask them about any new science words they've learned recently!

Please keep checking the file box in the lobby for your child's work, and information that we need to share with you. Your child's folder is the primary way we communicate with you, so please check it frequently. You may also find coloring pages and other art treasures in your child's backpack.

As the weather is getting colder, please keep sending jackets, along with hats and gloves! We will continue playing on the playground as long as the temperature is above freezing. Also, please label all of your child's belongings with their name. Missing mittens make for cold hands on those swings!

We enjoyed meeting so many families at Open House in November. Please stop by and check out our plans for the week when your child comes to Enrichment.

As always, thank you for sharing your child with us. God bless your family during this season of miracles!

*Mrs. Cromer, Mrs. Emery, Mrs. Aitken,
and Mrs. Fairchild*

RAINBOWS

The Rainbows were active and well fed in November! We had tasty treats, from homemade applesauce to our Thanksgiving Feast. A big thank you to families who helped with our great feast.

The turkeys that our families decorated were wonderful and added a festive touch to our room. Each year we enjoy acting out the first Thanksgiving feast, and singing our songs for you.

December will be another busy month. Our themes are Christmas, family, and friends. The colors for December are green and red, the shape is the triangle, and the number is six. Activities for December



include: baking cookies, making giant candy canes, and decorating Christmas trees with a variety of objects, (six of each to emphasize counting to six).

We also look forward to the Christmas story, as told by Wally the Worm--a school tradition!

Our Christmas parties are Thursday, December 18, for both the a.m. and p.m. classes. Parents, please watch for a sign-up sheet for party food or feel free to call us at home, if you would like to help.

Thank you for sharing your Rainbows with us. At this giving time of year, look for your child's special gifts from within, and celebrate God's blessings to you this Christmas season. Merry Christmas!

*Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Peterman, and
Mrs. Harrison*

SUNBEAMS

We hope you enjoyed Open House! In addition to the artwork and activities your child shared in the classroom, your Sunbeams are learning important life lessons, such as sharing, manners, and structured play. We are excited to see their minds absorbing these lessons.

We hope you all had a blessed, relaxing Thanksgiving holiday. Thanks to all of you who made our Thanksgiving feast so successful.

December will be a fast, eventful month for the Sunbeams class. Along with our letter studies, we will prepare for Christmas through stories, crafts, and songs. Our letters of the week are V, E, and L.

We hope to see you at our Christmas party on Thursday, Dec. 18, at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Thank you for your support and the opportunity to work with your most precious gift, your children. Have a blessed Christmas and happy New Year!

Mrs. Griffin and Mrs. Schutter

SUPER STARS

The holiday season is approaching! Santa is in our thoughts and Christmas carols can be heard. At school the Super Stars will learn symbols, plants, and sounds associated with the Christmas season. A few Christmas learning experiences will include: creating ornaments, dec-

orating a Christmas tree, exploring pine branches/pine cones, listening to various sizes of jingle bells, and baking a gingerbread man (we hope he doesn't run away)! Our month will conclude with a field trip to Sorghum Mill Christmas Tree Farm on Tuesday, December 16, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Hot chocolate and cookies will be sure to warm us, as we enjoy reading and reenacting the book, *The Night Tree* by Eve Bunting. Parents are invited to join us on this exciting field trip!

Merry Christmas to you!

Mrs. Bules and Mrs. Fick

Advent Calendar of Events 2008

First United Methodist Church
305 E. Hurd, Edmond, OK 73034
<http://www.fumcedmond.org>

Sunday, November 30

"Hanging of the Greens"

All Services

Advent Workshop

4:00 p.m.



Sunday, December 7

Children's Musical

5:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Christmas Dinner immediately following Children's Musical



Sunday, December 14

Combined Choir Cantata

8:30 & 11:00



Sunday, December 21

Caroling Party 5:00 p.m.

Chili & Hot Chocolate Afterward



Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Communion Services
4:00, 7:00, & 11:00 p.m.

Traditional

9:00 p.m.
Epiphany

**If you need a ride to any of the
Advent Activities, please call
the church office: 341-0107**