



PPCP Messenger

Memorial Presbyterian Church 1310 Ashman St.
Midland, MI 48640 835-6759

March/April 2010

Join us for our Annual Family Potluck!

Please join us for our Annual PPCP Family Potluck dinner on March 5 in the Assembly Room from 6:00-8:00. Kelly Presson, magician and "Kidologist" will be performing after dinner. The PPCP board will be providing dessert and tableware. Sign up sheets for main dishes, side dishes and salads will be located outside of each of the classrooms. Let's keep the tradition alive by coming to enjoy some food, fellowship and fun!

Looking Ahead

- Due to the amount of days off in March and for us to meet our required number of class days, Mrs. Svercek's and Mrs. Carbary's classes **will be in session on Tuesday, March 23**. Mrs. Ryan's schedule will stay the same. Please see your teachers if you have any questions.
- Hearing and vision screening will be scheduled soon. Scheduling this service through the Health Department has been difficult and we appreciate your patience. Our Health Chairperson has been diligently working on this. This screening is required for Kindergarten enrollment, so this is a great opportunity if you child has not been screened already through your health provider.
- We still have a few board positions open. Please see *A Note from Your PPCP Chairperson* on page 4.
- Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, April 27**. This is our first parents meeting for children attending PPCP for the 2010-11 school year. **This meeting is mandatory**. First tuition payment will be due at this time. More details to come.
- Your Boxtops donations have earned another \$82.50 for PPCP! Thank you for participating in this valuable program.

Important dates

March 5
PPCP Family Potluck 6pm

March 9
PPCP Board Meeting 7pm

March 15
No school ~MPS day off

March 23 **4's and KR**
classes will be in session

March 25-26
No school~ Teachers' Conference

March 29-Apr. 2
No school ~ Spring Break

April 13
PPCP Board Meeting 7pm

April 19
No school (MPS day off)

April 27
First Parents' Meeting

April 30
Last Day of Toddler/Parent class

Volunteer Burnout

If you are a volunteer, it is not unusual to be feeling pretty exhausted at this time of year (if not already!). So many parents work outside the home today which in turn decreases the amount of people available for volunteering. If you have multiple children going to different schools and doing different activities, or if you have other interests that you are helping with (church, local charities, etc.) it can be overwhelming. A Co-op preschool definitely understands these feelings! Here are some ideas that will hopefully re-energize you:

- *Really take a good look at the job you are doing. Thank yourself!* Look at how your involvement is affecting your organization, child's classroom, or activity. Think about what would happen if you weren't there. Pat yourself on the back.
- *Appreciation is contagious.* Thanking someone else for the job that they are doing will not only help them feel good, but hopefully will encourage them to thank others. Many people do not mind doing hard work but they do want to feel appreciated.
- *It's OK to say no!* Easier said than done for many people, but still important. A worn out, overscheduled volunteer could possibly do more harm than good. Doing a good job with one or two activities instead of barely getting by with more is much more effective.
- *You can ask for help too!* Do you have a spouse, neighbor or other family member who can help you out? Do you have a middle school or high school child? Getting an older child involved in volunteering teaches them to be a part of something bigger than themselves. Words can't describe how important this is in character development.
- *What benefits are you getting out of this job?* Does the position you are working in look good on a resume? Are you gaining skills that you could use in a paid position? Are you getting to meet new people or learn new things?

May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

An Irish Blessing

PPCP Board

Rene'e Urlaub
Chairperson

Dixie Kelley
Treasurer

Ryan Eurich
Tuition Treasurer

Christine Tanzini
Membership Chair

Sarah Lovell
Health Chairperson

Wendy Lewis
Children's Ministry
Co-Director

Laura Reeves
Children's Ministry
Liaison

Marianne Mallek
Fundraising

Karen Dastick
Social Chairperson

Jennifer Nelson
Publicity
Chairperson

Christin Halldorson
Secretary

Angelique Rinearson
Newsletter Editor

Director's Corner

Early Literacy

Learning to read and write are complex tasks. Children are using visual perception, memory, fine motor and auditory skills. The recognition of the alphabet and printing are only a small part of literacy and will be worked on in Kindergarten and First Grade. **There is no research that shows drilling your child in these areas serves any advantage and can cause harm by turning off the child who is not ready.**

Exposure, however, is different than drill. We expose children to language enriching experiences, games, puzzles, music, rhymes and stories. Just as important as reading to your child is having your child see you read; for information, directions, and fun. When your child sees the value of reading and has all those experiences you are laying a foundation for literacy.

When a child shows interest in print he will let you know in many ways. Most frequently it is by asking how a word is spelled. Kindergarten teachers ask that we please use lower case letters when showing a child how to print a word. We only use uppercase letters when appropriate. It is hard for a child to unlearn incorrectly formed letters and break the habit of using all uppercase. There are many inexpensive alphabet charts on the market that show the correct way to form letters. Make sure which form of print your school district uses so you purchase the correct chart. Ant any sign of frustration...stop! Learning should be fun. Many parents like to work with their children on "school" work. If there is not a developmental delay requiring intervention than opt to play to learn rather than making it a more formal "homework." As a teacher when I ask a child to practice a certain task and the child responds, "I'll do that at home" it makes my job more difficult.

Here are a few hints for developmentally appropriate activities to share with your child"

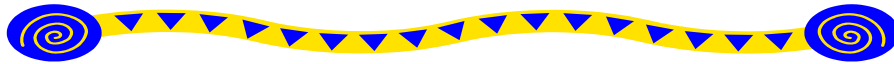
- Use shaving cream directly on the table or tray (you can also use in the tub or shower). Let your child practice printing his name, letters, or words in the foam
- Make a set (you can purchase these also) of tactile letters by outlining letters with glue and sprinkling sand over the glue. When the glue dries have your child trace his finger over the letter while saying his name
- Have your child use his body (alone or with a helper) to create different alphabet letters. Take a photo and make a book.
- Have your child use a finger to trace letters in a tray of sand or cornmeal
- Make ABC cookies or pretzels

Sandy Svercek

A Note from Your PPCP Chairperson...

Find Out How PPCP works, Join the Parent Board!

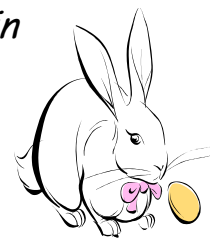
Here at PPCP you have a great opportunity to get to know how the preschool operates, know your teachers better and socialize with other parents. You can do that by becoming a part of our Parent Board. This year we have many board members leaving because their "babies" are going off to Kindergarten, so we have many positions available for you. Those positions include Vice-Chairperson, Social Chairperson, Tuition Treasurer, Fundraising Chairperson, Publicity Chairperson and our awesome Newsletter Editor will be leaving us as well. As a board member you are asked to attend 8 board meetings throughout the school year starting in August and complete the tasks for your particular job. Many of our board meetings end early enough allowing time for socializing with the other Parent Board members and teachers. Please consider blessing us with your time for the Parent Board, we're pretty fun people and "we don't bite." Also as a board member you do not have to volunteer for a classroom job. If you would like some detailed information about a position you are considering please contact Rene'e Urlaub the Chairperson (839-9031 reneurlaub@yahoo.com) or the board member currently volunteering for that position. We look forward to hearing from you.



"Egg" Stravaganza!

March 24 Multi-Age Event

To enhance our sense of school community the teachers are planning a multi-age event on March 24. The classes will be divided in mixed age groups and visit all the classrooms. Our theme for the day will be Easter and eggs. You will receive more information as we move closer to the date.



Kindergarten Readiness Events

Our Art theme was wonderful. We discovered so much about art and artists that was interesting and the children enjoyed everything from cave painting to imitating Jackson Pollack's art. Even when the teacher landed in the middle of their painting! Our guest artist was Mr. Svercek. He brought one of the carousel horses he is carving. He showed how he carves and sands. We had a flurry of sanding at the workbench after he left.

We moved on to learning about dental care. Our field trip to Dr. Sander's office was fun and a great learning experience for the children. They learned a lot about tooth care and also that you have to know the alphabet, numerals, and colors to file the patients' charts.

March is a month full of changes. We will cover everything from the weather, Dr. Seuss' birthday, leprechauns, and this year we will have Easter activities prior to Spring Break. We are planning a multi-age event with all three classes on Wednesday, March 24. You will receive more news about this in a letter.



We have two or three more field trips to look forward to this year but not until April. We will visit the Chippewa Nature Center for the Maple Syrup tour and we will walk to the bus garage and ride a school bus in May.

The children have been learning about earth changes and dinosaurs the last week in February and will continue the first week in March. Our volcanoes were a huge hit. Everyone was so excited to make his or her individual volcano erupt. You'll see "big" things in the hall!

The children are amazing. At this time of year I look at them and I can see the transformation into Kindergarteners.

Fun with the M,W,F Fours

February has been a month to care; we care about ourselves by having healthy habits, care for others by collecting crayons for "preschool backpacks" and care for the environment by recycling. Healthy Food: Strawberry-banana smoothies were voted better than blueberry smoothies. Healthy Habits: Flossing can be interesting (what did you find?) Healthy bodies: twisting and surfing to "Wipeout" can really tire us out. We opened "The Fours Clinic", dentist, doctor and veterinarians. To celebrate Lunar New Year we made won ton soup, ate rice with chopsticks (well actually we stabbed the meatballs, won tons) and enjoyed fortune cookies for dessert. The Fours Post Office was a great big matching game; matching names to mail boxes and cubbies.



Discoveries: "I weigh 40.4 (pounds) and now I weigh the same the number," two weighing about two minutes apart by the same child. "That's my heart" said one child (eyes getting very big and wide)

listening through the stethoscope. Every ailment in the clinic needs a shot. Rolling dice and counting the dots is a fun way to count and add. Where do you live? South America was the answer after I introduced the globe and continents. Meaningful writing: Saving a creation in the block area by writing our name and the word save. I can read: when I know the word "at" and put other letters in front they make new words!

More discoveries to look forward to in March: The Fours room will be on the move with a month long look at transportation, air, land and water.

The Three's News

Along with the wind and the snow February just blew right past us. Looking back we, explored the ocean and many of its wonders, learned of many sea creatures and did lots of experimenting with sand.

The End of February what could get rid of the winter blues better than a tropical beach with a pool filled with packing peanuts and enjoying a Luau with our parents.

As March quickly approaches we will enjoy the wonder of books during national book month. Though out this month we will explore many book based themes. It has been my experience that children really come to life this month when they begin to realize that they really can read. During our last week before Spring Break we will have an EGGsravaganza of sorts with many egg experiments and wrapping up the week with an all school Co-operative EGGsravaganza. All three classes will be working together on a theme Eggs / Easter!!!



April Hopefully but this time the weather will be our friend again we can enjoy the many spring themes that are planned, including: Our Farm unit, did you ever milk a cow?, our creepy crawly bugs, and we cannot have spring without caterpillars and butterflies. There may even be a coaster in the works!

Whether you are heading out of town or hanging around home have a blessed Easter and enjoyable spring break.

Toddler Time

February was a blast with our very first valentine exchange, there was lots of love all around us. To give ourselves a break from the cold we transformed our room into a tropical paradise, with palm trees and sand, and even waterless swimming (which I think I can safely say was a favorite). And we will round out the month with teddy bears, our cuddly friends will come with us to school and we can share with them all the fun we have.

Looking ahead to March we start out the month with the magic of Dr. Seuss, I cannot think of a better way to begin book month than with *One Fish, Two Fish can you!* Shamrocks and Easter is on the menu as we venture through the month. Due to our Teacher Conference in Grand Rapids we do not have class the last of March and that then leads us into Spring break.

When we return in April we have just 4 more class times to play and those will be filled to the brim with bugs, flowers and grass, farm animals, butterflies and maybe even a big birthday celebration for everyone!!!



Lunch Bunch Events!

Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30-2:00 ~ \$12.00 per session

- March 1 Will March Come In Like a Lion or a Lamb?
- March 3 *Green Eggs and Ham* (We'll make lunch)
- March 8 *Down By the Bay Where the Watermelons Grow*
- March 10 Alligator Babies
- March 15 Rainbow (We'll make Rainbow Toast)
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day Celebration
- March 22 Bunny Day
- March 24 No Lunch Bunch, Teachers leave for their Conference

