



fumcn news

Happy Valentine's Day!

December 2011

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FUMCN News is a publication of the First United Methodist Cooperative Nursery, located within First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor at 120 South State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104



Newsletter Editor:

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Please make submissions by 5pm on the 18th of each month to the Newsletter mailbox (B room)

A Note From Ms. Juli

February is one of my most favorite months to celebrate at FUMCN. The colors of Valentine's Day are so cheerful, they help the cabin fever we all feel this time of year.

February will be busy, busy, and busy. In addition to all our fun stuff that our curriculum team has planned our annual Open House is on Feb. 9th. Be sure to get your applications in by the Open House if you are a returning family. And, tell your friends and neighbors about our wonderful school.

A HUGE thank you to our "Igloo Ladies": Melissa Hart and Joyce Masongsong-Ray. Wow, what an endeavor. It took some time and hundreds of milk gallons. Our igloo is glorious and the kids love it. We will leave the Igloo up into March.

The curriculum team and I have been busy planning a fun February. February 20-24 is Mid-Winter break and we are off of school. School will resume on Feb. 27th to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday.

We've been busy planting our seeds for spring time. We will have enough to send some home with everyone, plant at Greenwood and maybe do some planting here.

I didn't get a chance to thank everyone for the wonderful and generous Christmas gifts I received. Thank you so much. I feel blessed to be at a school where the parents are so involved. It really makes our school special.

Have a happy Valentine's Day and a super February.

Ms. Juli

From the President's Pen

February...despite it being that middle month (in between the holidays and the beginning of spring), it still seems to fly by. Those few extra days it's missing at the end of the month make a big impact. I told myself I would play outside with my kids in the snow more this winter season...but I haven't made good on that yet. (I tell myself its because we have hardly had any snow!) Now that we have a couple inches on the ground, maybe February will be my month! ☺

Thanks to all who attend the All Parent Membership Meeting on Jan 18. We shared some important upcoming information and were able to connect with each other as a school. If you were not able to make the meeting, please make sure to read your weekly email and daily notes so you are aware of what is going on in the school regarding membership, fundraising, etc. Staci Almeida put together a member survey- you should have received one in your child's bag if you weren't at the meeting. Please take the time to fill it out and return it to her - we are always looking for feedback to see how we are doing and what we can improve.

On February 9 we will hold our Open House. We as members are our best source of advertising! Please spread the word through your networks about our wonderful school and all it has to offer. If you are returning next year, now is the time to consider serving on the FUMCN Board. You'll receive a request for nominations soon for all board positions. We welcome people who are new to the board or FUMCN and encourage you to nominate yourself. If you have any questions about a particular position, feel free to contact that current member or anyone else on the board. Everyone is welcome to attend monthly board meetings on the first Monday of each month. Join us and see how much fun it is to serve on the board!

Warmest Regards,
Tonja Fox (Charlie 5's, Tyler 3am)

Young Fives

Hello from the Young Fives!

We've had a great January with lots of snowy activities and discussion about winter weather. Even if there hasn't been much snow this winter, we're enjoying discussing it. Since Martin Luther King Day also falls in January, we've also had some really great talks about how to treat others fairly. A few years ago, I read a book called Natureshock which really made me think how we discuss issues of race and equality with young children. The argument, which was very compelling, was that children notice differences between people at a young age, but by trying to create a gender-neutral or race-neutral environment, we fail to give kids a framework to discuss differences and, more importantly, how to be fair to everyone. While I don't talk too specifically about the events of Martin Luther King's life, it is a great opportunity to start a discussion of how we treat others. I encourage you to continue the dialogue you have with your children about these things!

February is a short month, but very busy. We'll be visiting a dentist, going to the Canton Health Exploration Station, celebrating Valentine's Day and, of course, there is our Open House. Please encourage anyone with a child who might be old enough for kindergarden, but still wants one more year before elementary school, to visit either during the Open House, or our Class Visit Day. This is a "regular" class day, but any visitor is welcome. This year, it will be Friday, March 2 during our regular class hours of 9am-12pm.

Wishing for more snow,
Ms. Susan

Health and Safety

For those of you heading into kindergarden vision screening tests are necessary for enrollment. Typically this is done in preschool with County representatives visiting and conducting vision and hearing tests on site. Due to County staffing shortages, FUMCN students did not have this screening last year and will not be receiving it this year either. This means that FUMCN students going into kindergarden have not had the necessary screenings for enrollment (unless parents made outside arrangements to have them completed).

You may be able to arrange to have the screenings done at your pediatrician, or Washtenaw County will provide free hearing and vision screening at their offices on these dates:

Monday - 2/13/12

Thursday - 3/15/12

Monday - 4/30/12

Their office screenings are by appointment only and these dates are subject to change. Call (734) 544-6786 to make an appointment.

Visit their website for more information

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health/school-portal/hearing-and-vision

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Jen Sopoci (Henry $\frac{3}{4}$)
Health co-chair
734.717.6799
jdsopoci@gmail.com

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who submitted recipes to our FUMCN cookbook! Order forms are due Friday, February 3rd to the Fundraising box in the B room. Make checks payable to FUMCN. Cookbooks will be delivered around the end of March.

Our February fundraiser will be Make It Plates. More info to come!

If you have any questions, please email Dianna at diannaharmon@gmail.com.

Lisa (Elliot 3AM/Lyndon 4AM) & Diana (Clara, 3/4 PM)

Publicity

Many of you found FUMCN by word of mouth recommendations, so I'd like to ask you to select our next incoming classes by doing the same. As soon as I get our new business cards, I will put 3 in each of your children's bag. **I'm asking each of you to hand write our open house info on there along with your name, as a personal touch.**

Please, make an effort to hand them out before Feb 9th (our Open House). And if any of you need more I'd be happy to supply them.

Here is the info:

Enrollment Open House

Thursday, Feb 9, 10-11:30am

Leticia Valdez (Max 3AM)

Publicity Chair FUMCN

fumcn.publicity@gmail.com

(734) 355-7137 cell

Curriculum

This February, our healthy kids will learn about health, valentines, and take a journey under the sea!

FUMCN Focus for February 2012
<p>Week of: January 30th - February 3rd</p> <p>Curricular Theme: Health</p> <p>Number: 8 Letter: Nn Shape: Heart Color: Red</p> <p>*Theme Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday, 1/30: 4's and 3's Field Trip to Canton Health Exploration Station • Tuesday, 1/31 and Wednesday, 2/1: Dental health presentations at school

<p>Week of: February 6th-10th Curricular Theme: Valentines Number: 7 Letter: Oo Shape: Heart Color: Pink *Theme Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Next Week) Valentines Parties: Monday, 2/13 and Tuesday, 2/14
<p>Week of: February 13th-17th Curricular Theme: Under the Sea Number: 6 Letter: Pp Shape: Square Color: Green *Theme Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, 2/16 and Friday, 2/17: Beach Day
<p>Week of: February 27th-March 2nd Curricular Theme: Dr. Seuss Number: 5 Letter: Qq Shape: Circle Color: Green *Theme Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, 3/2: Dr. Seuss's Birthday

** More information about each theme/special event will be available closer to the date.*

Wish List:

Keep checking our "Wish List" poster in the hallway across the B-room for things we can always use!

Curriculum Notes:

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to everyone who helped make our "igloo" in the Q-room and our "rocket" in the B-room! Without your help, the children wouldn't have these extra things that make our co-op so special!

We start the month learning about **Health!** The 4's and $\frac{3}{4}$'s will go on a field trip to the Canton Health Exploration Station - please note that there are **no** younger siblings allowed on this trip. Also this week, Nancy Farmer will visit all the classes to talk to us about good dental hygiene.

"Health" at-home suggestion: Practice coughing and sneezing into the pit of your elbow with your child. Get into the habit of singing the "ABC's" together while washing hands. This will ensure that s/he has spent enough time scrubbing the germs off the fingers!

Under the Sea week is a favorite FUMCN tradition. We get a head start on Winter Break by having "Beach Day" where everyone can wear their beach clothes to school!

"Under the Sea" at-home suggestion: Have your own "Beach Day" at home, especially if you are not going anywhere for Winter Break! Lay out beach towels and have an indoor picnic lunch with lemonade and sandwiches. Show your preschooler a calendar and help him/her count the weeks left until the first day of summer!

Valentines Day is typically a time to show caring for others, but it is also an opportunity for early literacy - with writing and reading Valentine's cards. FUMCN students take part in the tradition of passing out Valentine's cards. Your child will need to bring enough Valentine cards for **all** the children in the class, including him/herself. If your child can write her name, encourage her to sign her name on all the cards! You may need to start now and have her write just a few cards a day. Most preschoolers cannot handle writing their name on a stack of 20 cards in just one sitting. (Believe me, I have tried. By card #6, letters start flying everywhere.) This should be a fun activity for your child and if she is too frustrated or tired or not in the mood, then wait until she is ready. However, please do **not** address the cards with your classmates' names; this is because we will just go down the line and drop one card in every box and will not have the time to sort cards. At home, you will need to wrap an empty shoe box or tissue box with plain paper; we will use this as a mailbox and your child will decorate it at school. We will send home a flyer with more information about this soon.

"Valentines" at-home suggestion: Nothing says love like letting your preschooler use safety scissors to create a pile of confetti on your kitchen floor. Make tag-team valentines - you draw the hearts on paper and your child can cut them out! Make different size hearts. Show him/her how you can fold a paper in half, draw half a heart, and cut - when you unfold the paper, voila! A whole heart!

Remember, our "at-home suggestions" are purely optional, fun activities you can try with your preschooler to make a connection between school and home.

If you have a special talent to share that ties into any of this month's themes, please talk to anyone on the Curriculum Team or write to Melissa Doris, our support person at: melido@sbcglobal.net or you can always let Ms. Juli know!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- St. Patrick's Day Celebrations: Thursday, 3/15 and Friday, 3/16

Your Curriculum Co-Chairs,

Melissa Svastisalee Hart, msvast@gmail.com (Lauren, 4am)

Joyce Masongsong-Ray, joycemr@gmail.com (Patrick, 3am)

Membership

Our **OPEN HOUSE** is scheduled for Thursday, February 9th from 10:00-11:30am. Please be sure to invite all of your friends, neighbors, and coworkers with young children. It will be a great opportunity for them to learn about our wonderful school!

BIG thanks to all of the returning families who have already turned in their 2012-2013 enrollment applications. If you haven't turned yours in yet, it may be placed in the membership mailbox as soon as you have it ready! As a reminder, currently enrolled families have priority for admittance for

next year, but only until the end of the open house. Any applications received after 11:30 am that day will no longer hold priority status and will be added to the class lists/wait lists in the order in which they are received. Thank you in advance for your timely cooperation.

Kristi Simmons (Owen 5's) and Meghan Wernimont (Lizzie 3am)

Parent Education

Thank you to everyone who attended out "Preparing for Kindergarten" night and helped make the night a success! If you were unable to attend but are the parent of a four or five year old, you should have received a flier regarding kindergarten "round-ups" and open houses in your child's tote bag. Please let me know if you did not receive this and would like a copy.

One **March 24, 2012 from 9:00-12:30** First United Methodist Church (FUMC) and FUMCN will co-sponsor our second annual "Building a Better Family: A Workshop for Parents". This low-cost educational event will be held at FUMC, and childcare will be provided for a minimal fee. Stay tuned for more details!

Sara Zoher (Lily 4am)
sarazoher@yahoo.com

Peeking In...

¾ PM CLASS:

We were having a birthday treat. Paige's asked her mom, "Why are you not eating your cake?" Paige's mom (who recently had a baby) said: "I'm trying not to eat too many sweets so I can fit back in my clothes."

Lewis (whose mom recently had a baby, too) said: "my mom can fit into her slippers!"

