



fumcn news

Happy Thanksgiving!

November 2009

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

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Please make submissions by 5pm on the 18th of each month.



A Note From Ms. Juli

Happy November FUMCN Families! With Thanksgiving fast approaching and then into the hustle and bustle of the holidays I want to take this opportunity to tell you all what I'm thankful for this year: YOU! I am so lucky to be a part of a school where the parents are so involved. Not many schools have this many talented people in the mix, ready to step up to help in so many wonderful ways. It leaves me time and energy to focus on the kids and trying to make FUMCN a fun and creative environment for all of you.

I love Sign Language and am passing on my passion to the kids. The 4am class has really caught on to the signs for colors. I will be doing colors throughout the year with all the classes along with many other signs. Our prayer is signed as well as the birthday song. Just like with the spoken language, when you are first learning it's not perfect. When we begin to speak as toddlers we often mumble and mispronounce words. It's important to appreciate the attempt. It's the same with sign language. Your children may not form the sign exactly how it's meant to be, but the attempt should be commended. I teach primarily American Sign Language (ASL). That is what is used in the Deaf community and is considered a second language in most universities. There is also Signed Exact English in which almost all words are signed. That is what is done mostly in the classroom by sign language interpreters working with children. Both are O.K. but, there are differences. I teach ASL to give respect to the Deaf community and because that is what is used mostly in the United States. There are some regional differences in some signs. So, if you look them up in books or online they may be different from what I have learned.

When I teach the children to sign, I don't sign every single word. They are young and their coordination and dexterity isn't fully developed. I sign every few words in a sentence or song so the kids can keep up. If you have any questions please feel free to ask.

This year our focus of the Thanksgiving holiday will be friends. We will have activities which will help us practice what being a good friend is all about. We will have a feast the week of Thanksgiving. Watch for information on that.

Have a happy holiday.

Ms. Juli

From the Co-Presidents

What a great time of year! All of the cool weather we have had has sure provided some beautiful trees. Each fall I am always amazed at the gorgeous colors of the trees. One of my favorite parts of fall (next to trips to the cider mill....) is watching my kids enjoy the huge piles of leaves they rake and then jump and bury themselves in. We also have been enjoying lots of walks in the woods, trying to notice the various ways that things are changing, along with the seasons. My kids love to collect leaves and other "bits of nature" (as they call it) on these walks. We often bring their "bits of nature" indoors (instead of in a growing pile on our front porch) and have used them for many projects. Sometimes, we simply deposit everything that we find into a large, clear vase to be our table centerpiece to admire and talk about over meals. We've made many placemats with leaves stuck between two pieces of contact paper. My kids have left many "offerings" of items outside their fairy door inside our house, and have also used the items to build a fairy house outside. And, one of my favorites, we have used a large poster board and glued on sticks, grass, leaves, dried flowers, etc. to make a nature collage, which often ends up in the shape of trees. Not all of these projects are without mess, but they are definitely worth the effort and very enjoyable for all.

The annual FUMCN Auction is right around the corner on Friday, November 6th at the church. For those of you that have never attended an Auction night before, it is a very fun night to spend with friends (new and old), an awesome way to support our school and a chance to go away with some incredible deals. I hope you all are planning to attend the auction, as it's a great opportunity to give back to FUMCN, so it can continue to offer this unique preschool experience to future FUMCN families.

I hope to see you all at the Auction and I also hope that you are able to enjoy some "fall moments" with your children.

Laura Dills-Chung (Emmy 3am)

Parent/Teacher Conferences

The 3's classes will have Parent/Teacher conferences on Tuesday, November 17th and Thursday, November 19th. There will be a sign-up sheet in the hallway for you to sign up for times. If all the spots fill, just see Ms. Juli and she can fit you in somewhere. The 4's conferences will be in January. But, if you would like a time to sit down and discuss anything just see Ms. Juli to schedule a time.

Hello from the Fives Class!

We've settled into a great routine now and have had some fun weeks learning about fire safety, autumn changes, pumpkins and bats. We've had field trips to the fire station, Matthei Botanical Gardens, Lodi Farm pumpkin patch and trick-or-treating on Main Street. We especially recommend Matthei Botanical Gardens. They have a wonderful children's garden with beds that reflect the seasonal changes and offer different sensory experiences.

Looking ahead to November, our themes will be harvest and farms in the fall, families, turkeys, pilgrims and a special Thanksgiving feast with our own families. We'll be walking to the Farmer's Market on Wednesday, Nov. 4 and joining the 4s for a visit to Cobblestone Farm on Nov. 11. The Fives parent/teacher conferences will be Wednesday, Nov. 18.

I think my favorite moment this month was when Owen announced at snack that for his birthday he and his family were going to Chicago and were going to visit a dinosaur named...and he thought for a moment...Ms. Susan!

Not that old...yet,

Ms. Susan in the Fives class

Fundraising

Hi everyone, the FUMCN Annual Auction is fast approaching on Friday, November 6! Our theme this year is “Oh, the Places You’ll Go”, celebrating children’s authors. Everyone should have received an information sheet, titled “Everything You Need to Know About the 2009 FUMCN Auction”, item donation forms and invitations. Please make sure you read through this information and let us know if you have any questions. A few key items to remember:

- Give or mail your invitations to family or friends. Help us get out the word about the auction and make it the best ever!
- Send an email to fumcn@metzlers.org with your child’s name and auction item. Remember, the minimum amount of the auction item should be \$50. If you need ideas, feel free to look at the past auction programs on the fundraising bulletin board across from the B room.
- Solicit donations from local businesses. Please list solicitations on the fundraising bulletin board.
- Sign up to help the night of the auction. We need your help in many ways, including setup, cleanup, childcare, etc (complete list is on the fundraising bulletin board).
- RSVP for the auction at rsvp@fumcn.org. Please indicate whether you will be using FUMCN childcare during the auction (suggested donation for the babysitters is \$5/child).
- Bring in your auction items with description forms—Thursday, October 29th (3’s) and Monday, November 2nd (4’s).

We also have some fun fundraising opportunities on the horizon.

- Get a jump-start on your holiday shopping with our Learning Express fundraiser on Tuesday, Nov. 10th through Thursday, November 12th.
- Enjoy an adult’s night out with our FUMCN babysitting night on Friday, December 4th.
- Look for a CPK restaurant night coming soon!

Thanks so much for your support of our FUMCN fundraising this year. All of your support goes directly towards helping our wonderful FUMCN programs.

Susan Courtright (Corrine 3am) and Robyn Bishop (Derek 3am)

Parent Education

Mark your calendars! Our annual “Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten” session will be Monday, January 25, 2010. For those interested in taking CPR classes, please let Colleen Burroughs know - mcburrs@hotmail.com.

FUMC Family Service Opportunities

Toys Taking Over Your House?

REPLENISH THE TOY LENDING LIBRARY.

The Bryant Community Center needs gently used toys to replenish its TOY LENDING LIBRARY. The Toy Lending Library is a great service provided for the Bryant Community; families may borrow these toys for as long as they like, and then they return them for others to use. A community asset but the shelves are bare! A bin for donated toys will be located near the downtown church office from **Oct 20-through November**.

Got (too much) Halloween Candy?

SHARE YOUR TREATS WITH LOVE (Thy Neighbor).

Bring in your surplus Halloween candy to share with your hungry and homeless neighbors via the LOVE Thy Neighbor lunch program. A bin will be located near the downtown office from Nov 1-15.

What! No Birthday Presents?

HELP EVERY KID CELEBRATE.

Join the Birthdays @ Bryant team by providing a birthday box to a local child, who otherwise might do without. What’s a birthday box? Each box will contain a cake mix and frosting of the child’s choice, a need (usually clothing) and a want (i.e. gift card to Toys r Us or a princess dress).

Contact Chris Nelson: christine_nelson@mac.com with questions and to be added to the volunteer list. Read more about Birthdays @ Bryant here: http://www.fumc-a2.org/files/fish_fall_2009.pdf

Curriculum

Here is a quick look at the upcoming events scheduled for November. Detailed information about the trip to Cobblestone Farm will be in your boxes a few days before the field trip.

Special Activities

- No School on Nov. 3rd Election day!
- Making cornbread
- Cranberry Bog in Sensory Table
- Nov. 11th 10am – 11:30 or 1pm -2:30 4s class field trip to Cobblestone Farm
- Nov. 12th 10am – 11:30 or 1pm -2:30 3s class field trip to Cobblestone Farm
- Teepee
- 3's conferences date change: Tuesday, Nov. 17th and Thurs. Nov. 19th
- Feast on 23rd and 24th

We begin our tour around the world right here at home by talking about Native Americans and Thanksgiving. We will also be learning about pilgrims and pioneer life through books and our class trip to Cobblestone Farm. We will set up a teepee for kids to experience at school and we will have lots of fun things in the sensory table this month. We will continue experiencing the seasons by talking about the harvest and looking out our windows to notice what is happening now to the plant and animal life around the school.

<h1>FUMCN Focus for November</h1>			
Curricular Theme(s): Native Americans, Pilgrims, Pioneer life			
Numbers: 4, 5	Letters: Dd, Ee, Ff	Shapes: Circle, Rectangle, Triangle, Oval	Colors: Purple, Blue, Brown, Yellow

Your curriculum co-chairs,

Staci Almeida (Isaac 3am) & Jenni Wilkening (Lily 4am)

Coming up in December:

- 12/10 & 12/11 Gingerbread houses;
- 12/17 & 12/18 holiday parties

Publicity

Please tell your friends that we still have many openings in our afternoon 3's 4's and our morning 5's program. FUMCN students come primarily from word of mouth within our community, so please let your friends know about our wonderful school. There are also fliers in the B room to post around town. If you find yourself at a location that is frequented by other families with young children and can post one that would be great!

Moira Yuhas (Reed 4pm)

Health and Nutrition

This time of year, I usually write an article about the seasonal flu. Of course this year everyone is interested in swine flu (or H1N1 Influenza A, as it is correctly called). And while it seems to be slow to hit Michigan, we never know what the remainder of the flu season has in store for us. Flu season can last well into May as we saw last season. As the information regarding H1N1 seems to change regularly (and probably will be different today than when this article is actually published in the newsletter) other than giving you a little basic information, I am going to refer you to a couple resources for flu information in the county.

According to the Washtenaw County Health Department fact sheet on H1N1, symptoms for the disease are much the same as for the seasonal flu. They are: fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, headache and muscle aches, feeling very tired, vomiting and diarrhea. These symptoms usually occur 1 to 7 days after being infected. Flu-related complications can occur at any age; however, pregnant women, young children, and people with chronic health problems are much more likely to develop serious complications after H1N1 influenza infection.

You can do the following to help prevent the spread of the flu or H1N1 virus by adhering to the following preventative measures:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water. Alcohol based hand gels are also effective.
- Stay home from work or school if you have a respiratory illness. The CDC recommends staying home for 24-hours after you are fever-free without the use of fever reducing medications.
- Avoid close contact with people who are coughing or otherwise appear ill.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze by using a tissue or your sleeve/elbow. Dispose of the tissue promptly and carefully.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Contact your physician or health care provider if you or your child are experiencing any of the following: difficulty breathing, bluish color skin, not drinking enough fluids, irritability, symptoms improve but then worsen, or have underlying medical conditions and develop flu-like symptoms.
- The seasonal flu vaccine **does not** offer protection for H1N1, however the Washtenaw County website currently states (as of October 21) that vaccination clinics will be available through the public schools starting the first week of November (consult the Washtenaw County Health web site (see below) for information on vaccination clinic schedules). Look for emails from me as information becomes available.

As parents, you can help prevent the spread of flu and other diseases by having your kids wash their hands before coming to school and when they get home from school or any public place. As assist parents, if you notice children touching their mouths and noses at school, and especially if that child is sniffing, coughing, or has a runny nose, you may ask the child to wash their hands or use some hand sanitizer to clean their hands.

If your child does become sick, please do not return to school until the fever has been gone without medication for at least 24 hours. Please notify me, Ms. Juli, or Ms. Susan if your child comes down with the flu.

Please contact your child's pediatrician, your local Health Department, and/or refer to the following websites for more information.

Washtenaw County Health Department general site:

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health

The following website is a school health portal set up by the Washtenaw County Health Department and provides information on clinic schedules, Flu fact sheets, and tips for parents:

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health/school_portal/index2_html

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/sick.htm>

-Yvette Dimcheff (Andrew and Eliot, Young 5s)

November 2009

FUMCN Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 No School - Election Day	4 5's Walking to Farmer's Market	5	6 6:30pm FUMCN Auction	7
8 7pm Board Meeting - FUMC Asbury Room	9 Learning Express Fundraiser	10 4's & 5's Field Trip to Cobblestone Farm	11 5's Teacher Conferences Learning Express Fundraiser	12 3's Field Trip to Cobblestone Farm Learning Express Fundraiser	13	14 9am-12pm Maintenance
15	16 3's Parent/Teacher Conferences	17 5's Parent/Teacher Conferences	18 3's Parent/Teacher Conferences	19	20	21
22 4's Kids Feast	23 3's Kids Feast 5's Thanksgiving Family Feast	24 No school - Holiday Break	25 Thanksgiving Holiday	26 No school - Holiday Break	27	28
29 10:30am-11:15am Scholastic Book Fair	30 9am-3pm Scholastic Book Fair					
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Looking ahead...</p> <p>Sunday, Nov. 29- Friday, Dec. 4: Scholastic Book Fair</p> <p>Fri., Dec. 4: Babysitting night</p> <p>Thurs., Dec. 10 - Fri., Dec. 11: 3's and 4's Gingerbread Houses</p> <p>Thurs., Dec. 17 - Fri., Dec. 18: Holiday Parties</p> <p>Weds., Jan. 13: Winter Membership Meeting (Mandatory)</p> </div>						