



fumcn news

Welcome Fall!

October 2009

IN THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| A Note From Ms. Juli | 1 |
| From the Co-Presidents' Pens | 2 |
| Hello from the Fives Class! | 2 |
| Fundraising | 3 |
| Curriculum | 4 |
| Health and Nutrition | 5 |
| Social Committee | 6 |

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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

Newsletter Editor:

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

Spread the word!

Please continue to tell your friends and neighbors that we still have openings in our afternoon 3's and 4's classes as well as in our morning 5's class!

A Note From Ms. Juli

October is always a welcomed month for me. The air is crisper. The days seem filled with autumn fun and frolicking. I hope you can take time this year to visit one of our local apple orchards, go on a hay ride or just jump in a pile of leaves.

We would like to use our plastic, washable cups and dishes as much as possible during snack time. We'd like to save some trees. We can use the church's industrial dishwasher in the kitchen. It is pretty simple to use after you learn how. When you are in the A or Q room you are the ones helping with the dishwashing. There are instructions by the dishwasher and hanging in the A-Room. Read these to learn how to use the dishwasher.

Yvette Dimcheff (Andrew & Eliot 5's) made new apron cards which include new instructions regarding the dishwashing. Please read these even if you are a tenured alum and feel comfortable with our routine. Some things may be different.

Fall is the time to plant spring bulbs. I would like to plant some here at FUMCN and send some home with the kids. If you are able to donate any spring bulbs, please let me know. If we get enough we can send some home with the kids, too.

On Friday, October 23rd, I am having a planning day, and there will not be regular school. The curriculum team and Social Team are working on an activity outside of school for that day. On this day I come to FUMCN and do some planning I can't get to during school. I really appreciate this time to be able to catch up on some things and prepare for future activities.

Thank you to all the parents who have been arriving on time for their assist days. I know your lives can get very harried, and being on time for FUMCN can be a challenge. It is greatly appreciated. Remember also that pick up is at 11:30am sharp for the morning classes and 3pm sharp for the afternoon classes. I have very little time between classes to eat lunch, answer e-mail and prepare for the next class. Your promptness is appreciated.

I am really enjoying all your children at school. They will get our daily routine down more into October and you will all see the change from the beginning of the year. Hope to see you all at our annual Halloween Parties: Thursday, October 29 (3's) and Friday, October 30 (4's). Happy October.

Cooperatively Yours,
Ms. Juli

From the Co-Presidents' Pens

Fall is such a wonderful time of year! It's a time of new beginnings and excitement. My daughter just had her first day at FUMCN and couldn't be happier. She had been looking forward to going to school like her older siblings for a long time. I hope that your children are enjoying the transition to preschool just as much. There are many fun events to look forward to in October at FUMCN. We will start off the month with pet day. Next, the 4's classes will take walking field trips to the Ann Arbor fire station while the 3's classes will have fire fighters come to visit them at FUMCN. During the middle of the month, all of the 3's and 4's classes will visit the Plymouth Orchards. The month will end with the very fun class Halloween parties.

The FUMCN auction will be on November 6th. Mark your calendars for this fun-filled night. There will be a live auctioneer and many unique items, baskets, and services to purchase. (I like to get some of my holiday shopping done there.) Each FUMCN family is asked to make a donation to the auction. If you want to donate a service (gardening, babysitting, painting, handyman services, etc.), such items have always done well in the past. Donations from local businesses are always welcome. Come to the auction and bring a friend (or a few friends). I have brought relatives and friends in the past and made a fun night out of it.

Please feel free to call Laura Dills (997-0447) or me (913-4662), email either of us (ledills@sbcglobal.net or robinhescheles@yahoo.com) or drop one of us a note in the mailbox in the B room with any questions, concerns or compliments about the FUMCN program. All of you are invited to attend any and all board meetings. Our next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 12th, at 7pm at Karen Fry's house. Board meetings are always the second Monday of the month at 7pm.

As your family settles into new routines this school year, I hope you are able to take time to enjoy these beautiful autumn days and nights with your children.

Class camera = cute journals!

In case you didn't know, the FUMCN camera lives on Ms. Juli's desk and is available for anyone to use. Feel free to take pictures of any of the kids (not just yours) doing fun and interesting things. The pictures will be used in journals and for the FUMCN DVD at the end of the year.

Hello from the Fives Class!

We've had a great start to the school. I have really enjoyed getting to know our students this year. We've spent the last couple weeks welcoming everyone to school, learning "All About Me" facts from each one, about transportation (how we get to school -- and more) and apples. A perfect fall theme!

We've had a bus field trip which involved riding the bus and getting off at North Campus to explore, then returning, and an apple field trip.

Next month, our topics will be fire safety, autumn changes, pumpkins and bats. We'll have some different field trips, like picking pumpkins, that relate to each topic.

Just to let you know about our class...we meet Monday through Friday, from 9am to noon. We go out on the playground right at 11:30am, so the AM classes may see us in passing. It's a great class and a great beginning of our third year!

Ms. Susan

Fundraising

It's time to start thinking about our largest fundraiser of the year, the 2009 FUMCN Auction ---"Oh, the Places You'll Go!" on Friday, November 6th. We are anxious to make the 2009 FUMCN Auction the best ever. This year, our theme will revolve around a few of our favorite children's authors and books, including Dr. Seuss.

It is not too early to start thinking about what auction item your family will be donating. The minimum amount for your item should be \$50, and this donation can be achieved many different ways. You can donate an item, gift basket, service, sports tickets, or time-share... The options are endless. In addition, you can approach a community store or place of business and ask for a donation. There will be a list up in the hallway the first week of school where you can list your item so we don't approach the same business multiple times. Finally, we will be requesting a book donation for a few authors we will be celebrating. We will then bundle these books as auction items and decorations for the auction evening. More information will be available in future FUMCN emails and in the hallway at school. Please spread the word about the auction and invite friends and family. More people in attendance will help us surpass our fundraising goal. Our goal is to make this the most successful auction yet!

We also have a unique fundraising opportunity at Learning Express in the Westgate Shopping Center. Please save all of your shopping for Tuesday, November 10th through Thursday November 12th, 2009. Bring our FUMCN flier with you and we will receive 20% of your total purchase for our school. Plan on doing some birthday and/or Christmas shopping and share our flier with friends! Fliers will be available in the B room in November. This is sure to be a great money maker for us this year.

Thank you for supporting the FUMCN fundraising committee.
Susan Courtright (Corinne 3am) & Robyn Bishop (Derek 3am)

Birthday Treats

If you are planning to bring in treats for your child's birthday (or half-birthday), please make sure to write it on the calendar in the hallway. It helps if you do so **AT LEAST A WEEK** (preferably more) before the actual day. This allows both the emergency/snack person and any parents of allergic kids to plan. As the mom of two allergy-laden children, I've seen firsthand how crushing it can be for a child to see everyone else in the room eat a treat that they aren't allowed. When the birthday is on the calendar ahead, special safe treats can be brought in.

Thanks!

Sue Iekel-Johnson (Jessie 4am)

Parent Education

If there is a topic that you would like us to cover this year, please e-mail Colleen Burroughs at mcburrs@hotmail.com. Also, for those of you who are interested in learning how to cope and maintain healthy skin for those suffering from eczema or allergy related rashes, please let me know so I can schedule an informational night.

Colleen Burroughs (Ben 3am)

Curriculum

Wow! October is already here and fall is upon us. Here is a quick look at the upcoming events scheduled for October. Detailed information about each of these trips/events will be distributed before each of the events occurs.

- Monday, October 5th: 4's walking field trip to the fire station
- Tuesday, October 6th: Firemen will come to FUMCN and give a presentation to the 3's classes
- Thursday and Friday, October 8 & 9: Picture days
- Tuesday and Wednesday, October 13 & 14: Classes will be visiting Plymouth Orchards to pick apples and pumpkins
- Thursday and Friday, October 29 & 30: Halloween Parties

Mark these dates on your calendars, and look for handouts with specific information on each event over the next few weeks. Also, check out the FUMCN calendar in the preschool hallway for more "up to date" events.

Fall is a special time and we have so many things to do at FUMCN this month. We will be starting out our "around the world" theme with a unit on transportation. Kids will be assessing which modes of transportation might be appropriate for different destinations. They will also be "driving" around FUMCN in vehicles they create. They'll go to a FUMCN car wash and take the FUMCN bus with colored and numbered tickets to help them find their seats. We still need big (refrigerator or other) boxes for these activities and the Halloween maze, so if you have some please leave them in the promenade (past the double doors outside the B room).

The first full week in October is fire safety week and we will be going to the fire house or having the firefighters visit FUMCN to go over fire safety with our students. We encourage you as families to think about your own fire safety and make sure you have working smoke detectors and a family plan in case of a fire.

Students will also be observing the Fall as a season. Ms. Juli will be starting a "meet a tree" project that will help students take note of the change in seasons by observing plants and animals outside the church with a particular focus on trees.

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|---|------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <h2>FUMCN Focus for October</h2> | | | |
| Curricular Theme(s): Transportation, Fire Safety, Fall, Halloween | | | |
| Numbers: 1, 2, 3 | Letters: Aa, Bb, Cc | Shapes: Circle, Rectangle, Triangle, Square | Colors: Red, Green, Orange, Black |

We will be starting a curriculum wish list on the wall at FUMCN. We would love to do some extra special activities at the preschool this fall, and we could use your help with some of the items we need. If you would like to help, please look for the list in the hallway and bring the items in by the suggested dates. Thanks in advance, parents, for all you do!

Your curriculum co-chairs,
Staci Almeida (Isaac 3am)
Jenni Wilkening (Lily 4am)

Health and Nutrition

Thank you for all of your efforts to maintain FUMCN as a peanut/nut free facility. Another focus at FUMCN is an emphasis on healthy snacks. In the 3s and 4s the emergency assist parents are helping reach this goal by bringing in a nutritious perishable snack. When you are the emergency assist person, you should bring in a fruit, vegetable, or dairy snack for all of the class to have as part of snack. You will also select a non-perishable item from the supplies in the classroom. The A room assist parent will serve both the snack you bring and the one you select from the closet. Please remember to record your snack items on the paper posted near the entrance to the A room, so the assist parent knows exactly what to prepare at snack time. These procedures are also outlined in the handbook.

Here are just some snack ideas:

Bananas (1/3 per child)
 Baby carrots (1 lb) (with or without a nut-free dip)
 Yogurt (1 quart) or individual servings for each child
 Milk (1 quart)
 Apples, pears, peaches, oranges (1/2 to 1/3 per child depending on size)
 Watermelon or cantaloupe wedges (1 to 2 per child)
 Clementines (2.5 pounds)
 String cheese (1 per child)
 Cottage cheese
 Grapes
 Celery sticks with cream cheese (one bunch and 8 oz cream cheese)
 Dried fruit (raisins, apricots, cherries)

Be sure to check the allergy lists above the snack prep area in the A room for any foods to avoid in your class.

Unfortunately, now that cooler weather is on the way and we are spending more time inside we must start thinking about colds and other illnesses. FUMCN is so much fun that it can be hard to decide when to keep a child at home! But preschoolers are so good at sharing, maintaining close contact, and providing wonderful affection that those germs are spread pretty easily. Of course, the best way to ward off some of these germs is with handwashing. This is the time of year to step it up a notch. Be a good example and always wash hands after wiping your nose with a tissue and consider having a group handwashing every time you come home from FUMCN or anyplace else for that matter! **Here are some symptoms that indicate that you should keep your child at home: Fever; nausea/vomiting; diarrhea; sore throat; red or pink eyes; loss of energy; earache; and/or thick, yellow discharge from the nose.** Typically, your child can return to school when these symptoms go away, or when he or she has been on antibiotics for at least 24 hours. Of course, use your best judgment, consult your child's physician, and feel free to talk to Ms. Juli, Ms. Susan or me for further guidance. **Don't forget to call Ms. Juli or Ms. Susan if your child won't be in school!**

Also, please be sure to notify me if your child comes down with a contagious disease such as chicken pox, measles, head lice, strep throat, influenza, etc....so that we can confidentially notify other parents of a possible exposure.

As you get familiar with assisting in the various rooms, please look for the first aid bin in the Q room next to the windows. It has all the supplies you will need in the event of an injury at school. You will also notice that each assist apron pocket has a baggie with bandages, hand-sanitizer, and gloves. Let me know if you have ideas for other supplies that may be needed to assist you and your child in the event of an emergency. There is also a portable first-aid kit for each class that goes along on Field Trips.

The white emergency cards can be found in two places: the field trip bags in the maintenance closet and in the red Emergency Card File above Ms. Juli's desk. Please be sure to keep your child's emergency card updated with current phone and cell numbers and address changes. Remember that emergency equipment (epi-pens and Benadryl) is located in the cabinet above Ms. Juli's desk.

Thanks,
 Yvette Dimcheff (Andrew and Eliot, Young 5s) ylcapps@hotmail.com or 734-929-9272

Social Committee

Hello from the Social Committee!

Let me first introduce our fabulous social representatives for each class!

3am- Kelly Szymanski **4am- Sharon Schuldt**

3pm- Bridget Held-Snelling **4pm- Kristin Ball**

They will remind you of upcoming social events and give reminders for those who signed up to bring items to parties. They will also be scheduling class get-togethers, so let them know if you have something you'd like your class to do. They will also be helping with all-school events, including fall and spring socials and the November craft auction. Thank you social committee!

Look for **these upcoming social events:**

- **Class coffees:** Meet in the **Wesley Lounge** (upstairs) during your child's class time. Ms. Juli will be there to do a dishwashing demonstration, for those of you who need to learn how to use the industrial kitchen dishwasher. Also, we will discuss ideas for our Halloween class parties and donation ideas for the Craft Auction in November.
 - Thursday, Oct. 8th (3's classes)
 - Friday, Oct. 9th (4's classes)
- **Halloween parties**
 - Thursday, Oct. 29th (3's classes)
 - Friday, Oct. 30th (4's classes)
- **Trick-or-Treating at Brookhaven Manor** (senior residence)
 - Look for info. to come!

Happy to serve you,
Karen Fry (Tommy 4am)



October 2009

FUMCN Activity Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|------------------------|
| | | | | 1 3's Pet Day | 2 4's Pet Day | 3 |
| 4 | 5 4's Walking Field Trip to Fire Station | 6 Firemen visit FUMCN 3's | 7 | 8 3's Picture Day 3's Class Coffees | 9 4's Picture Day 4's Class Coffees 6-9pm Maintenance | 10 |
| 11 | 12 7pm Board Meeting at Karen Fry's home | 13 3's Field Trip to Plymouth Orchards | 14 4's Field Trip to Plymouth Orchards | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 No School - Ms. Juli's Planning Day | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 3's Halloween Party | 30 4's Halloween Party | 31 Happy Halloween! |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Looking ahead...</p> <p>Friday, Nov. 6: FUMCN Auction</p> <p>Tues., Nov. 10 - Thurs., Nov. 12: Learning Express Fundraiser</p> </div> | | | | | | |