



fumcn news

Welcome FUMCN Families!

September 2009

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www.fumcn.org!

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.

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

Welcome to the 2009-2010 FUMCN School Year. I expect this year to be another filled with fun, learning, excitement, and at times exhausting. I am up for the task. Are you? You, the parents, are the ones who make FUMCN possible for everyone. A Co-Op is special because parents have the opportunity not only to participate, but, also shape the future of our school and the lives of ALL the families we touch. The following information is designed to help you as you begin your career at FUMCN or as a refresher for you Alumni.

DISCIPLINE Discipline at FUMCN is good-humored and caring. We redirect energies and try to get the children to resolve the problem themselves, a lot of times adults give verbal prompts. A child may be removed from a room or a situation if they are harming themselves, others, or property. Be assured I will contact you privately if your child's behavior has become a problem. At times, I will need to discuss certain situations at board meetings. Again, I will discuss them with the utmost confidentiality as not to embarrass anyone.

COMMUNICATION This is very important! Please, be sure to check your child's tote bag EVERY DAY. This year I plan on passing out a *weekly* note instead of *daily* notes. Trying to save some trees is good Karma. But, other information may be in your child's tote bag on various days. Sometimes, plans change at the last minute. I don't want anyone to miss out on a special day or a change of plans. Also, check the calendar and bulletin board in the hallway often. Our great Communication Team will also send you weekly e-mail updates. If you need to reach me after school you may call before 9pm: 734-439-0583 or send me an e-mail: juli@fumc-a2.org (school) or mettinen@peoplepc.com (Home). I check my school e-mail a few times a day and my home e-mail at least every other day or so.

ABSENCES Please, let me know if you are going to be out of school by either leaving me a note, an e-mail, or by calling the FUMCN phone: 734-662-7660.

CURRICULUM FUMCN is a "Play-Based" school. We believe that children learn naturally through play. Our activities are set up in a fun, non-threatening manner, to capture the children's attention while teaching them concepts that will help them mature and develop. We integrate pre-math, pre-reading, pre-writing and science in our curriculum in fun ways along with the usual art, music, and dance. We always are eager to hear from parents of special activities that you think may interest the children.

3'S SHOW AND TELL To get the younger children eased into talking in front of groups we will do Show and Tell in the 3's class. On the day you are assisting (not emergency), your child may bring **ONE, NON-VIOLENT**

item from home to show his/her friends. I will ask the children to leave the item in their tote bags before and after the Show And Tell time. This will usually take place at our story time at the beginning of class.

4'S MAGIC BOX This is a variation of Show and Tell. Each day a child is chosen from the class list to take home the "Magic Box". Have your child choose an item from home that fits in the box. Help him/her write down 3 descriptions of the object in the notebook provided. Send the box back to school on the next scheduled day. (Don't bring it to field trips.) At the end of the day, I will help your child read the descriptions and let the other children guess what is in the box. The contents are kept secret until your child reveals it or it is guessed correctly. The box then goes home with another child. FYI: This usually takes a few times until the children catch on and can be patient to wait their turn. Be patient with them and keep saying "Everyone will get a turn." This is a great activity that helps with Emergent Literacy while helping the children develop some patience and understanding about delayed gratification. When they finally get their turn it is VERY EXCITING!

SIBLINGS I like FUMCN to be an open and fun school for the whole family. We try hard to plan field trips that are sibling friendly. At times, that is impossible. You will be given notice about each field trip.

Assisting is a wonderful time for you to spend with your FUMCN child. FUMCN has a sibling nursery you can sign up to use for a nominal fee. Some parents in the past have even worked out arrangements with other FUMCN parents or chose to keep their youngster at home with a relative or private sitter. Siblings are welcome in the classrooms when dropping off or picking up. We have a lot of small items that are age appropriate for our Preschoolers, only. These could cause a choking hazard to your younger children. PLEASE, be sure to watch them closely. Routines are very important to Preschoolers -- especially at the beginning of the year. Siblings running around when we are trying to do an activity can be very distracting. Please, try to keep all siblings in another room while we are having an activity. This will also keep them safe since we can get a little wild at times. Due to State of Michigan licensing requirements, diaper changing cannot be done in the classrooms or the FUMCN bathrooms. Please, use the bathroom near the nursery for diaper changing.

CONFERENCES have been planned for November and Spring for the 3 year olds. And, conferences will be held in January for the 4 year olds. As the time nears, a sign-up sheet will be posted. This is a good time for us to sit down one on one to discuss your child. Even if there are not any major concerns, this gives me time to talk to you about our activities and how they help your child. Please plan to attend.

DRESS Children should wear simple, washable play clothes which do not inhibit their participation in our activities. Shoes that provide adequate support for running and climbing activities are highly suggested. It is best for all (especially newly potty-trained) preschoolers to wear clothes that are easily taken off and put on. Belts, suspenders, and pants with buttons are cute, but not easy to manipulate for preschool hands. Please keep this in mind when choosing school clothes. Be sure to pack a complete change of clothes in your child's tote bag, MARKED CLEARLY WITH HIS/HER NAME. Even if your child is fully potty-trained, paint spills can happen and make their clothes very messy.

SEPARATIONS Some children come to school, put away their items, give a quick wave to Mom or Dad and are off to start their day. Other children need more time to get comfortable. I am more than happy to work with you on a plan to say good-bye. Each child is unique and needs a plan that works just for him or her.

BIRTHDAYS Birthdays are very important to children. Feel free to bring in a simple treat to share with the class. To help keep it organized, on the main calendar in the hallway write down your child's name and birthday treat on the day you wish to bring it in. Keep in mind any food allergies that might be in your class. Allergy notices will be posted the first day of school. Please do not plan to bring in a special snack on any other special event day in school, as special snacks are often made for these by the snack people. If your child's birthday is during the summer, you may plan a "1/2 Birthday" around 6 months from your child's actual Birthday. Please try to get these on the calendar early in the year so we are not "Birthdayered" out at the end of the year. Thank You.

DAILY JOBS When a child feels important and can complete a task that is helpful, it helps build his/hers self-esteem. This year each child will have a daily or weekly job to help this important developmental area. The jobs will range from line leader to the snack helper. Ms. Mary (3's Assistant Teacher) has been working on this fun addition to our school year. The job duties will rotate either daily or weekly. All these jobs will be geared toward their preschool abilities.

This is A LOT of information. Most of all have fun. FUMCN is FUN. We want to keep it a safe and nurturing place that the children will remember all their lives, and a place where they may send their children.

Good luck in the New Year!

ASSIST PROCEDURES 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR

An integral part of FUMCN is your opportunity to assist in the classrooms. When you are here you are considered an Assistant Teacher. I will have activities, plans and directions each day you assist. At the start of each day we will have a short meeting to discuss the day's upcoming events and answer any questions you may have.

The following is an outline of the way we start our day at FUMCN. Please take some time to learn this outline. If you have any questions please see Ms. Juli. And, as always thank you for your time and talents you give to FUMCN.

- ✓ When you arrive at 9:00am/12:30pm for your assist day, help your child(ren) hang up their belongings in the B-Room and collect the apron for the room you want to assist in.
- ✓ Go to the Q-room: sign in your child and help them get their name tags on.
- ✓ Go to the A-Room: There we will close the door. When all assists are present I will go over the day's activities. At this point the only people in the A-Room are the teacher, assists and the assist's children. This should only take a couple of minutes. We will only go over the day when ALL assists arrive.
- ✓ Then you can go to your assist room and do any prep work for the day and welcome the children.
- ✓ If you come to school early please stay with your child and encourage your child(ren) to play in the Q-Room until our day can start.
- ✓ In an effort to keep to our schedule and keep our day as organized as possible, if at 9:15am/12:45pm you are not at school for your scheduled assist day, your day may be offered to another parent. You will then need to contact that parent to switch for another day.
- ✓ We will only begin our drop-off procedures when ALL assists are there. If you are in the promenade you may wait in your vehicle until an assist parent arrives or walk your child in yourself and wait with your child in the Q-Room until we are ready. Either way, your child CANNOT be dropped off until we have all 4 assists. We can start school only when everyone is present. Promenade drop-off is available for you (after all assists arrive) during these times: Am class - 9:15-9:30. Pm class - 12:45-1PM.

From the Co-Presidents' Pens

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! It's great to see some familiar faces and meet some new friends. We hope you have had a summer of relaxation, new experiences and some fun. We also hope that you and your child(ren) are ready to begin the amazing adventure of a new school year.

FUMCN is certainly a special place for children and their families. By choosing to be a part of a co-operative community, you all have the priceless opportunity to watch and participate as your child grows and discovers so much about themselves and the world around them. We hope that as you watch your child grow and explore, experience new activities, and develop new friendships that you too will be learning and enjoying new friendships as well. FUMCN can truly become an extension of your family, as we work and play together and support each other.

The Dills-Chung family is beginning this school year with our youngest, Emmy in the 3am class. My older two children (now 1st and 2nd graders) are "FUMCN alumni" and they have been busy sharing with Emmy all that she has to look forward to, as they reflect upon their fond memories of FUMCN. My daughter is eagerly anticipating making new friends and having some new experiences of her own. Rest assured, even if your child is having some anxiety and mixed emotions about the start of school, the welcoming environment and the warm smiles of our teachers are sure to help ease the transition.

The Hescheles family became a part of the FUMCN community four years ago when my son, Henry (7), started out in the three's class. The following year my daughter, Grace (6), started the three's while Henry moved on to the four's. Since that time we have met so many wonderful and dedicated families. Watching the children learn and enjoy school while assisting has been a joy I will always look back on fondly. I feel fortunate to have my youngest daughter, Lily (3), begin another year at this very special place.

The FUMCN Board has been hard at work this summer preparing for the upcoming year. All of the parents and teachers on this Board are dedicated (many with years of FUMCN experience) to helping make this school the best it can be. To that end, the FUMCN Board meets monthly (with many subcommittees meeting more frequently) to discuss and address the many current and ongoing issues and programs that make FUMCN such a unique community. In addition, the Board continually strives to look towards the "future FUMCN" and envision how to keep FUMCN evolving to meet the challenges of our current times, yet to preserve the enriching community that makes FUMCN so special.

Thank you for choosing FUMCN! Please feel free to contact Robin, Laura or any other board member if you have any questions or concerns about our program. Since FUMCN is a co-op, it is every family's school. We are all here for the same goal—to give every child an enriching, fun place to learn and grow with us. We look forward to an exciting year and all of your unique contributions to making FUMCN a great school for our children.

Laura Dills-Chung (Emmy 3am)
Robin Hescheles (Lily 3am)

VP

Hello and welcome to the 2009-2010 FUMCN school year. As your Vice President, I have four main responsibilities. During the summer I assign everyone to a committee and a specific job within that committee. In the course of our year I arrange for substitute teachers as needed, in the spring I will ask you to fill out a survey on your FUMCN experience, and I also help the co-presidents as needed.

First off, I would like to take some time to explain how the jobs are assigned. Priority is given to FUMCN alumni and the order in which paperwork was received. If someone did the job previously or there are special circumstances or skills those are also taken into consideration. Everyone's job is important to keep our school clean, stocked and organized, funded and full or enriching activities. Each job has a detailed description in the parent handbook and we appreciate your hard work in keeping up to date on your responsibilities. A few of the jobs have more than one person assigned. If this is the case for you, contact your partner soon to discuss the specific tasks. A current list of assignments and committee chair(s) will be posted in the hallway between the A and B rooms. If you have any questions about your job, please contact the committee chair(s) or me and we will be happy to help.

Secondly, during the course of the year, Ms. Juli may need to be out for conferences, planning days, personal or sick days. In that event your child's teacher will be another co-op parent who will follow the regular daily schedule and Ms. Juli's lesson plan for that day. If you are interested in helping out and making a little extra money (\$25 / half day), please let me add you to my list of subs. You don't need any prior teaching or preschool experience, just be willing to lead the class and have fun. I hope you all have as much fun as my son and I had last year. We are looking forward to another exciting year, to seeing old friends, making new ones and all the experiences that make our school so special.

Amy Unsworth (Graham 4am)

Secretary

I'm Catherine Maruna, Secretary of the FUMCN board. I take notes at the monthly Board meetings and handle the FUMCN handbook. You can review the Board meeting notes on the FUMCN website each month. The handbook is online only this year, and you can access it at <http://www.fumcn.org/handbook.cfm>. If you have any questions about the handbook or the Board meeting notes, please contact me.

Catherine Maruna (Henry 4am)

Fundraising

*Please save the date of **Friday, November 6** for the annual FUMCN auction!* This exciting event is one of our most important fundraisers, helping to support our wonderful school and co-op programs. The auction is held in the First United Methodist Church social hall and is great fun! It is the only fundraiser that requires participation of each family in the form of a donated item or service. So please start thinking about an item or service you can donate. Also, we wanted to let everyone know that you will have the opportunity to order FUMCN t-shirts for both kids and adults at Parent Orientation Night. We look forward to a great year of fundraising to support FUMCN. We will be sharing more information in the coming weeks and encourage your input and suggestions.

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

Hello from the Fives Class!!

I would like to welcome all our new Fives students for the year! I am really looking forward to a wonderful year together. For some of our returning parents, you may have noticed that our hallway looks a little different. Over the summer, the church (with Jim's hard work!) moved the swinging double doors to just beyond the Fives class so we may be physically connected to the rest of the preschool. Moving the doors not only makes our class safer (by being a part of the preschool, with no barrier separating us) and makes it easier for us to access the bathrooms and sinks, but it is also a symbol of the growing connection between the two programs. Ms. Juli and I would like to see more interaction between the Fives and the Threes and Fours -- such as the older kids mentoring the younger ones on how to complete a certain task or skill or sharing a special field trip together.

This month, I am looking forward to getting to know all the kids in the Fives class. We're talk about the start of school, all about me and school rules, the different ways we go to school and apples. One of our first field trips will be to an apple orchard.

Happy Fall!

Ms. Susan

Membership

Hello and Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year from the co-chairs of Membership!

You have probably talked to one of us at some point about questions you had about FUMCN. We manage all the applications for FUMCN and keep current information of your address, phone number and email, so if any of these items changes during the year, please let us know or update your information on the website and we can disseminate the information so you won't miss a beat here at FUMCN.

We've had an active summer of FUMCN changes. Some families have unexpectedly had to move away or take on another job forcing them to leave our school, and some new families have moved in. We're looking forward to meeting and getting to know all of you with whom we've been speaking over the months.

Please spread the word about our excellent program and teachers to all of your friends and neighbors! Over the years our always-full wait lists have been fueled mostly by word-of-mouth. This crazy economy is affecting enrollment at many schools in town, and we still have openings in the 3pm, 4pm, and young 5s classes.

Have a great year!

Tori Booker (Nicolas 4am) and Sarah Boren-Rao (Uma 3am)

Parent Education

Remember **Parent Orientation Night on September 9th** from 7-9pm. There is a great deal of information given that night, so please do not bring your children, if possible. Also, refreshments will be served.

Colleen Burroughs (Ben 3am)

Curriculum



Hello, Gutentag, γεια σου, Hola, 안녕하세요, Hej, こんにちは, Ciao, مرحبا, and welcome or welcome back to FUMCN. We are your curriculum people this year, Staci Almeida (Isaac 3am) and Jenni Wilkening (Lily 4am). Along with Ms. Juli, we have already been hard at work this summer planning our year at FUMCN using the theme ***Around the World***. We are using your curriculum surveys to determine which countries around the globe we will focus on, so we hope that you will be willing to share some background or culture with the kids. If you have ideas, or already have something in mind that you want to share, please email us (hubbells@msu.edu or jenniwilkening@yahoo.com).

In each newsletter, we will include the FUMCN focus for the upcoming month. Each month, the children will focus on learning about different themes, shapes, numbers, letters and colors. The curriculum guide distributed in your orientation packet outlined the schedule for these themes, but the newsletter will serve as a helpful reminder of what is coming in the month ahead. Again this year, look for the special page entitled "Activity Calendar" to get an organized view of the upcoming month's activities at FUMCN. Something new at FUMCN this year will be our letter station, where kids will be able to explore our focus letters. The letter station will include lots of multi-sensory activities around a different focus letter each week.

<h2>FUMCN Focus for September</h2>			
Curricular Theme(s): All about me, Back to School			
Numbers: 1, 2, 3	Letters: A, B	Shapes: Circle, Square	Colors: Red, Yellow

Lily and Isaac can't wait for school to start this year, and we are very excited too! We hope all of you are as eager as we are for things to get started, and we hope that you all have a wonderful experience here at FUMCN this year. This is the first time either of us has helped plan the curriculum at FUMCN so we welcome your ideas and suggestions. Again, don't hesitate to email us with your comments, questions or suggestions (hubbells@msu.edu and jenniwilkening@yahoo.com)

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



Health and Safety

Thank you to everyone who has completed and returned their orientation and health forms. If you still have forms to complete make sure they are **returned to the health mailbox in the B room ASAP**. The Department of Health requires licensed facilities to compile an Immunization Report Form by October 1. I will be reviewing your child's records in September and will contact you if there are any deficiencies.

As many of you know, FUMCN is a **peanut/nut free school**. This is to preserve the safety of our students with life threatening allergies. We expect the parents of allergic children to educate their child and to educate us as well, but we hope all parents will learn which children are allergic to which foods. You can learn about food allergies and restrictions by reviewing the information above the snack preparation area in the A room. During the first week of school, I will put the **peanut/nut free policy information in your child's mailbox**. In the policy you will find guidelines for snacks and special treats for the classroom. These guidelines will also be posted above the sink in the A room. As we start the year, we want to be sure that we don't inadvertently bring nut residue into FUMCN. If you or your child (or any siblings coming to drop-off or pick-up) eat or handle nuts, peanuts or peanut butter for breakfast or lunch, please wash face and hands thoroughly before coming to school. Also be sure your child is not eating in the clothes he/she will be wearing to school that day. This may seem extreme, but peanut butter and oils can transfer very easily from hands or clothing to toys and surfaces at FUMCN. While this may seem overwhelming at first, please know that Ms. Juli, Ms. Susan, the snack parent and I, are happy to answer any questions and concerns you may have.

All children with serious allergies or health concerns should have a child information sheet posted above the snack preparation area in the A room (Young 5s allergy information is posted in the Young 5s room on the closet door closest to the snack table –east wall). Please contact me if your child has an allergy or health concern and you still need to complete one of these forms. Also, please contact me if your child needs any emergency equipment, such as Benadryl, epi-pens, inhalers, or other supplies, so that we can add his/her medical requirements to the labeled EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT containers.

One of the focuses of snacks at FUMCN is to model healthy eating. We try to provide foods without too much added sugar. The snack procedure for the 3s and 4s is as follows: There is one assigned snack person for the school who is responsible for purchasing bulk quantities of healthy, non-perishable foods like crackers. The **emergency assist parent** for each class will be responsible for bringing in a fresh fruit, vegetable, or dairy product (yogurt, cheese sticks, milk, etc.) for their particular class that day. When arriving at school, the emergency assist parent should also choose a non-perishable snack from the supply room and record both snacks on the A room instruction sheet hanging by the door. Let the A room parent know where the snacks will be stored until snack time (counter, refrigerator, etc.). The A room parent then serves both the non-perishable and the fresh snack brought in by the emergency assist parent. In the Young 5s class, there is one assigned snack person for the class who is responsible for purchasing bulk quantities of healthy, non-perishable foods. Each parent then rotates on a weekly basis the responsibility for bringing in a fresh fruit, vegetable, or dairy product (yogurt, cheese sticks, milk, etc) for the week for the entire class.

Note – If you wish to bring in a special birthday snack for your child (one that is appropriate given the allergies in that class) please write this on the FUMCN calendar in the hallway and let the emergency assist parent know that a snack is not needed for the day. However, a birthday treat is not required and you can choose another way to celebrate your child's birthday (a birthday book, special craft, or stickers... check with Ms. Juli first). The full snack procedure is in your FUMCN handbook and will be posted above the snack area in the A room. We hope to work together to provide healthy, appealing snacks for our children.

FUMCN provides a **First Aid kit in the Q room**. Here you will find important supplies to use in case of an emergency. You will also find in your assist apron pocket, a baggie with gloves and band-aids for any immediate emergencies such as blood or vomiting. Feel free to restock your apron from the first aid kit if you find any items missing.

For the 3s and 4s classes the white emergency cards can be found in two places: the Field Trip Rubbermaid Box and in the Emergency Card file above Ms. Juli's desk in the A room. Please be sure to keep these cards updated with current phone and cell phone numbers, address changes and health/allergy information.

(Continued on next page)

Health and Safety (continued)

Finally, please contact me throughout the year if your child becomes sick with a contagious disease such as chicken pox, head lice, or strep throat. We will notify other parents of a possible exposure without revealing the name of the student affected.

Please continue to communicate allergies and any questions or concerns to Yvette Dimcheff (Andrew and Eliot, Young 5s) and to Ms. Juli or Ms. Susan. We strive to keep FUMCN safe and healthy for all children. Thanks!

Yvette Dimcheff (Andrew and Eliot, Young 5s)

Phone: 734-929-9272

Email: ylcapps@hotmail.com

Social Committee

Hello FUMCN families! As the school year approaches, I look forward to being your social committee chair once again! This is my second year as social chair, and am excited about having a year of this job under my belt! I will need a social representative for each class. Social representatives schedule a class get-together each semester and remind people of food items, etc., that they have signed up to bring to all our social events. The Social Committee works closely with Fundraising and Curriculum to organize our social activities. We had a very successful end-of-year carnival this past May, and look forward to more collaborative efforts between committees! Look to see who your class's social rep. is so you can offer input/suggestions for what fun things you'd like to see your class do together! Since you'll be coming to FUMCN for Meet the Teacher Day, try to attend this first social class picnic to meet your fellow parents and child's classmates:

- **3's class picnic: Thursday, Sept. 10th from 11-2.**
- **4's class picnic: Friday, Sept. 11th from 11-2.**

Bring a lunch and blanket. We'll have a picnic on the lawn at FUMCN; if it's raining we'll meet inside in the Social Hall.

Please let me know if you have any great ideas for our social committee. Look for information to come about pre-school day at the Saline Fair.

I look forward to serving you!

Karen Fry (Tommy 4am)

FUMC Family Fall Kickoff

Please join the First United Methodist Church family on **Sunday, Sept. 27th**, from 11:15am-1:00pm in the Social Hall to get information about our Sunday School programs, meet volunteer leaders, and eat lunch together.

September 2009

FUMCN Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	Labor Day	7 3's Meet Ms. Juli 5's Meet the Teacher	8 4's Meet Ms. Juli 5's Meet the Teacher 7pm Parent Orientation	9 3's Meet Ms. Juli 5's First Day of School 11am-2pm 3's Class Picnic	10 4's Meet Ms. Juli 11am-2pm 4's Class Picnic 6pm-9pm 4's Fall Set-up	11 9am-12pm 4's Fall Set-up
13	14 4's First Day of School	15 First day for first ½ of 3am class	16 First day for second ½ of 3am class First day for 3pm class	17	18	19
20	21 First day all 3's together	22	23 3's Pet Day	24 4's Pet Day	25	26
27 11:15am-1pm FUMC Family Fall Kickoff	28	29	30	Looking ahead... Monday, Oct. 5: 4's Walking Field Trip to Fire Station Tuesday, Oct. 6: Firemen visit FUMCN 3's Thursday and Friday, Oct. 8-9: Picture Days Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 13-14: Driving Field Trips to Plymouth Orchards Friday, Nov. 6: FUMCN Auction		