



fumcn news

Happy New Year!

January 2012

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www.fumcn.org

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



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

From the President's Pen

Happy New Year! Welcome back to FUMCN. I hope everyone had a relaxing, enjoyable break. Things are humming right along at FUMCN - at this point, kids and even parents are feeling comfortable with the daily routine. The second semester will start at the beginning of February. Its always fun to look back at how oblivious those little 3 yr olds were in September and how far they've come - putting on their own coats, carrying their bags, showing responsibility. And the 4 yr olds...well they (think) they are becoming little adults. It's very rewarding to see the growth. We've also had a few enrollment changes in the $\frac{3}{4}$'s class and I speak for the board when I say to the $\frac{3}{4}$'s families - thank you for being flexible. ☺

I look forward to seeing you all at our All-Membership Winter Meeting on Wed, Jan 18 in the social hall at 6:30pm. (This is a 'parents-only' event so please either get a sitter or have only 1 parent attend.)

As always, we encourage feedback on what is going well and what we can work on. You can either contact me or any board member or put your comments in the suggestion box in the B room.

Warmest regards,

Tonja Fox
FUMCN Board President
(Charlie 5's, Tyler 3am)

Young Fives

Hello from the Young Fives!

Hopefully, everyone has had a wonderful holiday break and is ready for January. Let's hope that we get more snow. Most of our January themes revolve around winter, so we really need some of that white stuff.

We will be ice skating the first week back at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube, then enjoying pajama day on 1/20. We're trying to plan a trip to the Natural History planetarium to look at the winter night sky and the last week of January (weather permitting) we will go sledding together.

For these field trips, if you have skates and/or a helmet, please bring them for our ice skating trip. If anyone has a small, portable tent, please let me know as that is fun to set to up in our class. Finally, we will ask for sleds if we are able to go that week.

A few things to note in January: Fives parents are also expected to attend the winter membership meeting on Jan 18 at 6:30pm. Also, mark on your calendar that January 23rd will be kindergarten readiness night. This is a great chance to hear from a current kindergarten teacher some things to expect when your child begins kindergarten and how to do if s/he is ready.

Finally, we said good-bye to Alex Wu in December who moved to Chicago. It was wonderful to have him as a part of our class.

Looking forward to start of 2012!

Ms. Susan

Parent Education

Preparing your Child For Kindergarten

On Monday, January 23 at 7:00 in the Wesley Lounge at FUMC, we will be holding our annual **Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten** night. Michelle Seals, a kindergarten teacher for Ann Arbor Schools, will be speaking about the transition to kindergarten and ways you can help prepare your child for that transition. We will have time for your questions about kindergarten! Parents of 4 and 5 year olds are especially encouraged to attend, but we hope to see parents from the 3's as well! Fee: FREE

American Red Cross CPR/AED/First Aid re-certification

We are holding a re-certification training on **Wednesday, January 25 at 12:30-5:00 in the Asbury Lounge** at FUMCN for all of our wonderful FUMCN teachers. Any parents who are

interested in becoming re-certified are welcome to attend, but must contact me to reserve a spot at the training. The program costs \$90 per person and checks can be made to FUMCN. Fee: \$90

Movement Matters! An Introduction to Brain Gym and Bal-A-Vis-X

Glacier Way Co-op Preschool is hosting a Brain Gym/Bal-A-Vis-X class on **Saturday, January 21 from 9:00 am-noon at Westside United Methodist Church**. According to their flier, "This class is a fun, informative introduction to movement-based learning. It is geared for parents, educators, and other professional who are interested in reducing stress and enhancing learning potential. You will learn movements that can make test-taking and homework less stressful." Anyone interested can contact me and I will forward a reservation form, or you can contact the presenter Katy Held at 734-649-7457 or ktheld@comcast.net Fee: \$30.00 but scholarships are available

Michigan State University Extension Program

The Michigan State University Extension Program continues to offer programs related to parenting, financial management, and home education. Topics this winter include **Parenting On Your Own/Nurturing Parenting, RELAX: Alternative to Anger, Basic Money Management/Dollar Works 2, Pre-purchase Education and Foreclosure Prevention**. Contact the MSU Extension line at 734-222-3943 for more information. Fee: FREE except \$20 per person/couple for RELAX: Alternative to Anger class

Sara Zoicher (Lily 4am)
sarazoicher@yahoo.com

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the cookbook so far! To add a little incentive, we will be doing a **drawing for a FREE cookbook** for each family that submits a recipe! If you haven't submitted a recipe yet, now is the time to try. It is easy and doesn't take much time!

Here are the steps you'll need to follow:

- Go to <http://www.typensave.com/> and then click on "login".
- Type your first and last name as the Contributor. This is the name that will appear in the cookbook on the recipes you submit. You may also include your child's name and class if you'd like.
- Group login: fumcn
- Password: 7a222
- Once you login, click on "Add Recipe" and fill in the form as instructed

Lisa Dibble (Elliot 3 AM, Lyndon 4 AM), Dianna Harmon (Clara 3/4 PM)

Publicity

Spanish at FUMCN

Fun, interactive, and educational language classes for kids! Children will learn Spanish through music, movement, stories, interactive games and more! Bilingual Fun will host the weekly Spanish class for 3- 5 year olds on Thursdays at 12:30 - 1:15pm. To learn more about our program, please visit www.bilingualfun.com. Winter session dates: January 19- March 22. \$95/child. 10% sibling discount, 45 minute class, 10 weeks. Parent run Lunch Club will be coordinated. That parent will be staying through the class on those days. Contact: Jennifer Manriquez, 734-748-3898, info@bilingualfun.com for more information and registration.

- Leticia Valdez
Publicity Chair FUMCN
fumcn.publicity@gmail.com
(734) 355-7137 cell

Curriculum

January rings in a new year. We will explore the Winter Wonderland, the Night Sky, Space, and we will also say "Happy Birthday" to Michigan!

FUMCN Focus for January 2012
<p>Week of: January 9th-13th Curricular Theme: Winter Wonderland Number: 0 Letter: Ll Shape: Star Color: Black *Theme Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday, 1/11: 4's and $\frac{3}{4}$'s field trip to Leslie Science Center
<p>Week of: January 16th-20th Curricular Theme: Night Sky Number: 9 Letter: Mm Shape: Diamond Color: Dark Blue *Theme Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday, 1/19 and Friday, 1/20: Pajama Days
<p>Week of: January 23rd-27th Curricular Theme: Space/ Michigan's Birthday Number: 9 Letter: Mm Shape: Mitten Color: Blue *Theme Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday, 1/26 and Friday, 1/27: Happy Birthday, Michigan

Week of: January 30th - February 2nd

Curricular Theme: Health

Number: 8 **Letter:** Nn **Shape:** Heart **Color:** Red

***Theme Events:**

- Monday, 1/30: 4's and $\frac{3}{4}$'s Field Trip to Canton Health Exploration Station
- Tuesday, 1/31 and Wednesday, 2/1: Dental health presentations at school

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

Wish List:

We need the following items for our month's activities. Any donations are greatly appreciated! Also, keep checking our "Wish List" poster in the hallway for things we can always use!

- For our Q-room Igloo:
 - Empty, plastic gallon milk jugs - the white ones, must be clean and dry with the lid on.
 - Volunteers: We will make an "igloo" on January 9th, so if you are available to volunteer that day, we can sure use the help! Bring a hot-glue gun and glue sticks that fit your glue gun!
- To make snowballs (by January 9th):
 - White knee-high nylons
 - 1 bag of white cotton batting
- To make birdfeeders (before January 9th):
 - 2 jars of Sunbutter
 - Bird seed (please check for no nuts)
- Donations of used mittens or gloves (they don't need to match)

Curriculum Notes:

Special thanks to everyone who volunteered to make our "Around the World" Celebrations a fantastic experience for our children, especially to **Sarah Lyle** who helped make the "passports". Also, thank you so much to the many volunteers who helped make our gingerbread houses in record time! We especially couldn't have done it without **Jen Meyer** and **Joy Jones** for childcare and **Melissa Svastisalee-Hart** for the coffee and donuts! And thank you to everyone on the curriculum team who helped make all the materials that the children used for all our Christmas activities.

We come back relaxed and ready to start the new year with a **Winter Wonderland!** We will have many activities including snow, ice, and animals in the snow. (Let's hope this doesn't actually include a real "snow day"!)

The 4's and $\frac{3}{4}$'s class will be taking a winter hike at the Leslie Science Center to look for tracks in the snow. What kind of animal tracks can you spot in the snow in front of your house?

"Winter Wonderland" at-home suggestion: Bundle up and go on your own outdoor exploration at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens! Located on Dixboro Road in Northeast Ann Arbor, there are outdoor trails and the Gaffield Children's Garden, which are all free. Being outdoors in the cold doesn't sound appealing to you? Well, then head inside and warm up in the conservatory - take a stroll among all the tropical plants and let your child say "hello" to the koi (fish) in the fountain! The conservatory has a small admission fee, but is free for children under 5 and free for everyone on Wednesdays from noon-8 pm! <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/mbg/default.asp>

During **Night Sky** and **Space** weeks, the children will be learning about animals at night, the difference between day and night and what we see in the night sky including planets, stars, the moon, rockets, and astronauts! What do we do in the night? Sleep! Night Sky week also includes our wildly popular "Pajama Days" where everyone comes to school in their jammies!

"Night Sky" and "Space" at-home suggestion: It doesn't have to be bedtime for nursery rhymes; anytime is a good time for rhymes! Young children love rhymes and repetition, especially when it comes from you! Here are some space-themed rhymes to try together:

Star Light, Star Bright

Star light, star bright
First star I see tonight
I wish I may, I wish I might
Have the wish I wish tonight!
(And have your child make a wish!)

The Man on the Moon

The man on the moon looked out of the moon
Looked out of the moon and said,
"Tis time for all the children on earth
To think about getting to bed!"

Four Little Stars

Four little stars winking at me,
One shot off and then there were three.
Three little stars with nothing to do,
One shot off and then there were two.
Two little stars afraid of the sun,
One shot off and then there was one.
One little star not having any fun,
It shot off and then there were none!

Jump In the Rocket

Jump in the rocket,
We blast off soon.
We're taking a trip
Up to the moon.

Up, up we climb
Up to the sky.
Isn't it fun,
To be able to fly!

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:

- 4's and $\frac{3}{4}$'s Field Trip to Canton Health Exploration Station, Monday, 1/30
- Dental Health Presentations, Tuesday, 1/31 and Wednesday, 2/1

- Open House, Thursday, 2/9 from 10-11:30 a.m.
- Beach Days, Tuesday, 2/7 and Friday, 2/10

Your Curriculum Co-Chairs,

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

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

Membership

Happy New Year!

The Open House is quickly approaching! Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 9th from 10:00 - 11:30am. (In the case of a cancellation due to snow/ice, a snow date has been set for Thursday, February 16th during the same time.) Please spread the word to all of your family, friends and neighbors about our wonderful preschool for 3 year olds, 4 year olds, and young 5 year olds.

Currently enrolled FUMCN families who plan on attending FUMCN next year need to apply by the end of the Open House. If you are currently enrolled in a 3s or 4s class you have priority for admittance next year, **but only until the end of the Open House.** Class lists for fall 2012 will be set immediately following the Open House. All applications received after that time will be added to the class lists/wait lists in the order in which they are received. Look for applications to the 3am, 4am, multi-age, and young 5s classes in the B room on the shelf above the mailboxes by mid-January. Completed applications (including a \$15 application fee) may be placed in the "Membership" mailbox. We will also be sending applications home to the 3s families in their tote bags. Please don't delay! Thank you!

We still have openings in the 3/4s afternoon class. If you know someone who might be interested, please have them contact one of us. ☺

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

Treasurer

Tuition is due by January 13th. Please place it in the tuition folder in the file cabinet behind Ms. Juli's desk.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding financial aid or tuition. My email address is jenmeyer123@yahoo.com.

Jen Meyer

Treasurer

Ethan 3 am

Children's Stories...

"Once upon a time there was a ball in the tree. First it climbed up the tree and it has a trampoline in the tree and jumps on a cloud. The ball jumps on the cloud and the tree takes it away. The End"
By Lewis Wiard (3/4pm)

"When the Gingerbread man jumped out of the oven the fireworks went off." By Jack Miller(3am)

"The fox was starting to eat the Gingerbread Boy when he jumps over the oven he ran 5 speed and the fox ate him. He ran 5 fast and he was killed forever." By Elijah Almeida(3am)

"Once upon a time a gingerbread man went in the oven. And baked himself. He went in the oven, again." By Alaina Fuqua(3am)

"I cutted the Gingerbread man. He walking away from the desk." The End. By Jackson Karr(3am)

"A Gingerbread went away. He was going to a lion. The lion was going to eat it. The lion said "Yum". The End." By Mason Jones(3am)