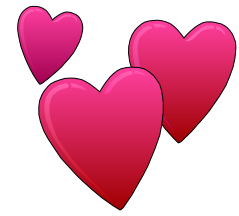


First United Methodist Church Preschool/MDO February 2009



From the Director

Your children are having a wonderful time here at FUMC. We are so glad they are a part of our program. It is exciting to see the growth and changes they make week to week. With Valentines coming, love is in the air! Enjoy your children; they are our greatest treasures!

Tuition

February tuition is due by the 10th of the month. Please include a \$5 late fee if paying after this date.

Enrollment for 2009 - 2010

Enrollment information for next year will be sent home the middle of February. Priority enrollment will be **February 23-March 5**, for families currently enrolled in the program and church members. If you need a set of forms for a sibling, please stop by the office.

Enrollment is on a first come, first serve basis. Enroll early to ensure your child a spot in class next year! We look forward to our continuing relationship with you as part of our wonderful FUMC Preschool/MDO.

Mailing List Enrollment is before Spring Break this year from March 9-12. If you have friends who would like to enroll their child during this phase, please have them contact the office with address information. They will receive enrollment forms in the mail.

Happy Valentines Day!

Glennis Peterman

BUNNIES (Tuesday/Thursday)

The Bunnies are back into the swing of things after Christmas Break. No one is having trouble

transitioning back to school. Good job parents!

The Bunnies themes for February are Valentines and Clifford the Big Red Dog. This is a really fun unit. We all love Clifford.

We are reminding everyone to please send nap time loveys only. We have several Bunnies wanting to come to school with a toy in their hand. We don't want anyone to lose a special toy, and often the children have a hard time sharing their special toy from home. We appreciate your cooperation

Ms. Janice and Ms. Lisa

Bunnies (Wednesday)

The Bunnies have adjusted pretty well after the Christmas break. We are keeping very busy indoors with puzzles, blocks, and art projects. Also we are spending time every Wednesday in the Activities Center, where the Bunnies run, climb, and explore!



Each Wednesday, please send 3-4 diapers and an extra change of clothes--everything labeled with your child's name. Your children are growing so fast; it is an amazing thing to watch. Thank you for sharing them with us.

Mrs. Cheryl and Mrs. Tracey

BUSY BEARS

Busy Bears were just that--BUSY! We are well into winter now, and we are learning about polar bears, penguins, snow, and the cold weather. Our colors for February will be pink and purple, and of course Valentines Day will be so fun!

We will be having our Valentine's parties on Wednesday, February 11 and Thursday, February 12 at 1:30 p.m. If you want to send individual valentines to classmates, please do not put names on them. This makes it easier to place Valentines in their Valentine bags. There are 14 children in each class.

Please remember to send enough diapers and a change of clothes. Also don't forget to label everything, including coats. Your children are wonderful and we enjoy them!

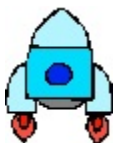
Ms. Amanda, Ms. Stephanie,

Ms. Cheryl, Ms. Tracey

GUMMY BEARS

The Gummy Bears had a great time in January learning about snow, snowmen and animals that live in cold climates. We learned about the colors blue and white. We made snowflakes to hang in our room, played with ice, built igloos out of sugar cubes, and made snowmen with balloons. We also learned about winter animals like polar bears, penguins, and how animals adapt to winter. We even discussed winter weather gear.

February themes are hearts and caring. The Gummy Bears will celebrate Valentine's with activities using red, pink, and white. The children will decorate hearts, make their own Valentine bags, lace hearts, count hearts, and sequence sizes of hearts.



During February we will also have a unit on space. Gummy Bears

will paint rockets, play with moon sand, and count space balls. We will talk about planets, the sun, moon, and stars.

The Gummy Bears will also have a unit on pets. We'll discuss the care of different kinds of pets. The Gummy Bears will show and share pictures of their own pets. We will make puppy chow to eat and treats for our pets. We continue to play outside if the weather is above freezing. Please make sure and send your child in warm coats, gloves, and hats with their names in them. Happy Valentine's Day!

Mrs. Bivens and Mrs. Glades

EXTENDED ENRICHMENT

We hope that you and your children are enjoying Enrichment this semester.

We appreciate your cooperation in sending only water to drink in your child's lunch box.

Please see the marker board on our door for fun weekly activities, including science and cooking.

Please remember we will continue to play on the playground as long as the wind-chill is above freezing. Please send a coat for your child everyday. Also take a moment to make sure the extra clothing in your child's back pack is warm for the winter season.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child. We are so blessed to have such wonderful families here at FUMC!

*Mrs. Cromer, Mrs. Emery,
Mrs. Aitken, and Mrs. Fairchild*

RAINBOWS (AM and PM)

Valentines is a special day! We share our love for special people in our lives. The month of February promises to be full of fun! We begin the fun by making beautiful and creative Valentines for our Rainbow families. Please

help us by: (1) bringing a postage stamp, \$0.42, (2) looking for the red envelopes by the parent sign in sheet, and (3) writing your home address on the envelope.

The Valentine mail song is a delightful song your child has learned in Rainbows. Ask your child to sing it for you.

"Valentine Mail"

*I'm going to wrap myself in paper
I'm going to dab myself with glue
I'm going to stick a stamp on the
seat of my pants and mail myself
to you!*

We will have the class Valentine Party on Thursday, February 12th. The Rainbows will be exchanging Valentines and decorating homemade cookies. They will need 15 Valentines to exchange. Please sign your child's name on the Valentine, but do not address them to their classmates.

February will also include our "I am Special" unit. The Rainbows will learn what makes us all unique with our similarities and differences. This unit is always fun and interesting to see what each Rainbow notices and how they describe themselves. This unit helps each child create more self-awareness and build self esteem.

Colors this month are red, pink, and white. The number is 8. The shape is the heart.

We enjoy the Rainbows energy and spirit. Thank you for letting us be a part of their lives. We love all of our Rainbows.

Happy Valentines Day!

*Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Peterman and
Mrs. Harrison*

SUNBEAMS

January was a great month for the Sunbeams!

February fun and learning includes Valentine's Day, President's Day, and learning the



letters O, K, W, and Y. Thank you for reinforcing the letter recognition and sounds with your Sunbeam. Thank you for encouraging your child to practicing writing their name (with capital and lower case), and recognizing and sequencing their numbers 1-10.

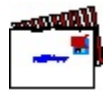
In February, we begin evaluating your children on skills for kindergarten readiness. We will share this with you at Parent-Teacher conferences in March. Results may enable you to make informed decisions about proper placement for your child next year. Please let us know if you have any concerns or questions about your child.

Thank you for your support! We love our Sunbeams!

Mrs. Schutter and Mrs. Griffin

SUPERSTARS

Valentines is a special day. Celebrating this holiday allows us to discuss the importance of sharing, giving, loving and friendship. Our Superstars have done a wonderful job learning their addresses, and would like to mail you a special valentine. Please bring a postage stamp and put it in the box located next to the Parent File. This will provide us with a great way to learn how the postal system works.



Our class Valentine party will be on **Thursday, February 12th** at 11:00 a.m. They will need 15 Valentines to exchange. Please sign your child's name on the Valentine, but do not address them to their classmates.

We will also celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. This unit provides many fun experiences with rhyming words, cooking,

and patterning activities.

The letters this month are: V, X, and Q.

Each one of our Superstars is very special, and we hope you know how grateful we are that you share them with us!
Happy Valentines Day!

Mrs. Fick & Mrs. Bules



Wally's Words of Wisdom

Discipline means Protecting, Teaching, Encouraging

Discipline is a very important part of parenting. It's **important for parents to develop their own style of discipline** for their children.

Discipline is about **setting limits** on behavior for a child based on their age and development. Unfortunately, many parents struggle with finding a balance between being too strict and not strict enough. Discipline problems may also occur when a parent does not provide enough limits or is too rigid with the rules.

Having no rules is actually dangerous and frightening for a child and will cause the child to act out in an attempt to have his or her parent more involved in making decisions. On the other hand, inflexible limits may cause rebellion in children, especially as they grow older and want to make their own decisions and express their individuality.

Discipline and limit setting provides **balance between these two extremes**.

Regardless of the method a parent chooses, healthy discipline strategies should

involve these common goals:

- Protect the child from danger
- Teach self-control and self-discipline
- Encourage a sense of responsibility
- Provide the child with a sense of being cared for as well as a model of caring for others

Below are parenting strategies that are common to many discipline methods used by parents. Parents should adopt the strategies that work best for their family.

- Give all children reasonable, limited **choices based on their age and ability** to make decisions. Be clear and consistent in establishing limits and boundaries for your child's behavior, including curfews, study hours, behavior at parties, driving and expectations for special family events.
- Your rules don't have to be the same as other parents, but they do need to be **clear and**

consistent. If two parents are raising a child, both need to use the same rules. Also, make sure babysitters and relatives know, and follow, your family rules. Maintaining consistency reinforces the seriousness of the rules and consequences.

- Be clear about the consequences of unacceptable behavior. If a child does step out of bounds, make sure you **follow through with those consequences**.
- Provide order in a child's life. **Keep a regular schedule** of meals, naps and bedtimes. If you have to change the schedule, tell them about the changes ahead of time.
- **Show your love**. Every day, tell your children: "I love you. You're special to me." Give lots of hugs and kisses.
- **Praise your children**.

When



your children learn something new or behave well, tell them you are proud of them. This is one of the most powerful means of **positive reinforcement**.

- . **Make your children feel safe.** Comfort them when they are scared. Show them you have taken steps to protect them.
- . **Be patient.** No one said parenting was easy!

Above all, set a good example with your words and actions.

Children learn by watching.

(Your friend, Wally, the Green Worm, had some help with this article from Rachel Young, MD, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, www.pamf.org Article on Discipline)

Happy Valentine's Day!

