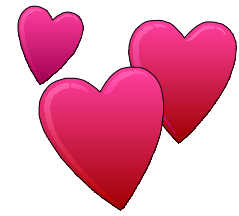


First United Methodist Church Preschool/MDO February 2010



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 2010-2011

Enrollment information for next year will be sent home the middle of February. Priority enrollment will be **February 22-March 4**, 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 8-11. 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)

Our theme for February is everything red: Hearts, Valentines and Clifford the Big Red Dog. We will make many fun crafts this month and we will also read lots of

fun Clifford stories.

Please remember to always send a jacket. We will go outside if weather permits.

Happy Valentine's Day.

Ms. Janice and Ms. Lisa

BUNNIES (Monday/Wednesday)

Hello Bunny Parents! All of your Bunnies adjusted well after the break. We have added a few new friends this semester. They are all doing great! It has been fun for our kids to make new friends.

We will make a fun Valentine craft for the children to take home.

The Bunnies enjoy frequent trips to the gym. They really like all of the space to run around. We can't wait until it is warm enough to take them outside... it won't be long!



Thank you so much for bringing the needed supplies. We appreciate all of you!

Ms. Jeannette and Ms. Angie

BUSY BEARS

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

We will be having our Valentine's parties on Monday, February 8 and Thursday, February 11 at 1:30 p.m. If you choose to send individual valentines to classmates, please do not put names on the envelopes as it is easier to place. to deliver them to their bags. There are 14 children in each class.

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

Though we will miss Ms. Tracey, we welcome Ms. Jeannette to our Tuesday / Thursday class. Ms. Tracey will get to sub for us!

*Ms. Cheryl, Ms. Janice &
Ms. Jeannette*

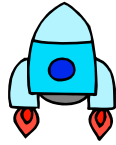
GUMMY BEARS

The Gummy Bears have settled back into the school routine after Christmas break. It was so good to see everyone! We jumped right into our January themes of snow, snowflakes, and winter. Our activities focused on the colors blue and white. We made snowflakes to hang in our room, played with real snow, and talked about proper winter clothing. We also discussed winter animals like polar bears, penguins, and how other animals adapt to winter.

February will also be about hearts and caring. The Gummy Bears will celebrate Valentine's Day with activities using red, pink, and white. We will decorate hearts, make our own Valentine bags, count hearts, lace hearts and sequence sizes of hearts.

February's unit on pets will be very exciting. We will discuss the care of different kinds of pets. The Gummy Bears will show and share pictures of their own pets. We may even have a special visitor who will do a few tricks. We will make treats for our own pets.

We will wrap up the month with 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.



We are looking forward to warmer weather but will go outside if weather permits. Please send your child in warm clothing and please label their coats. Thank you!

Mrs. Bivens and Mrs. Glades

EXTENDED ENRICHMENT

Wow! In Extended Enrichment there was a “flurry” of activity in January! It was “snow” much fun making snowmen art and cooking. Of course, there was the day we went “ice skating” in the classroom – no skates were required! We read about arctic animal friends, pretended to be polar bears and penguins, and made snowflakes.

Coming up in February, we are looking forward to Valentine’s Day and the yummy cooking activities and art projects that will provide. Check out the marker board on our door for fun weekly activities, which also include science. Also, check your child’s file folder outside the Enrichment room and pick up their artwork.

We appreciate you sending only water for your child’s lunch. Please remember to send yogurt only in cups and no shredded cheeses. It is so fun to see friendships develop between the children over lunch!

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child’s preschool experience.

*Mrs. Emery, Mrs. Mayer,
and Mrs. Dradzynski*

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, \$0.44, (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 11th. 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 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. Happy Valentines Day!

*Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Peterman
and Mrs. Cromer*

SUNBEAMS

January was a fun month for the Sunbeams, especially our pajama party! Our Friendship party is Thursday, February 11th.

February fun and learning include Valentine’s Day and learning the letters I, D, K, and W.

Your children have learned many letters and sounds. Thank you for reinforcing these at home, and also for sending letter show and share items on Wednesdays. Sunbeams continue to work on writing skills, such as circles and lines; also their names and learning number sequencing 1-10.

In February, we begin evaluating your children on skills recommended for beginning kindergarten. We will share this with you at Parent-Teacher conferences in March. These results may help you to make informed decisions about proper placement for your child next school year.

Thank you for sending your child with coats and backpacks everyday. 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 class Valentine party will be on **Thursday, February 11th** at 11:00 a.m.

Let the games begin! Our Superstars will show their super talent by participating in our very own Olympic games. An Olympic theme gives us the opportunity to learn about other countries, athletic events, team spirit and peace. We will conclude our month by celebrating Dr. Seuss’s birthday. This unit provides lots of fun experiences with rhyming words, cooking, and patterning activities. The letters this month are: V, X, Q, and O.

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 they should be so proud of themselves. 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.

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