



October 10, 2005

First-Plymouth Early Education Programs

DIMENSIONS

Educational Research Foundation
First-Plymouth Early Education Programs
dimensionsfoundation.org

NEWS

Executive Director's Message

by Nancy Rosenow

A Wonderful Family Event!

Thanks to all who helped make the Pancake Feed/Garage Sale and Farmer's Market a great success October 1. It truly was a community-wide event, with parents, children, grandparents and Near South Neighborhood residents all enjoying each other's company, and enjoying a beautiful day on our Outdoor Classroom.

It was fun to see children tasting the fresh produce at our Farmer's Market. Thanks to Shadowbrook Farm and Kevin and Charuth Loth for generously providing produce (and donating all the proceeds!) to supplement the vegetables we grew ourselves.

Did you know that some of our groups used buckwheat (that we grew and harvested in our garden) to cook homemade buckwheat pancakes? And...parents tell us that children are tasting things they've never wanted to try before...like yellow peppers...because they are seeing them grow and being inspired to eat them! It's so wonderful to see healthy eating habits being established at an early age.

Would You Like to Buy a Brick?

Many people noticed that named bricks

have recently been installed on our Outdoor Classroom. People have purchased these bricks in honor or memory of children, parents, and other loved ones, including pets. If you'd like to become a lasting part of our Outdoor Classroom and lend your support to this great space for children and the whole community, please see the flyer about named bricks that is included with this newsletter. Thanks!!

A Chili Feed is Coming!

Another fun event is being planned for families...a Chili Feed on Sunday, October 16.

This event is sponsored by First-Plymouth Church Singles Group, but is open to the whole community. Many community programs...like Friendship Home, and also First-Plymouth Early Education Programs...will be supported by this event. First-Plymouth teachers will have a chili "booth" where we'll be cooking up Jody Hoover's recipe, so we'd love to have you come by! Tickets are available by calling 476-7550, or watch flyers for order forms by the black payment boxes. Tickets are \$5. Under five is free.



Coming Soon...by Request...Yummy

Food

Many of the parents who ordered Deli International food last year asked us to offer it again this year.

Deli foods include things like pizza and cookie dough that are convenient to keep in the freezer...and they're tasty.

Your food orders also help us meet a very challenging budget so that we can provide all the wonderful materials and supplies we want to have available for our children.

Watch for a letter about this opportunity that will be in children's cubbies on October 24.

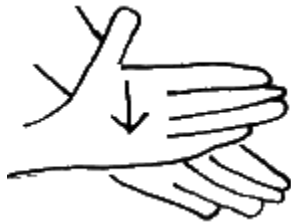
Birthdays

Dana Miller.....Oct. 13

Infant/Toddler News
What Sign is This?

Here are some more signs you can practice with your children.

(These signs come from www.lesstutor.com)



stop



please



thank you

Scientists from National Science Foundation Visit

Sophia's Dad, Richard Levy is going to Antarctica for two months. "He's going to see penguins, walrus, sleep in a tent in a sleeping bag, and be looking at rocks. My Dad is a geologist," Sophia told us. On Wednesday, October 5, he visited our classes to share with all of us about living where it is very cold and snowy.

Richard will be conducting research for Andriil Science (through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln). Accompanying Richard were students Laura and Megan to assist in the presentation. And of course, assisting him were also Sophia, baby sister Maya, and Mom, Amy Munsterman.

Top, Sophia's Dad used a PowerPoint presentation to help children learn about Antarctica (there are icebergs and sand dunes!).

Middle, Laura is demonstrating some of the clothes team members will wear to stay warm. The tent will be their home for two months (two members in each tent). She mentioned that the sun will shine all the time they are there so they will have to wear patches on their eyes at night to sleep.

Bottom pictures, Richard is showing the children the walkie-talkies he will use to communicate with his team members.



Thoughts for Parents

Safety Procedures

We want to let parents know that we place a great deal of emphasis on children's safety while in our program. First and foremost, we have an all-school policy that children need to be supervised at all times and never sent anywhere by themselves. Our safety policies are in each teacher's staff handbook and we have reviewed these at our weekly staff meetings and also individually with each teacher. We as a staff will continually be reviewing our policies and procedures throughout the year to be sure we are all using best practices in our teaching.

We have a few requests for you as parents, also, as part of our safety policy. We appreciate your help in keeping children safe and happy. Thank you for:

- 1 Making sure children understand that the wheelchair ramp near the Preschool entrance is not for running or walking on. It is to be used only by individuals in wheelchairs.
- 2 Asking your child not to climb on the railings and wood chips by the tree at the Infant/Toddler entrance.
- 3 Making sure you are supervising your children when you bring them and pick them up...especially walking through the parking lot.
- 4 Never leaving your child in a vehicle unattended...or leaving your purse in your vehicle...or leaving your vehicle running and unattended.
- 5 Checking in with a teacher whenever you bring or pick up your child.

Again...thanks for helping us all keep our children safe and happy!

Children's Activities

Holidays, Budding Artists & Br-r-r Cold Weather!

Halloween is Coming...

Your child is invited to wear a Halloween costume on either Monday, October 31 or Tuesday, November 1. Please let your child be your guide.

Some children love wearing Halloween costumes and some do not. Sometimes children just like to bring a costume to show. There is a fine line between fantasy and reality for young children. We try to keep things fun...but not scary for children. We'll enjoy a variety of Fall activities that will help children connect to the beauty of the season, so children will have fun whether or not they decide to wear a costume!



Artwork at Lied Center...

Sometime during the month of October, artwork created by children this summer will be displayed at the Lied Center. Watch for more information coming soon.

Dress for Outdoors...

We know (and our research confirms) that young children benefit tremendously from regular contact with nature and the outdoors. We'd like to ask that you please keep dressing your child for outdoor play so we can go out even when it truly becomes "Fall-like" weather. Thanks.



Greenhouse Notes



Classes visit the Greenhouse once each month to work with Charuth (from Shadowbrook Farms). Watch newsletters for updates about happenings in the Greenhouse.

Note: Charuth has a guideline that she look at all plants before they go into the greenhouse so no pests get imported.

A few buckeye trees were placed in the greenhouse earlier this year that had a white fly infestation which then affected all the nasturtiums. To get rid of the white fly Charuth released a couple test tubes of tiny wasps which were natural predators to the white fly larva.

Pesticide is not used in the greenhouse so anything new can cause significant problems if we aren't careful. The environment in greenhouse is conducive to pests thriving so our goal is a happy greenhouse!

In & Around Our Community

Saturdays

Farmers Market, Haymarket

Through Oct. 23

World's Largest Corn Maze, Benson Farms

Folsom Children's Zoo

*Oct. 20... Sensory Safari
Oct. 26-30... Boo at the Zoo*

Lincoln Libraries Junior Jam

*Oct. 17, 24... Eiseley Branch
Oct. 12, 19, 26... Anderson Branch*

Lincoln Children's Museum

*Oct. 13... Stuff A Scarecrow!
Oct. 27... Halloween Hurrah*

Mueller Planetarium

Did You Know? Fast-paced family show, running time approx. 35 minutes. Saturdays & Sundays at 2 p.m. No shows home football game Saturdays.

Pioneers Park

*Oct. 17... Critter Tales
Oct. 15, 21, 22...*

Family Hayrack Ride

*Oct. 15... Bird Banding
Demonstrations*

Oct. 15-16... Fleming Woods Hike

Oct. 22-23... Animal Homes Hunt

*Oct. 27-29... Halloween
Spooktacular*

Oct. 29-30... Our Spooky Friends

Oct. 15

*Fall Not-Quite-Full Moon
Walkabouts, Spring Creek Prairie*

Oct. 21-22

*Craft Boutique, Scottish Rite
Temple*

Oct. 22-23

*Seasons of Crafts, Lancaster Event
Center*

Oct. 28 & 30

*The Creepy, the Haunted and the
Scary, Villager Courtyard &
Gardens*

Oct. 29-30

*Lancaster Antique Show, State Fair
Park*

Oct. 29-30

*Lincoln Pet Fair, Lancaster Event
Center*

Thinking Ahead to Holiday Shopping

We know that many people begin shopping early for the holidays and we wanted you to know that we'll be holding our Holiday Gift Fair November 16-18.

We'll be offering quality children's books, Discovery Toys and many items for adults and children offered by our parents with home businesses. Some of the businesses you'll find there will be Mary Kay Cosmetics, Old BD Photography (nature greeting cards), Sugar Shack Candles, Silpada Jewelry and more!

The Holiday Gift Fair is a quick and easy way to shop...and 20% of what you buy goes back to our children...so save a little shopping to do at the Gift Fair!

NOTE: Parents...if you have a home based business and are interested in participating, please call Heather Guess at 476-8304.

A good time was had by all at our recent Pancake Breakfast!



Community Events Held at First-Plymouth Church Open to Everyone

Tower Club II

(Young Families/Young Couples)

Tower Club II is designed to give couples and families a chance to meet and grow in different settings. If you would like to receive up-to-date information about events, please sign up for our e-messages. Please contact Staff Liason, Addie Powell at 476-7550 or email addie@firstplymouth.org Learn How to Feel Better from Head to Toe Exercises for the mind and body, Oct. 12, 19, & 26, 6-7:30 PM in Calvert Parlor. To enroll, email Addie at addie@firstplymouth.org

3rd Annual Chili Cook-off & Silent Auction



Fundraiser for: First-Plymouth Early Education Programs, the Church's Youth Mission Trip, Friendship Home and for Hurricane Katrina Relief. Sunday, Oct. 16,

5-8PM, First-Plymouth Church, Mayflower Hall (west side, lower level). Tickets \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door (free for children under 5). Tickets can be purchased at the Preschool office. Bring the whole family and taste 10 different types of chili, (plus cinnamon rolls, veggies and tea) and bid on some fantastic items. Come see the Early Education Staff booth!

Women's Fall Retreat

Sat. Oct. 22, 9AM-3:30 PM. "Imagine and Express Your Divine Self" Women's Fall Retreat at First-Plymouth Church. All women are welcome to join for sessions in art, music, books, massage and more. \$20/person (scholarships available). Call Nancy Erickson at 476-7565 to enroll. Deadline to register is Oct. 17.

"Lunch & Learn" Wyuka Cemetery

Sun. Oct. 23, 11:30 AM in Pilgrim Hall. Catered luncheon and presentation by Ed Zimmer, Lincoln Historic Preservation Planner. Everyone is invited to tour the Cemetery (weather permitting) after the luncheon. Cost: \$60. RSVP by Wed. Oct. 19 at 476-7550.