



**Request...**

...please fill out and return your Parent Surveys. Your comments and suggestions are important to us.  
...would you like to donate some clay pots? We use them in our Greenhouse.

**Reminders...**

...Family Night is Friday night, February 1 – make sure your reservations are in by Jan. 30th (so we know how much food to prepare). We are still accepting donations and have attached your child's basket theme letter with a list of possible items to include in their class's basket. We hope most of you will be able to join us for Family Night. It really is a wonderful way to celebrate our relationships not only with our own children, but with our extended Dimensions' clan!

**Nature Explore™ Family Club 2008 Calendar**

(all events 10:30AM-Noon)  
February 2... Antelope Park  
March 15... Wilderness Park  
April 12... Holmes Lake Park  
May 10... Arbor Day Farm Picnic following

**Bookshelf**

- Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin and Eric Carle
- Eye See You Poster Book* by Deborah Balmuth
- First Snow in the Woods* by Carl R. Sams and Jean Stoick
- Footprints in the Snow* by Cynthia Benjamin
- Going On A Bear Hunt* by Helen Oxenbury
- Skippyjon Jones* by Judy Schachmer
- Snowballs* by Lois Ehlert
- The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats
- Stranger in the Woods* by Carl R. Sams and Jean Stoick

# Dimensions' website has a new look

By Michelle Zimmer, Programs Director

If you haven't visited the Dimensions website before, or if it has been awhile, now would be a great time to check out our new look. You can find us at:

www.dimensionsfoundation.org

We are in the process of updating the entire site but the Early Education Programs pages have been completed. The changes came out of a desire to make the website more user-friendly and to provide more relevant information for everyone who visits.

Pertinent information such as our yearly calendar or additional registration forms will be easier to download. If you find your child is a "star" in one of the current or past issues of our newsletters and you would like to share a copy with family or friends, you will be able to download a copy from the archives or pass along the link.

In our last newsletter you learned that the wonderful work



our teachers are doing everyday in the classroom is showing dividends in ways many of us never imagined. Workshops, field-tested resources, networking with programs across the country, and our

published research is bringing visitors from all over the world to explore our website.

Check back often to track our progress on each section of the website, and to learn more about what we are doing.

## Aesthetic designing, building in the Block Building Area

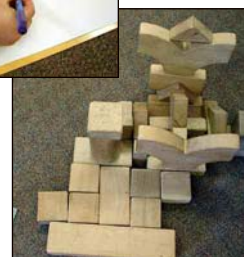
contributed by Holly Murdoch

Several weeks ago a block building by Lewis R. caught my eye. His structure utilized fancy-shaped blocks as structural elements. I noticed intentional open spaces that let light travel through his buildings, as well. Lewis accepted my challenge to sketch his complex design. He was very successful in translating his three-dimensional work into a two-dimensional sketch. Since

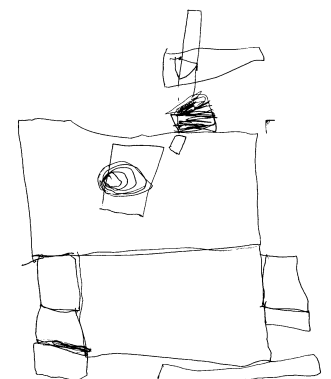


Lewis has enjoyed creating designs for buildings that none of us have seen before. It is exciting to see

that initial fancy structure,



tomorrow's designers working in our block areas!



## Valentine's Day plans

Your child is invited to bring valentines for friends on Valentine's Day (we'll celebrate Feb. 13 and 14)! Here are numbers to help you to determine amounts if you choose to send valentines.

- Preschool: 22 + 2T (teachers)
- Toddler A (everyone): 18 + 2T OR (your child's class only) 12 + 2T
- Toddler B (everyone): 17 + 2T OR (your child's class only) 12 + 2T

Generosity and caring about the feelings of others doesn't always come naturally. Many children learn these traits over time through play and holiday traditions, which is why Valentine's Day is so great. With all the greeting cards and classroom activities, it's easy to teach your child the value of sharing, giving and compassion.

## The greenhouse is buzzing with cold-weather activities

contributed by Holly Murdoch

Our Nature Explore Classroom greenhouse is warm, sunny and welcoming this time of year.



A Christmas cactus donated by Anne C. and Maddie C. has the brightest blooms of all the plants. We have learned that it is really a forest cactus and needs less light and more water than a desert cactus.



Rosemary, lavender and geraniums release their oils



when touched by children. Mrs. Flynn's group is developing an area in the greenhouse that invites children to do just that.

Mrs. V's group prepared tin planters by making holes in the



bottom with an awl and a hammer. They washed them and used fresh potting mix to fill them.

Their important greenhouse job was to take small lettuce transplants and plant them into large pots. Fresh greenhouse lettuce will make a special and tasty snack.

We are also looking for donations of clay pots for our greenhouse.



## Fall 2008 Sessions Registration information

By Michelle Zimmer, Programs Director

It might seem early, but it's that time of year to start thinking about the '08-'09 school year registration process. Registration forms will be coming out in cubbies February 20th & 21st. This is before the general public receives them, so it is really important that you fill them out and return them as soon as you can. Our spots fill up quickly!! If you know you are going to be gone at this time, please call the office and let us know so we don't give your spot away. If you have any questions, call the office (476-8304).

Summer registrations will be coming out March 17th and 18th. In the meantime, we thought it might be helpful for you to have the schedule of when we are in session for the summer (see below).

If you know of anyone who is interested in receiving a 2008-09

registration form or a summer registration form, please have them call the office. They will also be available online after they go out to our program parents. (Don't forget our summer program is Infant-5th grade).

June 2-6... Limited Session—  
Infant/Toddler Only  
June 9-13... Week 1  
June 16-20... Week 2

June 23-27... Week 3  
June 30-July 3 (Off July 4)... Week 4  
July 7-11... Week 5  
July 14-18... Week 6  
July 21-25... Closed for World Forum & Vacation Church School  
July 28-Aug 1... Week 7  
Aug. 4-8... Week 8  
Aug. 11-22... Closed  
Aug. 25 & 26... First Days of 2008-09 Sessions

## Close observation leads to scientific skills

contributed by Kathy Tichota

Almost daily, Emma collects pieces of ice from the outdoor classroom because "I want to tell my family how the ice melted."

Emma checks on the ice throughout the morning. She made the following observations: "It kind of melts when you touch it. It breaks off. It turns into water when you drop it. The bigger ones (pieces) melt slower than the little ones, because they're

bigger." Grant, Maison, Braeden, and Emma E. also collect ice to observe during work time.

Close observation is a scientific skill these young children are developing. They are scientists.



## Infant Room Notes

contributed by Denise Topil, Joleen Podtburg and Kris Sieckmeyer-Hajny

Sophie, Maizie, Cody, Ruyter, Jack and Allison have joined our room. We are excited to get to know our new friends and their parents. Teddie, Carson, Greyson and Henry will be glad to "show them the ropes."

Some of our explorations this month have been experiencing nature indoors by bringing snow in for our older infants; and we continue to have fun with wrapping paper. Everyone is enjoying shaking bells and dancing with teddy bears during music and movement time.

Thank you to the families who have donated various items for our classroom. We are enjoying the books *Skippyjon Jones*, *Eye See You*, and *Baby Bear, Baby Bear* as well as several Sandra Boyton and Baby Einstein stories.

Feliz año nuevo!

Newsletter photos by Beth Pauley

Nature Explore™ Classrooms are part of a national initiative involving the partnership of Dimensions and the Arbor Day Foundation.

Newsletters and Program information can be found on-line ...  
[www.dimensionsfoundation.org](http://www.dimensionsfoundation.org) or [www.firstplymouth.org](http://www.firstplymouth.org)