

## Executive Director's Message

by Nancy Rosenow



For many people December is the gift-giving time of year. One gift that I believe we can all give our children, and each other, is more of our unhurried selves and less of "things" like perfectly cleaned houses or perfectly wrapped boxes or perfectly selected gifts. So...I wish for all of you a few unhurried moments together with your family and time to remind each other that the best gifts of all are gifts of the heart. Thank you, parents, for the many gifts...both tangible and intangible...that you give us all through the year. We are so very fortunate to work with such an incredibly generous and thoughtful group of families.

## To the Professionals at First Plymouth Early Education Programs:

Thank you for sharing your expertise, dedication, and kindness as you shape the lives of our children and our family. Knowing our children are educated by the most talented professionals in a caring and nurturing environment is one of the most important gifts we will ever receive. You are our partners in raising our children and a little part of you will be passed on in them, what an amazing legacy! You are truly a blessing in our lives. Thank You!

*Marie and Eric Woodhead*

## Thoughts for Parents...

### Save Some Holiday Cheer for Us!

Our annual Family Night (which will include family-friendly activities, a tasty spaghetti feed and our popular Basket Auction) is rapidly approaching so mark your calendars for February 23!

As you enjoy the holiday season with family and friends, rather than throw away all of the ribbons and bows, filler, large baskets, and gift containers, make a pile for us! We will gladly recycle these items for you for Family Night...bring any items you wish to donate to the Preschool Offices at 2045 E Street.

## Children's Activities...

### Many Ways to Celebrate...

Children are never too young to start developing attitudes of appreciation for the wonderful diversity of our world. When holiday time is near, this gives us an opportunity to talk with children about the fact that people celebrate in different ways.

At this time of year some people will be celebrating Christmas, some Hanukkah, some Kwanzaa, etc. Teachers will be reading story books to children about many kinds of holiday celebrations and then encouraging each child to tell about ways s/he celebrates at his or her house. We encourage you to talk with your children about the holiday traditions that are important to your family.

### Year-End Payments

The year 2006 is ending and so is our fiscal year! We would greatly appreciate your January payment (due BY the first of the month) by December 31. You may certainly post-date your check if that is more convenient.

Deposit your check in the black payment box or mail it to: Linda Maack, Dimensions, 2045 E Street, Lincoln, NE 68510.

We all wish you and your families a happy, healthy holiday season!

*Linda Maack,  
Financial Director*

### A Gift for You....

Children will be working on some fun holiday gifts for parents. Sorry, we can't tell you any more details ...it's a surprise!

### Rotating Art Display

Check out the rotating Children's Art Gallery on your way through the building! We will be displaying pieces that were at the Lied Center last month. Eight pieces will be displayed at a time with three rotations to showcase all 24 pieces that our children designed.



## Donation Requests

During the holidays we receive wonderful holiday gifts. If you're thinking about a donation to the program, here are some ideas... Atomic Clocks, CD Players, Digital Cameras, Rechargeable Vacuum, Regular Vacuum.

### Preschool & Kindergarten

- ⊙ Band-Aids
- ⊙ Kleenex
- ⊙ Plastic Spoons
- ⊙ Pipe Cleaners
- ⊙ Craft Sticks

### Infant & Toddler

- ⊙ Stickers
- ⊙ Dish Soap
- ⊙ Glue Sticks
- ⊙ Band-Aids

## Staff Birthdays

Tina Reeble.....	Dec. 23
Kris Hajny.....	Dec. 31
Julie Rose.....	Jan. 18
Linda Maack.....	Jan. 23
Joleen Podtburg.....	Jan. 23
Tami Britton.....	Jan. 29

## Mark Your Calendars... Upcoming Events & Important Dates!

**Thursday, December 21 through Tuesday, January 2**

Closed for the holidays. NOTE: LPS has a different schedule than we do for the holidays so make sure you follow our schedule for days off!

**Wednesday, January 3**

Back in Session!

**January 15, 22, 23**

Full Day Discovery Days

**Friday, February 23**

Annual Family Night (Children's Activities, Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Auction)

## Events Held at First-Plymouth Church Open to the whole community!

### Tower Club II

... is a First-Plymouth group of couples and families seeking to connect with others through friendship, fellowship and service to the community. For information about Tower Club II call 476-7550 or email [addie@firstplymouth.org](mailto:addie@firstplymouth.org)

Staff at Dimensions/First-Plymouth Early Education Programs were the recipients of a wonderful treat, Thursday, November 16! Parents who are members of the Staff Appreciation Committee brought in a fabulous lunch for all the staff. Many individuals worked very hard to prepare and deliver such a treat for us. It was an opportunity for staff to enjoy one another while enjoying a wonderful meal. A big thank you to these very special people from the staff at Dimensions/First-Plymouth Early Education Programs!

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

## A Parent's Prayer

by Marguerite Kelly

Help me give my children the best—not of trappings or toys, but of myself, cherishing them on good days and bad, theirs and mine.

Teach me to accept them for who they are, not for what they do; to listen to what they say, if only so they will listen to me; to encourage their goals, not mine; and please, let me laugh with them and be silly.

Let me give them a home where respect is the cornerstone, integrity the foundation, and there is enough happiness to raise the roof.

Nor is that all.

May I give them the courage to be true to themselves; the independence to take care of

themselves and the faith to believe in a power much greater than their own.

See that I discipline my children without demeaning them, demand good manners without forgetting my own, and let them know they have limitless love; no matter what they do.

Let me feed them properly, clothe them adequately and have enough to give them small allowances—not for the work they do but the pleasure they bring—and let me be moderate in all these things, so the joy of getting will help them discover the joy of giving.

See that their responsibilities are real but not burdensome, that my expectations are high but not overwhelming, and that my thanks and praise are thoughtful and given when they're due.

Help me teach them that excellence is work's real reward, and not the glory it brings.

But when it comes—and it will—let me revel in each honor, however small, without once pretending that it's mine; my children are glories enough.

Above all, let me ground these children so well that I can dare to let them go.

And may they be so blessed.