

Nature Club Encourages Outdoor Exploration for Children, Parents

Submitted by Chris Kiewra, teacher

The Dimensions Early Education Program Nature Club met last Saturday at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. It turned out to be an absolutely beautiful day! As soon as we arrived we were greeted



by a painted turtle in the parking area and a chorus of Chorus Frogs chirping loudly! We later were able to see the small frogs along with snails and interesting plants in a pond. Exploring we found many different animal tracks in the ground and even wheel tracks left over from covered wagons! It was a pleasure to see parents and children enjoying their hike through the tall grass prairie and wooded areas. Thank you to everyone who attended for a wonderful afternoon! (To learn more about Spring Creek visit their website: springcreekprairie.org.)

Everyone is welcome to come to the next Nature Club activity planned for April 28th 10:30-noon for fishing at Holmes Lake Park. To learn more contact Chris Kiewra (ckiewra@neb.rr.com) or Brooke Levey (blevey@unl.edu).

Another opportunity for parents and teachers wanting to get more connected to nature is a book group we are starting at Dimensions. "The Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Louv, will be used as a spring-board to discuss this important topic. See the attached flyer for all the details!

Dr. Jane Goodall Delivers Message "A Reason for Hope"

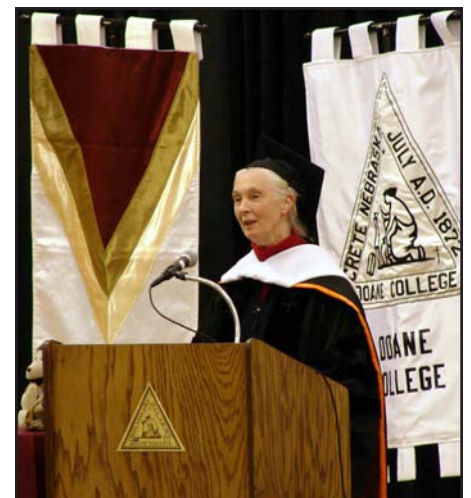
Submitted by Julie Rose, teacher

There was once a little girl who loved to explore the world she lived in. She would bring worms to bed with her at night, explore how eggs came out of a hen and convince her friends she could talk to the animals after reading Dr. Doolittle. Her mother, instead of scolding her, would always support this natural curiosity.

This young girl grew up to be a famous scientist by the name of Dr. Jane Goodall. Recently, thanks to Dr. Dana Miller, a group of Dimensions Early Education teachers and staff were fortunate to hear Jane Goodall speak for ninety minutes about "A Reason for

Hope." Jane credits her mother for always supporting her. "My mother used to read me a fable, The Eagle and Little Jenny Wren. The birds all came together to see who could fly the highest and just when the eagle thought he had won, out from under his wing pops little Jenny wren flying higher. To me, this symbolizes our flight through life...always trying to reach a little higher. Think of all the people who have helped you in life like feathers, little and big, to help you on your flight. My mother was one of my feathers. I am so lucky to have an eagle like this." Together, we have this incredible opportunity to help our children develop that sense of wonder. We

must continue to provide rich, hands-on experiences for our children at home and at school. With support and encouragement, who knows how far our little Jenny wrens will fly?



Parents, we are looking for donations toward the purchase of a tree to be planted in honor of National Arbor Day. Please contact Holly Murdoch for more information at 476-8304.

Donation Requests:

Preschool/Kindergarten

- ⊙ Glue Sticks
- ⊙ Kleenex
- ⊙ Small Lunch Sacks
- ⊙ Construction Paper
- ⊙ Spoons

Infant & Toddler

- ⊙ Bubbles
- ⊙ Dish Soap
- ⊙ Glue Sticks
- ⊙ 100% Juice

Staff Birthdays:

Kris Van Laningham.....April 14
Suzan HaleyApril 18
Kathy Perry.....April 20

To learn more, visit...

BornLearning.org

"Everyday life is a learning experience for children. Born Learning is a public engagement campaign that helps parents, grandparents and caregivers explore ways to turn everyday moments into fun learning experiences." A recent article talked about being "In the Zone" and how routines can benefit children because they thrive on repetition and predictability. The website has links to information and downloadable resources.

Thoughts and Dates for Parents

Mark Your Calendars for March 30

Please join us for "Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz," an interactive jazz concert featuring Hayes Greenfield and his ensemble live from New York City. Read on:

Submitted by Tina Reeble, teacher

I am writing to you as a fellow parent who also happens to be one of the teachers responsible for your child's growth and development at Dimensions Early Education Programs. I'd like to encourage you to attend the family concert featuring jazz musician Hayes Greenfield in a program he calls Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz.

The greatest benefit to you and your child is the connection to learning between school and home that you can be an integral part of. All of the children in our program, from Infants to Kindergarten, are learning about pattern, color and interpretation through our music and movement program, small group plans, exploration of real works of art and work in our outdoor classroom.

Jazz music is story telling and by learning more about it we continue to learn about ways that we can share our own stories. Can you imagine how meaningful it will be for your child when you have the shared experience of an evening of jazz entertainment and

you understand so much better what your child is telling you through their body movement, songs and play?

You will be able to reinforce at home all the wonderful exploration and self expression that is taking place at school. You won't have to ask, "What did you do at school today?" You'll know when he starts a rhythm pattern or gesture or tells you a story. Then watch for that sparkle in your child's eye when you join in and he sees that you understand all that he is "telling" you.

I hope you will be joining me at Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz. We will all be entertained, inspired and educated but most of all we will be making a deeper connection to our children's learning.

Registration Reminders...

Registration for our Summer Programs were put in cubbies March 20 and 21. Have you turned yours in yet? Dates and themes are:

- About the Artist... June 11-15
- From the Greenhouse to the Garden... June 18-22
- Art Adventures... June 25-29
- Let's Celebrate!... (closed July 4th) July 2-6
- Imagine That!... July 9-13
- Dream It, Construct It, Create It!... July 16-20
- Nature Explore... July 23-27
- Games Galore... August 6-10

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

Friday, March 30

Community-Wide Family Event featuring Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz with Hayes Greenfield and his ensemble LIVE from New York City (note date change)

April 5-6,9

No School (Easter)