

Nature Club Fishing Day at Holmes Park

by Chris Kiewra



"If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles." Doug Larson

Nearly 30 families from Dimensions/First-Plymouth Early Education Program concentrated on the really important things in life at Holmes Park last Saturday. Our Nature Club partnered with Nebraska Game and Parks to host a fishing day. Children and their families



were taught how to cast fishing poles. Once they mastered that process they were able to put

some bait on their hooks and head down to the sandy shore to throw their lines in the water. It was a beautiful morning to enjoy the sunshine, cool water on your toes, look for special stones on the shore, and play with new friends.



We owe a huge thanks to Game and Parks who provided fishing poles and three

volunteers with lots of expertise and patience. Also, a huge thank you to Brooke Levey and Mark Humpert for helping to arrange everything.

The final Nature Club experience of the year will be Saturday May 19th at Arbor Day Farms in Nebraska City. Families are invited to meet at the Tree Adventure entrance at 10:30.

The Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions are supporting this event by waving entrance fees for all participants! Please RSVP to Chris Kiewra at ckiewra@neb.rr.com and indicate the number from your family going and if you are interested in car pooling. Hope to see you there!



The Nature Club will not meet during the summer but look for information about fun family activities next school year!

Flower Power for Eli

by Anne Kitten



Lately, Eli and I have been late for appointments because we are gazing at new flowers outside our destination instead of going

inside. He insists that we must inspect every single one. Recently, our dinner has been late getting to the table because Eli would not let the car pass the garden

center on the way home. He just had to stop to check out the new floral arrivals and purchase some that fit his professional opinion of perfect.

I owe these missed appointments and late dinners to Denise (Topil). She spent some extra time several weeks ago and created the flower board outside the infant and toddler rooms. This board has provided Eli with inspiration day after day since its inception. He loves to choose a flower color and seek out these flowers in the real world.

I have always believed that Dimensions teachers provide the highest quality of education to Eli, but I am reminded of it when I see one of them go above and

beyond to provide our family with a little bit more.

Denise hasn't been Eli's teacher in almost two years, but she is still teaching him to apply the things he learns in school to the real world and empowering me to be a better parent.

In a normal year, I wouldn't even be planting yet, but this year our deck is already full of colorful flower pots. Eli proudly waters them daily and shows them off to unsuspecting visitors. Many times a week, I get to stop and smell the roses instead of watching the clock, that's really what I owe Denise. Thank you, teachers!

The Emergency Clothes stock is in need of replenishing again. If you have any shorts, sizes 3-6, that you would like to donate, they would be appreciated!

We also are in need of Twist Ties (these are used as fasteners in the Art Area) of all sizes.

Donation Requests:

Preschool/Kindergarten

- Kleenex
- Staplers
- Craft Sticks
- Band Aids
- Paint Brushes of all sizes

Infant & Toddler

- Staplers
- Wipes
- Bubbles
- Stickers

Staff Birthdays:

Laurie Flynn.....May 4

Chris Kiewra.....May 10

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Thoughts and Dates for Parents

Plant Sale May 10 and 11...

We are having a plant sale in the greenhouse from 8:45-9:30AM. Preschool and kindergarten children have helped prepare the plants during their greenhouse small group times. They have grown some of the plants from seed, and others are from cuttings that we rooted and then planted. We will have scented geraniums, rosemary, lavender, and more. Special pricing for the sale will be: "Buy two, get one free!"

Teacher Barb Jensen said, "When you buy a plant at this sale you are really buying a memory of your child's greenhouse experience at Dimensions." We hope you will stop by the greenhouse on Thursday or Friday morning when you bring your child to preschool.

Tree planting

Our school is in the process of planting a 10' red maple tree in the parkway along the E street side of our outdoor classroom. We look forward to picnicing under its shade and watching how it changes through the seasons. The red maple grows red buds and twin seeds (helicopters) in the Spring. In the Summer it has red leaf stems and small red fruit which squirrels like to eat. In the Fall its leaves could be red or yellow. The purchase of the tree was made possible through the support from Seeds of Life Quality Garden Center, First-Plymouth Church, and Dimensions.

The planting process has provided curious exploration by children. They were very interested in the worms that were in the soil. The clay content of the soil prompted children to mold it into clay balls. Some children drew colorful pictures showing the layers of soil that we could see as we dug the hole deeper.

By helping plant the tree children develop important positive beliefs about their own competency. In helping care for the tree

they begin to see themselves as nurturing and responsible. If you have a few leisurely minutes your child might enjoy showing you the tree. We will be naming the tree, so please share your suggestions with your child's teacher.

Family Picnic & Farmer's Market

Our annual Family Picnic and Farmer's Market will take place on our Outdoor Explore Classroom May 25, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Drinks will be provided, but we are asking each family to bring:

- Your own plates and silverware
- A main dish to share
- A salad OR dessert to share

The Mini-Farmer's Market will feature plants and fresh, organic produce supplied by Shadowbrook Farm (Charuth and Kevin Loth).

If the weather is threatening, we'll move indoors to our North and South classrooms! Stay for as long or as little as you desire. We always have lots of great potluck food, and a good time together. Let's celebrate our year together and enjoy each other's company.

Mark Your Calendars...

Friday, May 25

Family Picnic and Farmer's Market on our Outdoor Explore Classroom

May 28

NO SCHOOL for Memorial Day

May 31

Last day of Infant/Toddler and Preschool Sessions

June 4-8

Limited Summer Session Infant/Toddler ONLY

June 6

Last Day of Kindergarten Discovery Days Sessions

June 11

First Day of Summer Sessions