

Information About Upcoming and Ongoing Events

The Sunflower Project

By Ann Watt

Art Specialist

Artwork created by students at Dimensions Early Education Programs has been on display at the Lied Center for Performing Arts during the month of November. We are proud to be participating in the Lied Center's Studio for Students

program for the third year in a row. The art featured this year represents a selection of some of the many experiences enjoyed by all of our students so far this year.

The display will remain on the third floor balcony lobby until the end of November (weekdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. as well as during Lied Center performances).



Don't Forget...

...to turn in your Parent Survey's!

...to share your families Tradition's with us!



You Are Invited

bornlearningsm

**Family Day Out –
Dads Matter Fun Day**

Dec. 9, 2006

9:30AM-Noon

Lincoln Children's Museum

1420 P Street

Watch your cubbies next week for the flyer which will be your ticket to free admission to the event and the museum!

And be sure to look for Dimensions' Music and Movement Area while you are there!

Thoughts for Parents...

Unique Gift Idea

By Linda Maack
Grandparent

I found the best gift idea for both sets of my grandchildren, ages 3-8! Each family gets a Nature Explore Club packet 10 times a year, delivered to my house. When they come over, they always ask, "Grammy, can we go outside and explore?" They love to open their packet, read the story and then go to our back yard to explore. Last week they used decorated and cut out butterflies for a camouflage activity. They were so excited to make and hide their butterflies for each other, their mom and me! They look forward to each

adventure along with the characters in the story. We have visited the Tree Adventure in Nebraska City, so some of the landmarks in the story are familiar to them, too. For only \$20, they receive 10 packets throughout the year. I'm ordering one for my nephew in Kansas and my niece in Omaha as a holiday gift. I know they will love getting mail, too, and then use the activities outside! What a bargain! (Visit dimensionsfoundation.org to order kits.)



Payment Reminder

By Linda Maack
Financial Director

Thank you so much for your prompt payments! It really helps our budget when payments are received by the first of each month (so we can meet our financial obligations). Sometimes dates fall on weekends, holidays or when we are not in session. Checks can ALWAYS be postdated to the 31st or 1st; I won't deposit them until that date. That way you won't forget and we will have the checks on time! They can also be mailed to Dimensions Foundation at 2045 E Street, Lincoln, NE 68510. Thank you for your help with this.

Connecting the World's Children with Nature...Collective Dreams

Over 250 early childhood educators, members of the environmental community, environmental designers, and community planners from 25 nations met in October at the Arbor Day Farm where they discussed how to effect changes that make developmentally appropriate nature education a sustaining and enriching part of the daily lives of the world's children. Participants were also asked to share their collective dreams for the Working Forum on Nature Education for Young Children...and Beyond.

My dream is...

...that parents, teachers, and caregivers naturally and routinely understand and celebrate their roles in connecting young children with nature

...that the passion of this group may help us get children back into Eden – maybe they'll take us with them!

...to empower children to trust nature, trust themselves, trust each other, and to dream of a peaceful world. Let's plant the seeds of stewardship and activism now.

...that we remember lessons from children's books ("Front yards are boring; Backyards tell stories" from "Backyards" James Stevenson, '98)

...that we will begin a powerful movement that will make kidscaping (e.g. naturalistic landscapes designed and intended for children's nature play) the accepted norm for individual yards, neighborhood parks, early childhood centers and K-12 schools

...that we can collaborate worldwide to get every grown-up (parents, educators, politicians) to understand that it is our responsibility to give children good relations to nature as the important fundament to their lives

...that the global loss of connection with nature can be reversed and that the children who suffer through armed conflict, natural disaster, over-population, urbanization can once again be "free" to explore, experience and feel the peace that nature provides

...that this collaborative will form a group who can successfully begin a movement toward nature and the outdoors...and find ways to give all children the opportunity to spend time in the natural world and eventually have an effect on changing the direction of curriculum in educational settings from purely academic to creative, inspiring, and fun

For more information, visit the World Forum Foundation at www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/wf2006_nature/

Children's Activities...

The Sunflower Project

From The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum – Arts Are Basic

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum has been promoting school gardens, “Nebraska-style” landscaping and plant science literacy for nearly three decades.

A comment made by a teacher in western Nebraska continues to challenge us... “They don’t even know the plants out their own backdoor.” With that in mind, we turned to a plant common throughout the state to help connect students to the beauty and wonder of plants. It is a weed to some, to others a symbol of what we are- adaptable, hardy, varied and either beautiful or common, depending on your perspective.

“Wherever humans have gone, sunflowers have followed. The sunflower is the consummate American plant: tenacious, brash, bright, open, varied optimistic and cheerful, it might well be considered the true American flower. The impressive physiological characteristics of the sunflower and its

very long association with mankind are worthy of a lifetime of study... From its complex natural history, its persistence, its great appeal as a symbol of the sun, and its usefulness, we gain insight not only about this plant but the plant kingdom as a whole.” – *Lady Bird Johnson, Wildflowers Across America*

The Sunflower Project artwork is on display in Pilgrim Hall through November 30. This project is through Arts Are Basic. Dimensions Early Education Programs have been fortunate to have this display visit our Program and we would like to share it with everybody!

The Sunflower Project Arts Curriculum was created by Artists Susan Brasch and Roberta Seward.

Brasch is one of the founders of the Lincoln Children’s museum



and an Artist-in-Residence in the Schools and Communities through the Nebraska Arts Council. Seward is an artist whose studio is located in the Burkholder Project in the Haymarket, downtown Lincoln.

Literacy Workshop Notes

Participants at the Literacy workshop held last week were asked to share some of their child/children’s favorite books. How many have you read?

Goodnight Moon, Margaret Wise Brown

The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Eric Carle

Fancy Nancy, Jane O’Connor

The Best Nest, PD Eastman

Where the Wild Things Are, Maurice Sendak

“No, David!”, David Shannon

Time for Bed, Mem Fox

Charlotte’s Web, E.B. White

Green Eggs & Ham, Dr. Seuss

Boo Hoo Baby, Cressida Cowell

Fox in Sox, Dr. Seuss

Are You My Mother?, PD Eastman

The Franklin Series, Paulette Bourgeois

Curious George, H. A. Rey



Donation Requests

Preschool & Kindergarten

- ⊙ Hand Sanitizer
- ⊙ Glue Sticks
- ⊙ Rolls of Scotch Tape (for dispensers)
- ⊙ Crayola Watercolors
- ⊙ Small White Paper Lunch Sacks

Infant & Toddler

- ⊙ Playdoh
- ⊙ Wipes
- ⊙ Kleenex
- ⊙ Bounty Paper Towels
- ⊙ Washable Tempera Paint

Staff Birthdays

JoAnn Rall 11/25
Jody Hoover 12/9

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

November 27 ... Full Day Discovery Days

Dec. 21–Jan. 2 ... No School (Winter Break)

February 19 ... No School (President Day)

February 23 ... Family Night

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. The next event for the TCII Ladies Book Group, is Dec. 6, 8:30 p.m. at The Mill Coffeehouse (Haymarket) to discuss the book, The Lovely Bones. Everyone is welcome to join in on the book discussion, or just stop by to grab a cup of coffee and say hi! Email drewandjill@neb.rr.com for more information. For information about Tower Club II call 476-7550 or email addie@firstplymouth.org

Color Newsletters and Program information can be found on-line ...
www.firstplymouth.org or dimensionsfoundation.org

Children's Activities...

The Infant/Toddler Program has been enjoying the fall season with a variety of activities...getting into the Halloween spirit with costumes; digging into pumpkins (and discovering heart shapes); and, covering up our friends with leaves and then throwing them up in the air!

