



Peoples Church Preschool Press

A Note From the Director

It's **enrollment** time* again for our three-hour classes. Enrollment for next fall is open to in-house families and church members starting Tuesday, February 1. Open enrollment for all others will begin Wednesday, February 9. Registration forms have been distributed to classes. Please contact the Preschool office or visit our website if you would like another form. Be sure to enroll early as classes fill quickly. *If your child is currently enrolled in a year-round infant, toddler, two's, or preschool class, there is no need to re-enroll.

If you know someone that is unfamiliar with our school and would like to visit, we will host an **Open House** on Wednesday, February 9. Open House times are 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Knowledgeable parents and/or staff members will be available to give guided tours and answer any questions for the new families.

On Wednesday, February, 16, all classrooms will celebrate **Parent Appreciation Day!** This is a special day when we thank parents for all the wonderful things they do to help our school grow, including filling out our annual survey. Also, during the evening of the 17th we will have **Family Dinner Night at noodles and company.** Hope to see you there!

One of the preschool's many goals for 2011 is to recreate our indoor environments and to bring more nature into the curriculum. Please take a look at the article on page 7 that lists some of the items we will be collecting to enhance our curriculum. You'll also find information regarding **Feeding Theory** and an accompanying **Parent Information Session.**

Please watch for a complete list of 2010 Parent Survey results to be shared via email (or hard copy if preferred) in March.

Spirit Week and Annual Classroom Competition

Please assist your child in joining us for Spirit Week, February 21 through 25. Spirit Week is our annual Classroom Competition kick off! The following is our Spirit Week schedule:

Monday - **Inside Out, Backwards and Clash Day**

Tuesday - *WACKY HAIR DAY*

Wednesday - **Crazy socks and/or Slippers Day**

Thursday - **SPORTS FAN SPIRIT DAY**

Friday - **COSTUME DAY (NO SUPER HERO'S, WEAPONS OR SCARY**

COSTUMES PLEASE)

February 2011



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Infant Room - Sara DeYarmond and Julia McVey

February is a busy month in the Infant Room. We will be exploring different food items such as tofu, mashed potatoes, jello, and frozen bananas. The Infant Room will celebrate the Chinese New Year by making paper lanterns. The children will also create a Valentine for those special ones in their lives.

Last month Simon and Alejandro graduated to the Toddler Room and we are very excited for them to continue to learn and grow with their new friends! We also welcomed two new friends in January. Please extend a warm smile to Emily and her parents, Todd and Yoon, and De'Jaiye and her parents, De'Marco and Nakeisha. We are so excited to welcome you to the Infant Family! We would like to wish Isla a happy First Birthday on February 10 and we are excited for her transition into the Toddler Room toward the end of the month!

Please remember that you are welcome to stop by the classroom anytime. We love to have parent come in to read a story or share a special talent. Please see Sara or Julia to set up a time!



Toddler Room - Julie Pitsonis and Melissa Mosley

The toddlers have enjoyed our most recent learning focus of Insects and Shapes. The insects became quite a big hit as we explored and investigated many once living insects and arachnids. The children seemed to be fascinated with the tiny creatures and liked counting the legs or wings. We cannot wait until springtime so we can go outside and see them walking and flying in their natural environment.

We worked hard on mastering circles and squares. It is amazing how many objects in our everyday use are round. At home, have your toddler find things around your house that are circular or square; it is fun to point these out.

Our learning foci themes for February will be Colors and Sizes. Though we will learn about many different colors, we will spend a couple of days focusing only on red and pink for Valentine's Day. On these days, we will sample red sugar-free Jell-o and wear red shirts.

The concept of objects and people being big and small has become quite the topic in the Toddler Room. The children will make comparisons of objects being big versus small and we will learn different words to describe something that is large such as large, huge, and enormous.

On February 25th, we will have a special visit from Megan from Preuss Pets just for the Toddlers and Twos classes.

We welcome Cameron and his family, Simon and his family, Alejandro and his family, Tanya and her family and Cherin and her family. We are all so excited to have you as a part of the Toddler Room.

As always, if you could bring an extra box or two of tissues in to the classroom, we would very much appreciate it. Stay warm and think spring!

Twos Classroom - Michelle Clingenpeel & Bethany Foote

January in the Two's classroom found the children exploring many sizes and types of ramps. We learned that one end of the ramp has to be higher than the other for a ball to roll downward. The children also discovered various ways to stop, redirect, or follow the balls and marbles through the pathways. We moved the block area to encourage easier access and more space for building and look forward to continuing our exploration of how ramps work in the coming weeks.

During our investigation into the Five Senses we took a field trip to the Impression 5 Science Museum. While there, the children played in the water table, the bubble room and created slime. Thank you to Suzanne R., Lauralyn K., Kaitlin O., Nidal K., and Kathryn H. for joining us and helping on our field trip!

In February, we will learn about Chinese New Year, as well as explore snow and ice. Our curriculum will include learning about traditions associated with Chinese New Year, tasting authentic Chinese tea, investigating how the color red is incorporated in the holiday and discussing the sights and sounds that firecrackers make. Here are the lyrics to the chant we will learn while we study of Chinese New Year. Feel free to sing along with us!

The Firecracker Song

Firecracker, firecracker, what do you do?

I burst, and I pop, and I just can't STOP! (As you say 'stop' throw a scarf up into the air!)

During our study of snow and ice, we will explore the texture and temperature of frozen water in its different states. The children will explore snow both inside in the sensory table and outside with their hands, tongues and even their toes! This exploration will allow us to connect our previous learning of how our five senses help us to interpret the world.

The Two's Classroom is excited to welcome Michaela and her parents, Georgios and Artemisia, and Lukas and his parents, Aislinn and Scott, to the room. We want to send best wishes out to Liam and his parents, Sarah and Matt as they move on.

Also, we wish a happy birthday to Marley, who turns three years old on February 22.



Please Help Us Make it the Best Auction Ever in 2011!

Our annual Silent Auction is scheduled for late May. This year we will also have it on the Saturday of the East Lansing Art Show! Because the auction is our largest fundraiser and we depend upon its income for the purchases of new equipment, the Parent Advisory Committee is asking that each Peoples Church Preschool family consider collecting and/or donating at least one item for bidding. Keep in mind that auction items do not have to be purchased! They can be collected from a business you frequent or you could donate a service such as child care, catering, photography, music lessons or gardening!

Next week in our Parent Memo we will include an attachment that can be printed and shown to prospective donors to show the preschool's nonprofit status and give potential donors any other information that is needed. All donation are tax deductible as well.

All items for the auction should be collected now or in the very near future so that they can be organized and put on our special Auction Items Preview Website. In addition, the sooner items are requested, the more likely businesses will be able to make a donation. Please contact the preschool office at 332-2885 if you have any question. Thanks!

Preschool 2 - Robin Zeiter, Beth Detzler & Kristen Bohannon

We welcomed Oketee our corn snake to Preschool Two classroom in January. We are very excited to have her. The children love to see where she is every morning and is if she is getting any bigger. The children also learned about a variety of different snakes, where they might live, and different things that they do such as shedding their skin and why. We also had fun making ginger bread play dough and cookies. It made our room smell great.

This month we will take a trip to Jumping Jax. Watch for a signup sheet, it will be posted soon. If you are available to drive please let a Preschool 2 teacher know. This month is also Dental month. We will be teaching the children how to take care of their teeth and we also have a dental hygienist visiting on February 8 at 11:00 a.m. to do a presentation. We will learn about Ice and Snow throughout the month of February.

The children really enjoy our new science area. We keep adding new items and their faces light up when they see new things. Thank you to all of the painting helpers that volunteered to paint our classroom. You are truly appreciated. You have helped make our classroom shine in NATURE.

The children continue to enjoy the writing table. At any time you have extra supplies at home such as paper, envelopes, stencils, stamps we would love to add them to our center. Our Valentine's Day party will be Monday, February 14. We will post a signup sheet for items the first week of February. Parents are more than welcome to attend. Thank you for sharing your children with us. We really enjoy spending our day with them.

Eleanor will turn 4 years old on February 9 and Landen will turn 5 years old on February 24.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Young Fives - Tammy Epling

Last month the class enjoyed a fun and educational visit from Preuss Pets. They brought a very friendly rat named Hope. The children laughed as Hope demonstrated how she cleans her face like a cat. Hope also chatters her teeth when she is happy. The children also touch and learned about a very sweet tarantula, a starfish and a Hindgebacked tortoise that enjoyed walking across our floor.

Our class also celebrated the arctic, during our learning focus on Eskimo Olympics. The children enjoyed playing games like carrying as many stuffed animals as possible. The children also had fun tossing animals with towels in the air and catching them again. The children especially liked eating Eskimo ice cream. The children explored the properties of ice, by melting it with salt. They also experienced how blubber insulates arctic animals and helps keep them warm.

This month the class will begin their learning focus on museums. During our "Night at the Museum" focus the class will discover what you might see and experience at a museum. The children will discover dinosaurs, learn about ancient Egypt, and dig for fossils. The children will become famous artist. This month the school will celebrate Silly Week. Our Valentine party will be on Monday, February 14.

We would like to welcome Mika and her family to class. Mika joined the Fives Class at the end of December. We are so glad you are here.



WOW PARENTS! YOU REALLY SHINE!

Thank you to Courtney Trunk for all of the artistic painting! Courtney painted flower pots, a table and chairs and a classroom plaque for the Preschool 2 classroom. She is quite an artist! The plaque features the classroom's name and has a nature theme. The table and chairs are painted with jungle animals and patterns and the flower pots have the PCP logo!

Thank you to Steve Holden for not only his work on wall repair in Preschool 2 but also with providing improvements to the classroom's curtains! Steve shortened the curtains to provide improved lighting, heating and cooling and also attached Velcro so the curtains can be attached to each other when closed. In addition he added ties for when the curtains are open. They make such a great improvement in the look of the classroom!

Thank you to Suzanne Rojas for the donation of a great set of wooden geo blocks and to Brianna Gerard for donating both large and small-sized binders.

More thanks go to our Preschool 2 painting volunteers Bethany Foote, Kristen Bohannon, Sara DeYarmond, Robin Zeiter, Beth Detzler, Dana Johnson, Steve Holden, Warren Rojewski, Courtney Trunk, Mandy Johnson, Michelle Scott, Kara Zeiter, Lorrie Schartow, and Mary Keating.

Teacher of the Month - Kayla Palmer

This month's teacher of the month is Kayla Palmer. Kayla is a full time teaching assistant in the Toddler Room where she has worked for nearly two years. In addition, Kayla has worked as a substitute teacher at some point in every other classroom in our school. Kayla is studying Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement and will graduate in May 2011. While working with the children at Peoples, Kayla has participated in a number of early childhood training sessions, including a recent one on diversity. In the future she would like to be a police officer and work with troubled children.



Kayla enjoys interacting with and reading to the children. One of her special talents is using different voices and accents to make reading time extra special. When asked about her favorite part of working with the children Kayla said, "I love to see the personal growth in the children I care for. Helping them to enjoy their time away from their parents is so fulfilling. There is nothing else like it." She added, "There is never a dull moment."

Kayla draws inspiration from her family and friends. She says, "My time here at PCP has been really rewarding. I've made so many lasting relationships with my coworkers, the children and their parents. I feel truly blessed! Working here has been a real treat and I love it. :)"



Preschool 1 - Taylor Thompson and Patti Ellis

The children of Preschool One have been experimenting with the properties of snow, ice and steam. They melted both snow and ice from the play yard and found dirt in both, however this has not abated their appetites for snow! We also worked together to rebuild the sled hill in the play yard.

In January, we welcomed Chelsea and her parents, Caroline and Baoz, and Matthew and his mother, Min-Jung, to our classroom. This month we welcome lead teacher, Kristen Bohannon and teaching assistants Michelle Scott, Tricia Brumley and Haley Deen.

We will celebrate St. Valentine's Day on February 14. The children will cut hearts, count hearts, wear hearts, name all of the colors of red we can think of, and make bird seed hearts to hang in the tree in the play yard.

The field trip to the East Lansing Post office has been rescheduled for February 17. The children will also take a walk to the M.S.U. campus to see the Red Cedar River on February 15. While at the river the children will count ducks and squirrels and note how much ice is covering the river. We will cross two bridges and view the river from both sides, checking trees for bird or squirrel nests, and looking for animal tracks to identify.

During the upcoming month the children will identify different feelings and how to appropriately express emotions. They will also have an opportunity to talk about caring for others and looking out for other's safety; as well as when it is appropriate to tell a teacher about another child's behavior. At the end of the month the children will choose behaviors they feel are acceptable in their classroom. This will be an empowering experience for all involved.

Threes and Fours Class - Sue Reszka

In January the children learned how animals survive in winter. We talked about hibernation, camouflage and what the animals ate. The children had a chance to experience firsthand how blubber helps keep animals warm. They inserted one hand into a plastic bag, that contained (a lot) of baking grease. Then they put both hands (the other hand was bare) into a tub of cold water. They were able to experience how blubber keeps arctic animals warm. They also got a chance to feel a variety animals furs. They were able to distinguish between the textures of the furs and determine that they do not all feel soft. The last day of January we had a visit from two docents from Potter Park Zoo. They brought out many interesting animals for the children to see, touch and learn about.

This month we will celebrate Valentine's Day. We will talk about our feelings and emotions. We will brainstorm together on the many nice things we can do for their family and friends. Our learning focus for February will also include a theme on A Night at the Museum. The curriculum will include the kinds of things we might find in a museum. The children will make paintings, chalk drawings, sculptures and collages. They will put together a dinosaur skeleton, dig in the sandbox for fossils, and explore Egyptian artifacts. The children will be able to experience what a typewriter and record player are, and how they work. We will also have fun with Silly Week this month. Each day of the week will have a different focus, such as inside/outside/backwards day.

Our Valentine's Day party is on Monday, February 14. If you are sending in Valentine cards for your child to pass out, please do not put names on the outside of the envelopes.

We had a new friend join our class this month. We are very happy to welcome Henry M. and his family.

What is Feeding Theory?

Feeding Theory is the thought that when feeding children, there is a division of responsibility between the adult and the child. Peoples Church Preschool is adopting Ellen Satter's Division of Responsibility in feeding. This theory says that when it comes to feeding children, ADULTS are responsible for *what, when* and *where*. Adults provide nutritious, regularly scheduled meals and snacks. CHILDREN are responsible for *how much* and *whether*. We trust children to manage their own eating.

Teachers:

- Take time to help children relax and prepare to eat.
- Sit down to eat with children and have good times.
- Help children learn to behave well at meal and snack times.
- Keep in mind the special food needs of small children.
- Offer familiar and popular foods along with unfamiliar foods.
- Let children eat what they like and also try out new food.

Children will eat, they will eat what they need, and they will learn to eat the new foods that we offer. We let children pick and choose from the foods their parents make available. We let them try as little or as much of the food as they want. We do not limit the amount of food the children eat. We do not force the children to eat certain foods or certain amounts of food.

For more information on Feeding Theory, please join us for a parent information session later this month. Date to come.



Learning & Literacy

Helping children become ready for reading means more than just teaching them the names and sounds of the letters in the alphabet. It means helping children become interested in reading and letting them know that reading can help us in many different ways in our lives. Here are some things that you can do to help your toddler or preschooler develop skills needed for learning to read later on in school.

Let your child know that reading is helpful to people.

- As you walk or drive through the neighborhood, casually mention some of the words you see around you, like stop signs or traffic signs.
- Show your child signs for the places you regularly visit, like the bank, the post office or the grocery store, and tell your child what the words say.

If you see that your child is interested in the pictures or words on cereal boxes or other packages, read the words and tell your child what they mean.

Help your child see the connection between reading and writing.

- When you write down telephone numbers or take messages, show your child what you have written.
- When you make a grocery list, show it to your child. You can say things like, "Here are the things we have to buy at the store: bread, milk, juice," and point to each word as you say it.

When your child draws a picture, write down what your child says about the picture and read it back.

Encourage your child to play about reading and writing.

- Save used envelopes, old calendars, stickers and small sheets of paper to create an "office" play box that includes tape, pens or pencils, a toy telephone. You can bring out these materials when you have work to do, like paying bills or keeping records -- or any time at all.
- Keep a box of catalogs, magazines, and old phone books for your child to use in pretend play.

When your child has a friend over for lunch, let the children pretend about being in a restaurant, making menus and taking orders on a small note pad.

Find ways to help your child enjoy books and reading.

- Create a cozy place for reading and looking at books.
- Make reading a part of your child's bedtime routine.
- Carry a little book in your pocket or bag and read to your child while you are riding in a bus or waiting in the clinic or doctor's office.
- Plan trips to the library for story time or for choosing books.



Show your child that you like to read by setting aside time for reading the newspaper or a book. Give your child some books or magazines to look at while you have some quiet time together.

Peoples Church Preschool Presents

Kids Closet/ Mom to Moms Sale

A SALE OF GENTLY USED CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

Where: Peoples Church Social Hall (Indoors)

When: Friday, March 18, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Three Options Available!

1. You price and sell your items and keep all the money.
2. You donate your items to the preschool and volunteers will sell your items.
3. You shop and save on hundreds of items!
 - The preschool raises funds for equipment by renting tables or selling donated items.
 - Just have a few things to sell? Split a table with a friend.
 - Extra space for unlimited large items is just \$5
 - Peoples Church Preschool does all the advertising.

This sale is for infant and children's items only. The buyers are in the market for what you've got to sell!

-----*Sign Me Up!*-----

Name _____

Return to:

Peoples Church Preschool

Phone _____

200 W. Grand River Ave.

E-Mail _____

East Lansing, MI 48823

One 8-foot table for \$12

(517) 332-2885

Two 8-foot tables for \$20

Large item area for \$5

Non-refundable \$_____ Enclosed

Tree Cookies and other Items Get Us Back to Nature

Research shows that alienation from nature and natural items leads to obesity and depression, attention deficit, and diminished use of the five senses. Please help us build our store of these wonderful and often inexpensive items* if you have access to them:

Logs, tree Cookies (cross sections of any tree of any width and multiple depths) Petoskey stones, shark teeth, bamboo, sea shells, interesting pieces of wood, giant boulders, feathers, quills, turtle shells, bird nests, animal bones, bark, furs, shorn wool, natural cotton, cat tails, seeds, seed pods, weeds and grasses, dried flowers, real flowers, interesting stones, snake skins, fossils, milk weed pods, natural clay, uniquely colored dirt, bee's nests, giant sunflowers, pine cones, acorns, coconut shells, capture a spider web on black paper, colorful or unusual leaves, pine needles, drift wood, giant tree mushrooms, hollow logs, non-hollow logs, deceased butterflies and moths, insects and their skeletons, stumps, etc.

*Please be sure that no living creature is harmed in the collection of these items. For larger items, please contact the preschool in advance to make sure we can accommodate for space.

February 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 In House enrollment begins for fall 2011 3 hour classes	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Open House 9 to 11 a.m. 1 to 3 p.m.	10	11	12
13	14 Valentines Day	15	16 Parent Appreciation Day	17 noodles & co Family dinner	18	19
20 Spirit Week	21 Presidents Day Inside Out	22 Wacky Hair	23 Crazy Socks	24 Sports Fan	25 Costume Day	26
27	28					