



# Peoples Church Preschool Press

January 2010

## A Note From the Director

Welcome to 2011 at Peoples Church Preschool! We're glad you'll be with us as we begin our 60th year! I hope everyone enjoyed their time with family and friends over the holidays. Please join us next month on February 10th when we meet at noodles & company for our Family Fun Night dinner. Be sure to invite extended family and friends to this event, as the preschool earns 20% of the proceeds from those showing their Peoples Church Preschool flyer. More information on this will be distributed in February

Our *60 Years and Growing in 2011* fundraising campaign is off to a great start with the tote board showing that we have raised nearly \$1,000 of our \$5,000 goal. This year's campaign will culminate with the End of the Year Silent Auction in May. We are currently raising funds for classroom makeovers including new paint, window coverings, and classroom furniture.

Special thanks this month go to the Rojas family for providing mini muffins, fruit, coffee and bagels for breakfast for the entire staff last month! Thank you so much! We also enjoyed the Godiva chocolates from the Davidson's! More thanks go to the families that took an ornament from the Teacher Wish Tree and donated items to the classrooms. Your generosity is so appreciated. We also remain especially grateful for all of you that refer your friends and families to our program. That is the highest compliment we receive!

With January comes new beginnings and another chance to thank you for letting us teach and care for your children. We would like to ask for your help this month so that we can set our program goals for 2011. Once they are available, please take a moment to complete and return the Annual Program Evaluation. This year, you will be able to communicate with us via Survey Monkey so we are better able to tabulate and share the results with you. As always, there is no need to wait for a survey to share your thoughts! Please feel free to call, email, or stop by the preschool office any time.

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR



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## Tuition Saving News

In December, 3 families saved \$470.00 on tuition through the SCRIP program.

The SCRIP due date for January will be the 12th.

## Infant Room — Julia Edson and Sara DeYarmond

Happy 2011 to everyone! The infants and teachers had fun in December making cinnamon-applesauce ornaments and footprint wreaths for our parents. We also enjoyed taking walks downstairs in the church to look at the beautifully decorated Christmas trees. Some of the infants made New Years Eve party hats to celebrate the New Year ahead.

This month the infant class will be exploring snow and ice; having it in the classroom for the children to feel and taste. We will also learn about balance by stacking cups and blocks, standing or crawling on balls and on the floor, and also walking with adult support. The infant room will also paint with our new paints we received for Christmas.

Tamiya and Alejandro graduated to the Toddler Room over the holiday break. We will miss their smiling faces and are excited to watch them grow as toddlers. The Infant Room welcomed Emily and her parents, Yoon Kyung and Todd; and De'Jaiye and her parents, Nakeisha and DeMarco, to the class at the beginning of January. Thank you very much for all the generous gifts during the holiday season. We appreciate your support and enjoy being a part of your child's life.



## Toddler Room - Julie Pitsonis and Melissa Mosely

Welcome to 2011! The toddlers have enjoyed sampling fun foods such as cranberry sauce, smelling wonderful smells like limes, oranges and cloves, and listening to the sounds of snow crunching and jingle bells; we really liked stimulating our senses. Something fun to try at home is to put a couple of drops of different extracts, (vanilla, orange, peppermint, etc.) onto a cotton ball and have your child hold and smell it.

We're hoping that January has some wonderful weather for us to get a lot of great outdoor play. We will play with sand shovels and buckets in the snow, and also look for hidden things scattered throughout the snow that we will color with sprayers containing colored water. The toddlers will also learn about arctic animals; including their habitat, what color they are and if they are large or small.

The toddlers really seemed to enjoy the art projects we have done lately and we will continue to have many fun new things for them to try. In addition to our exciting painting and gluing activities, the toddlers will practice using safety scissors in a one-on-one activity; we are anxious to have the children make small cuts into their paper.

Thank you all for your wonderful donations for the Toddler Room. The new toys, books and music will be most enjoyed by everyone.

Please remember to always have two spare sets of clothes for your child (including pants, shirts and socks) so if they get wet while outdoors, your child can be quickly changed into dry, warm clothing.

## Twos Room - Bethany Foote and Michelle Clingenpeel

Happy New Year, everyone! We hope your holidays were full of fun, family, friends, and festivities. In December, the Two's Class enjoyed learning about Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year's Day. The children were also very excited to see the snow arrive. We would like to thank the Messina, Rosales, Karim-Hidalgo, Pre-isser, Obenanuf, Keyton, Higgins, Rocco, and Oleksyk families for their wonderful holiday gifts to staff and the classroom. We are so thankful for all everyone does for us.

In January, we will explore pathways and ramps and the five senses. During our exploration of ramps and pathways we will incorporate multiple sized pieces of molding, various sized manipulatives to employ on the ramps, and long and short half-tube shapes to be used as pathways. We will add planks to compare with the concave options while building ramps. We look forward to introducing and developing pre-math vocabulary, measuring skills, and problem-solving.

As we investigate the five senses, we will use our fingers, toes, tongues, ears, eyes, and noses to explore things around us. We will incorporate unusual foods, smell jars, goop, flax seeds, and mystery sounds into our days. We will also travel to Impressions Five Science Museum on Wednesday, January 19. We will leave at 9:15 a.m. and return by 11:30 a.m. Please check your calendar to see if you are able to join us and drive.

The Two's Class would like to wish Madeline, and her parents, Veronica and Justin, the best of luck as they move on to Preschool One. We will miss you all! We are very excited to welcome Dahlia, and her parents, Amber and Lynn, and Reilly, and her parents, Kathryn and Brian. We are thrilled to have you join us! Happy Birthday to Dahlia, who turns two years old on January 28th.



## Preschool 1 — Taylor Thompson and Patti Ellis

Welcome back from the holidays! I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable break. In December we learned all about animals. We learned about animals that fly, animals that lay eggs and animals that live in the water. We built nests for birds, snakes, alligators and turtles. We compared feathers to see what bird they came from and learned which birds make what sounds. We also welcomed a visit from Santa Clause! Santa was kind enough to come down from the North Pole and talk to each of us and ask us what we would like for Christmas. We also enjoyed a Christmas party that included a pajama party, painting snowflakes, snowball bowling and a special treat for Ms. Lindsay's birthday. Thank you Ms. Lindsay!

In January we will explore the following themes; Ramps and Pathways, Cause and Effect, and Water. We will work together to build several ramps of different heights and sizes. We will discuss what ramps do, how they work and why we need them. For our unit on Cause and Effect our study will include magnets. We will watch and learn how they react with themselves and other objects. We will also learn how our own bodies can be a science experiment using cause and effect. For our unit on water we will learn about the freezing and melting process. We will learn that people are not the only ones who need water to live, and how we can conserve the water in our homes and school. In January we will visit the East Lansing Post Office. This trip was scheduled for December, however due to conflicts it was rescheduled for January.

Please remember that we are closed Monday January 17<sup>th</sup> to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Happy Birthday to:

Mrs. Taylor on the 17th and Alex, three years old on the 7th



## Preschool 2 - Robin Zeiter, Beth Detzler, Kristen Bohannan

Happy New Year! One of our goals for the New Year involves continuing to infuse nature into our environment. Check out our new science area. We have included stones, pine cones, twigs, tree cookies and acorns for the children to touch, measure, and weigh. A second goal is to include more open ended materials throughout the classroom. Open ended materials are materials that don't have a designated purpose or outcome and allow the children the opportunity to use their imaginations. The possibilities are endless.



Thank you to the parents who braved the winter trip to Peacock Tree Farm and to all of you who donated food and materials for our holiday party. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated and generous families!

Below are some language building tips taken from "Make Time to Talk", an article published by the National Institute for Literacy:

- Mealtimes provide great opportunities for conversation. Talk with your children.
- Ask questions that encourage your child to think—questions that involve analysis, prediction, and/or imagining things that could happen.
- Language should include rich, varied vocabulary.
- Tell stories to your child and ask your child to tell you stories.

Expand on your child's language by repeating it and adding descriptive words and ideas.

This month we welcome a new Lead Assistant Teacher, Judie Mirabelli-Migaldi. Ms. Judie will be working full time in our classroom and has worked for the preschool in another classroom for the last five years. Best Wishes this month to Lauren on the 30th and Vivian on the 31st. Happy Birthday!



## Threes and Fours Class — Sue Reszka

Welcome back everyone. I hope you all enjoyed your winter break and had a wonderful Holiday.

In December, the children enjoyed the special activity of helping Liesel Carlson sew cat beds for the Humane Society. The children were able to see how a sewing machine works, and helped to guide the material. I wish to thank everyone who donated items for the animals at the Humane Society. They really appreciated the much needed items.

Last month we said goodbye to Sangheon. He and his family are moving back to Korea. He is taking with him a very special T-shirt from his friends. The shirt has the world on it, with a heart showing where Michigan is. The children surrounded the world with their handprints. Thank you to Carrie for doing this very creative and thoughtful project.

The children had a fun time at our Christmas party. I would like to thank Jennifer Sparrow for our party craft, and Ellie Vlahos for providing our nutrition break. We had a surprise visit from Santa during our party and the children got a chance to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas. That was very exciting.

In January, our first theme is on Pirates. This is a favorite of the children. The children will dress-up and talk like a pirate. They will count gold doubloons in Spanish, search for buried treasure in the sandbox, and experiment to find out which things float or sink. We will have fun using telescopes, binoculars and compasses, and find out what they are used for. We will talk about what an island is and why Michigan, even though it is almost completely surrounded by water, is not an island. This month our curriculum will also include a unit on Eskimo Olympics. The World Eskimo-Indian Olympics are held in Fairbanks, Alaska, in late July. We will learn about mukluks, have our own Eskimo Olympics and make Eskimo ice cream. We will wind up the month with a unit on Sticky Stuff. We will talk about and explore things are sticky, what are they used for and where they come from. We will even make our own paste. I'm sure we can find a lot of sticky things in our classroom.

Our preschool will be closed on Monday, January 17, for Martin Luther King Day. If East Lansing Schools are closed for a snow day, then we are closed. However, if they are closed due to wind chill, we are open.

Did you know? For children's physical and mental health, The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends sixty minutes of unstructured play time every day.

## Young Fives — Tammy Epling

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a nice and relaxing winter break.

Last month the class had a special treat during our Holiday Party. Theresa (Olivia's mom) came in and played Christmas Carols on the piano while the children accompanied her with jingle bells. The children really enjoyed it when she sang her favorite Christmas lullaby to them. Thank you, Theresa, for sharing your talents with us.

We would like to welcome Derrick and his family to the Fives Class. We are so happy to have you here.

Sadly, our class said good-bye to Seo-Jin. We've been fortunate to have her in our class for the past two years. Her family is moving back to Korea. We wish Seo-Jin and her family all the best.

Thanks to all the children who brought in donations for the Humane Society.

We will begin the new year with our Pirate and Island theme. The class will read Shiver Me Letters and Pirate Pete. The children will write adventure stories and make treasure maps. During our Eskimo Olympics theme, the children will learn about life in the Arctic. For science the children will have some hands on opportunities to discover how animals use their fur and blubber to stay warm in cold weather. The class will observe how ice melts by making colored tunnels in big chunks of ice using salt and eyedroppers. The children will develop their vocabulary by writing snow poems; they will use words to describe how snow feels and to explain what materials they would use to make a snowman.

On January 14, Preuss Pets will visit our class. The children will participate in a classroom presentation about the animals. The children will have an opportunity to see and touch the animals.

Starting this month the children will go outside during the fives class on Wednesdays (weather permitting). Please remember to bring hats, mitten/gloves snow pants and boots to school on this day.

Please remember there are no classes on Monday, January 17. The building is closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Happy Birthday to Lauren, she turns 5 years old on January 30.

## Peoples Church Preschool

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### Peoples Church Preschool



## How We Approach Discipline

The word discipline is derived from the Latin word that means teaching, and our view of discipline holds true in that classic sense. Discipline is not a form of punishment, but a method of teaching. The children will learn trust, respect, consideration and love for others. The goal of discipline is to assist children in developing positive self-esteem, self-control, a sense of responsibility and an acceptance of and confidence in adult guidance.

At Peoples Church Preschool, we believe that a well-planned program, suitable environment and caring staff are the keys to helping children develop self-control.

Teachers guide behavior by setting good examples. They use their voices, hands, faces, bodies and actions as tools for communicating. For instance, when a teacher needs to help a child gain control, he/she will use a calm but firm tone and words that help the child understand his own feelings and the feelings of others.

We will remember that the goal of discipline is to help the child gain self-control by learning appropriate behaviors, rather than forcing the child to conform to adult standards.

## Teacher of the Month - Kristen Bohannan

This month's Teacher of the Month is Kristen Bohannan. Kristen was formerly a Director and preschool teacher at a child development center in South Lansing. Kristen graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Family and Child Ecology. Her future education plans involve possibly getting a Masters in child development.

In addition to working at Peoples, Kristen is also employed by the Central/Eastern Regional Resource Center, formerly known as the Office for Young Children, where she is an adult education trainer. She is also certified as a Heartsaver Instructor through the American Heart Association.

Kristen enjoys working with children to watch their growth and educational development and she is inspired by advocating for young children. When asked what she specifically likes about her job at Peoples, she said, "The opportunity to educate young children, the welcoming environment, and the other staff members." She added, "I would like to thank everyone for making me feel welcome. :)"

# January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2	3 <i>School closed</i>	4 <i>All Classes Resume</i>	5	6	7	8
9	10 <i>Happy Birthday Mrs. Tricia!</i>	11	12 <i>Scrip Due</i>	13 <i>Preschool 1 Field Trip</i>	14 <i>Preschool 2 Painting Party Volunteers Needed!</i>	15 <i>Preschool 2 Painting Party Volunteers Needed!</i>
16 <i>Preschool 2 Painting Party Volunteers Needed!</i>	17 <i>MLK Day School closed</i>	18 <i>Scholastic Due</i>	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# Quiet Times and Noisy Times

We all have a need for times of peace and quiet. Yet there are times when it's all right to be noisy. Sometimes it's hard for children to even be aware that they are being too noisy for others. They may not be able to control the amount of noise they make. One of the things that parents can do is to help children find acceptable ways to be noisy...and to help them see that they can, little by little, begin to control how noisy or quiet they are.

## Helping Children Control their Noise

- Talk about what is expected ahead of time. Children tend to manage better when they know about things beforehand. It takes a while for children to learn what noise levels are socially acceptable in different situations.
- Talk about times when it's all right to be noisy, such as when they're outside playing or when everyone agrees that noise is all right (like at a party or ball game).
- Talk about times when it's important to be quiet so that people can hear, such as:
  - when someone is trying to talk or
  - when we're at a concert or a movie or a worship service
  - when we're inside a small area and could bother others with our noise
  - when someone is sleeping or isn't feeling well.

## Help Children Learn to Find Ways to Express Their Need to be Noisy

- Give them a time for making noise without disturbing others. They might want to:
  - bang on pots and pans with a metal spoon
  - pound on empty oatmeal containers with a wooden spoon
  - sing loud or yell
- Try to give your child some time to be outside where it's okay to be noisy.

## Help Children Learn to Enjoy Quiet Times

- Set aside "quiet time" each day for you and your child -- even if that's only for a few minutes. Turn off the television or radio. Use the time to read a book, look at magazines, draw pictures, or just sit and enjoy the peace and quiet.
- When you are traveling in the car, turn off the radio and take time for quiet conversation or looking at things you pass.
- Provide a safe place where children can go when they need some peace and quiet, like a tent or playhouse made with blankets over a chair or table.

## Let Children Know They Can Begin to Control the Amount of Noise They Make. Give Them Chances to Practice.

- Sing a song that has a loud, active verse; then alternate it with a soft quiet verse;
- Play simple games that allow everyone to be noisy until you give a signal to be quiet;
- Be patient with children as they learn to control their noise. Children don't come with "volume control" and they sometimes can't control their sounds, especially when they are under stress.

**FRED ROGERS**

# Peoples Church Preschool's Open-Ended Art Creed

- I will never tell a child how to create.
- I will always emphasize the process, rather than the product.
- I will provide a variety of creative materials for children to use for experimenting and creating.
- I will change the materials presented, encouraging new ways for children to create and expand their creativity.
- I will throw away dittos and coloring book pictures, with lines for the child to color in.
- I will display children's art in a variety of ways, throughout the classroom and school.
- I will display children's art work at their eye level.
- I will talk with the children about texture, colors, shapes, and the overall creative "experience," encouraging them to share their ideas.
- I will model ideas to children about the proper use of certain objects.
- I will discuss art of all kinds with the children.
- I will let the children be independent when creating and responsible for cleaning up.
- I will not ask children, "What is that?" I will ask children, "Please tell me about that?"
- I will educate parents about the value of open-ended art.
- I will allow children ample time to create.
- I will make art materials, including play dough, readily accessible to children throughout the day and during center time.
- I will share in children's pride of their final product, realizing the process in which they took part.