



Peoples Church Preschool Press

Notes From the Director

Welcome to March at Peoples Church Preschool! I want to start by thanking parents for all the input we received on the 2010 surveys. We are busy analyzing the information received and setting new goals for this year. We will send out the results, along with planned improvements, this month via email.



Thank you also to all of you that attended our Family Dinner Night at noodles and co.! We had a record number of families get together to network and the food was delicious! This event raised our total fundraising efforts this year to just over \$1,000. We have now reached 1/5th of our regular yearly goal. This means we have our work cut out for us to make this year's Silent Auction the most successful ever. Please consider donating at item to this effort at your earliest opportunity.

March has two main events and they are Spirit Week (including the classroom competition) and Kids Closet or Mom to Moms sale. We are highlighting our big 60 year old birthday this year with our **60 Years and Growing in 2011** campaign that is kicked off each year during Spirit Week.

Looking for a bargain? On page 7 you'll find information about **Kids Closet** including a form that will allow you to clean out all your closets so you can rent a table with the preschool and sell all of your outgrown clothing, toys and other items. Our event is scheduled just in time so you can earn a little extra cash for spring break! Remember, if you don't want to price and sell your items, you can always donate them to the preschool. We are accepting items any time. Nothing to sell? Be sure to be a shopper then and find great deals on everything including books, toys, strollers, furniture, bedding, clothing, room decorations, sports equipment and even maternity wear.

Speaking of spring break, this time of year is always a good time to think about making a **scrip order**. Why not put money you are already spending to use to help lower your tuition? Scrip gift cards can be purchased for gas, restaurants, hotel stays and more. Visit the scrip website at www.shopwithscrip.com to get more ideas on how to save.

Page 9 includes a Silent Auction donation form. Our Silent auction begins at school on May 18 and continues into the weekend on May 21 and 22 to coincide with the East Lansing Art Fair.

Thank you, parents, for allowing us to teach and care for your children.

Dana Johnson

March 2011

The Nationally Accredited
Peoples Church Preschool
Established 1951

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Infants - Julia McVey, Sarah DeYarmond and Emma Ulrich

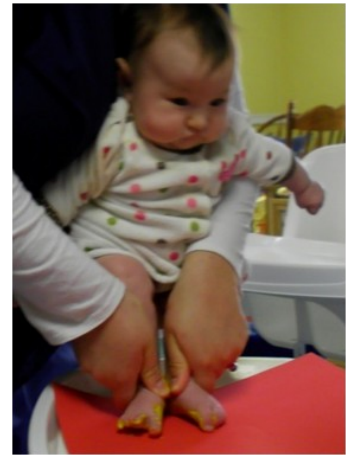
In February the infants participated in many activities celebrating their individual cultures and our shared culture. We celebrated through music, art, sensory activities, and multicultural language and literature.

In March our foremost developmental goal is to establish enhanced attachments between the children and their primary caregivers. We plan to accomplish this goal through activities centered on friendship and bonding. When the infants feel safe and secure in their environment, they will feel confident enough to cognitively and physically explore the infant room and all that it has to offer.

In February we welcomed Miss Emma, our new lead teacher, and Miss Jessica, our new lead assistant teacher. Emma has a bachelor's degree in Family Community Services from Michigan State University and Jessica has a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from Ashford University. Both have joined our classroom full time.

We'd also like to welcome Liam and his parents, Nathan and Jamie; and Jocelyn and her parents, Cathrine and Pang-Ning, to our infant family!

Happy Birthday to Donovan . He will turn one year old on March 30 and has already transitioned into the Toddler Room.



Emily paints a Chinese lantern with her feet.

Toddler Room - Julie Pitsonis & Melissa Mosley

Greetings from the Toddler Room!

In February we enjoyed learning about things that bounce and items that are hot and cold. The children seemed to be very interested in bouncing around on balls and painting with dyed ice cubes. We had a special visit from Preuss Pets which was very exciting for the children. We loved to look at the different kinds of animals that Ms. Megan brought with her including a hedgehog, a tortoise, a tarantula and a boa constrictor. The children seemed to be very interested in watching how the snake and turtle moved their bodies.

Our learning focus for March will be fruits and vegetables. We will learn about and taste many different kinds of fruits and vegetables. We will also learn and explore things that are sticky like honey, glue and goop and things that move this month!

Welcome Isla K. and her parents, Angelica and Mathew; and Donovan and his parents, Marc and Tricia. We are so happy 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 Room - Michelle Clingenpeel and Bethany Foote

During our study of Chinese New Year in February, many of the children were intrigued by the idea of dragons. We were able to explore books with vivid parade photos and the children compared what they saw with the stuffed dragons we introduced into the classroom. The children have also shown an acute interest in music, so we have been listening to albums on the record player together. In addition to the records, we incorporated dancing to a song called "The Dragon Dance."

We also celebrated Valentine's Day on February 14 by decorating Valentine bags, manipulating play dough with cookie cutters, and creating our own healthy heart shaped snack with strawberries. Thank you to all the parents who brought in something to help make our party special. We appreciate you!

The Two's Class would also like to send out a thank you to Ms. Julie and the parents who participated in our in-house field trip with Preuss Pets. During this experience, we were able to see and touch a python, star fish, and even a hedgehog! We learned how to describe how the animals felt by using words like "smooth," "slippery," "bumpy," "pokey," and "slimy." The Two's class and staff is thankful for Ms. Megan willingness to share her love of animals with us!

In March, the Two's Class will investigate light and darkness. Our curriculum will include use of the light table for small groups to see how light affects certain materials. We will explore shadows through use of flashlights, and discuss where we think light comes from. Many of the children have incorporated themes of taking naps and sleeping into their recent play. Our teachers will build from the children's play

to discuss how it is dark at night when we sleep and light during the day time. This investigation will also give us the opportunity to introduce opposites to the children. If you would like, have your child bring in a clearly labeled flashlight during our study of light and dark.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to teach your child!



Owen and Marley gently exploring the starfish Ms. Megan is holding.

Have you read to your child today?



Preschool 1 - Taylor Thompson and Patti Ellis

Welcome to the beginning of spring! We enjoy watching the changes that comes with the melting snow. In February we focused on ramps and pathways, kinetics and friendship. We learned new words such as; ramps, gravity, slope, and force. We also learned what energy means. We learned how to label the feelings we are experiencing and how to appropriately express those feelings.

In March we will discuss the learning topics of clothing, climate and animals that change their coats due to changing seasons; shapes, and wood. We will learn why we wear clothes, what kinds of clothes we wear in certain weather, and how different climates affect our clothing choices. When discussing the topic of wood we will feel different types of bark, and wood that has been cut. We will also learn the uses of wood and ways we can help keep our forests safe.

On March 22 we will visit Impressions 5 Children's Museum. We will discover the "Grossology" exhibit that is currently on display. This display travels around to different museums and teaches children about germs, what is in your spit, how much your skin weighs, (7 pounds!), and many other interesting things about your body. We will also take part in the Germ Lab. Children will have the opportunity to actually see what germs look like inside our body and see what germs look like on our bodies under a black light.

Below you will find a song we will learn during the month of March:

"Here is a little rabbit head, so soft and round to see. (Circle head with arms).

And here's a rabbit's body, as fluffy as can be. (Fan arms at sides).

Here are hopping legs and feet, for jumping all around. (Hop with hands as paws).

And here are big long rabbit ears, for hearing every sound. (Place hands on head and wiggle).

Parents, future dates for two fun upcoming events!

April 4th a field trip to Home Depot...we will need at least 4 parent drivers.

April 20 the school Art Show and Ice Cream Social.



Preschool 2 - Beth Detzler, Robin Zeiter, Kristen Bohannon

When visiting the classroom, take a peek at our new snake, Okeetee. The children are very interested in her and delighted to keep learning more about her. While she isn't always visible, Mrs. Johnson brings her out for a visit with the children every day. She has really grown. We have observed her shedding, how she prepares to shed, and what the actual shed looks and feels like to touch.

Okeetee, Spike (our bearded dragon) and our hissing cockroaches all help to teach children about life science. Children learn how animals live, how they grow, and how they move. They observe, collect information, make predictions, and test those predictions through experimenting. Some of the other ways we support children's knowledge of life science includes growing seeds, exploring senses, sharing health information and learning about the human body. As parents you can support your child's science learning. Young children are curious and great explorers! Show enthusiasm for their investigations and ask questions such as: What do you think will happen if...? How do we find out...? Why do you think that happened?

Ask your child to show you our science/discovery area in the classroom. Great examples of exploring physical science concepts happen regularly in the block area—children build ramps, marble runs and roll different sized balls back and forth. Science concepts about the earth and environment are introduced and reinforced by the children recycling, exploring shells, rocks and soil. Science is all around us—blowing bubbles, watching snow melt, making play dough, preparing nutrition break, observing our shadows, and discussing the simple changes in weather.

This month we will take a trip to Twistars on Thursday, March 10th. Also please recheck your child's clothes bin for extra, season and size appropriate clothing. We welcome Alayna and her parents, Amber and Mark, to our classroom. This month our curriculum will focus on letters for the first two weeks and on numbers and letters on the last two weeks. THANK YOU to all who contributed party donations for our Valentine's Day celebration.

A special **Thank you** to **Megan Shannon** and **Mrs. Johnson** for making our new classroom tree.

Threes and Fours - Sue Reszka

In February, the children had the opportunity to make applesauce, with parent co-op Steveanna. They helped cut up apples, put them in the crockpot, and took turns mashing them up. They tasted the apples before cooking and sampled their delicious applesauce when it was finished. Thank you, Steveanna. The children enjoyed this activity very much. For making our Valentine's Day Party special, I would like to thank Jennifer K. for making our party festive, and Steveanna for making cute Valentine bugs with the children. A special thank you to Liesel for making new (and much needed) paint shirts for our class.

In March our learning focus will include a theme called Minute-to-Win-It. The curriculum will include a variety of games designed to develop eye-hand coordination, such as stacking cups to make a pyramid and filling a jar with marbles using a spoon. The children will develop balance and coordination skills, through bean bag activities in the gym. This month we will also learn about Australia, koala bears and kangaroos. We will talk about the Outback and the Great Barrier Reef. We will learn new words, (clobbers, ripper, blokes and sheilas) and new songs ("Tie Me Kangaroo Down Sport" and "Waltzing Matilda"). In Australia, the term Waltzing Matilda is slang for traveling by foot with your goods in a "Matilda" (bag) slung over your back.

On Wednesday, March 9, we will enjoy a visit from Jeanie Amboy. She will play a variety of unusual instruments and teach the children some new songs.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday, March 28. On Friday, April 1, Mrs. Tammy and I will attend the MiAEYC Conference in Grand Rapids. We are both looking forward to attending and bringing back many interesting ideas.

We have one birthday to celebrate in March. Happy birthday to Audrey, she will turn five years old on the 28th.



Young Fives - Tammy Epling

Last month the class had a lot of fun learning all about the interesting things you can discover at a museum. The children especially enjoyed using an old metal cheese grater to grate ivory snow. We then turned the ivory snow into clean mud. It was a very fun and goopy sensory experience that the children loved squishing and scooping. We also learned about inventors. We read the book Stop and Go. The book was about Garret Morgan the man who invented the traffic light.

March will begin with a visit "Down Under" as the class explores Australia. The class will learn about kangaroos and koala bears. We will also explore the Great Barrier Reef and learn about all its sea life and animals. The children will have some fun physical challenges during our "Minute to Win It" week. The children will have an opportunity to practice, in a non competitive way, some skill games using simple materials. During these challenges the children will practice important skills like, eye-hand coordination, dexterity and balance. Our final learning focus in March will be the sky. The children will learn about all things associated with the day and night sky. The class will read Grandfather Twilight and It Looked Like Split Milk.

Musician Jeanie Amboy will also visit our class this month to teach the children some new songs. She is an excellent folk singer and we always look forward to her visit.

The Fives Class Spring break is scheduled for April 4-9.

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> <i>Inside Out and Backwards Day</i>	<i>1</i> <i>Classroom Competition Begins</i> <i>Wacky Hair Day</i>	<i>2</i> <i>Dr. Seuss' Birthday</i> <i>Sports Fan Spirit Day</i>	<i>3</i> <i>Pajama Day</i>	<i>4</i> <i>Costume Day</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> <i>Book orders due</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> <i>Scrip orders due</i>	<i>17</i> <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	<i>18</i> <i>Kid's Closet Sale 4-7 pm</i> <i>Classroom Competition Ends</i>	<i>19</i> <i>Kid's Closet Sale 8-11 am</i>
<i>20</i> <i>First day of Spring</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> <i>Hearing Testing 3,4, and Y5's</i>	<i>24</i> <i>Hearing Testing P1, P2</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>		

Teacher of the Month - Lindsay Wilson

Congratulations to March's Teacher of the Month - Lindsay Wilson! Lindsay has worked at Peoples Church Preschool for nearly two years. She is a teaching assistant in the Preschool 1 Classroom. In addition to her role in P1, Lindsay has worked as a substitute in every other room at preschool and taught volleyball to young children.

Lindsay will graduate in May from Michigan State University with a degree in Family Community Service with a concentration in Child and Youth Development along with Adult Development. She has been on the Dean's List four times.



Lindsay says she enjoys the children's honesty and likes that they always say what is on their mind. She adds, "Some of the things they say are priceless." When asked what she enjoys the most about her job at Peoples Church Preschool she says, "I love walking into the classroom and having all of the children run to me to give me hugs. I love to be able to teach them new concepts and to see them develop and grow."

When asked what inspires her, Lindsay said, "My family. They are so encouraging. They have shown me the importance of giving back and sharing the wealth. This has truly shaped who I am today."

In the future Lindsay hopes to earn an internship this summer, then attend graduate school, and eventually work as a family and marriage therapist.

Chocolate Cupcakes (Dairy Free, Egg Free, Nut Free—but really good!)

1 1/2 cups flour
1 cup sugar
1/4 cup dairy free 100% cocoa powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup water
1/3 cup vegetable oil
1 teaspoon distilled white vinegar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract



Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, cocoa, baking soda and salt. Add water, oil, vinegar and vanilla. Beat with a spoon or wire whisk until batter is smooth and ingredients are well blended.

Pour batter into a muffin cup-lined baking tin. Bake until a wooden toothpick comes out clean (approximately 15-25 minutes). Let cool in pan for 10 minutes before removing from pan. Frost cupcakes when completely cool. Use dairy, egg and nut free frosting to frost.

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 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 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:

Phone _____

Peoples Church Preschool

200 W. Grand River Ave.

Email _____

East Lansing, MI 48823

One 8-foot table for \$12

(517) 332-2885

Two 8-foot tables for \$18

Large item area for \$5

Tips for New Parents

"The things I wish someone had told me when I was a new parent." This is the intriguing title for an article by Elizabeth Pantley in **Work & Family Life** (March 2010). Here are just a few of the many tips she offered...

Relax more and stress less. Oh, the countless little things I stressed over during the past 18 years: messy rooms, dirty faces, lost toys, peas not eaten. Not a single one of them means anything to me today. Trivial, insignificant details do in fact make up a large part of our lives. But when these things cause too much angst, they conceal the many joys kids can bring us. View the little things for what they are — little things — and don't let them get in the way of taking pleasure out of your everyday life.

Be willing to break the rules. Follow your heart a bit more often. Loosen up. You don't have to be the dull, authoritative boss every single moment every day. Break a few rules in favor of good old-fashioned family bonding. For example, I've taken my teenagers to rock concerts that ended at midnight on school nights. We've eaten dessert before dinner. I don't break every rule, and the ones I break, I do so selectively. But when my heart says *yes*, I'm willing to be a little less "grownup" and more of a carefree kid.

Rest assured that your kids love you even when they hate you (because they really don't). Raising a child requires that you act like a grownup. You have to tell kids *no* when they want to hear *yes* or tell them *stop* when they want to *go*... Children are concerned mainly with their own wants. Their unhappiness about decisions you make — and tears or anger when they are disciplined — are normal and natural. They are not directed at you. Your child may not thank you for your decisions now (or ever). But those decisions are an important part of everyday life and of your child's development as a good human being.

Don't Allow Play to Become Extinct! - by Dan Hodgins

Lots of Activities are being disguised as play.

Activities such as dance lessons, crafts, gymnastics, music lessons, coloring books, and electronic games are not play.

Natural Play—is spontaneous and comes from the child

I am counting on you to prevent PLAY from going extinct!

Provide blankets and sheets for tent making
Bring back Red Rover, London Bridge and Kick the Can
Allow children to roll down hills
Encourage climbing
Provide boxes for building and getting in and out of
Run with children using kites
Squirt each other with water
Allow children to dig and dig and to get messy
Get outside!

Peoples Church Preschool

Silent Auction Donation form 2011

To donate an item for the Silent Auction, please return this form and your item to the Preschool Office by April 1, 2011.

Peoples Church Preschool
200 West Grand River Ave. East Lansing, MI 48823
Phone: 517-332-2885 Fax: 517-332-1971

Please provide as much information as possible:

Name of the Item: _____

Estimated Value: _____

Donor Name: _____

Description of the Item:

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

All donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your generosity!

For more information about the 2011 PCP Silent Auction,
please contact Dana Johnson 517-332-2885 or by
Email at preschool@thepeopleschurch.com