



May 2011

# Peoples Church Preschool Press

## A Note from the Director

The month of May brings preparation for this year's Yard Day and the End of the Year Dinner and Children's Concert. Join us on Saturday, May 14, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. to get our outdoor learning environment ready for summer fun!

Join us on Thursday, May 26, to attend the final school-year event - The Children's Concert. Before the concert, families will have an opportunity to enjoy the convenience of having dinner in the Social Hall. This year's dinner will be a taco bar with fruit and dessert. Families may order dinner in advance or just attend the concert. Here is the timeline for our evening:

4:45 to 6:00 - TACO TANGO in the Social Hall (Lower level across from gym)

6:15 to 6:45 - Concert in the Peoples Church Sanctuary (Main Floor)

6:45 to 7:00 - Last minute bidding on auction items

The Silent Auction is the final event for our **60 years and Growing in 2011** campaign. Thanks to your generosity and support, with a successful auction, we will reach this year's fundraising goal of \$5,000. The purchases made with 2011 fundraising dollars will go toward playground improvements and equipment including new fencing, landscaping, garden relocation and planting; classroom environment improvements including painting, window coverings, plants and furniture; and additions to curriculum including musical instruments, science materials and dramatic play elements.

Mark Your Calendar: This summer be sure to enjoy the Peoples Church Children's Area at the East Lansing Folk Festival on August 5, 6 and 7. The PCP Children's Area will include multiple inflatable's, baked goods, soda, juice /water sales and more. All proceeds from this event go to teacher training as we look forward to traveling to Orlando this fall for our National Association for the Education of Young Children conference.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of the parents for their help this year with co-oping, classroom parties, fieldtrips, participating in fundraisers, eating with us a noodles & company, volunteering in the classroom and the hundreds of things our parents do to make our preschool as wonderful as it is.

## Thank You Parent Advisory Committee

Special thanks to the group of parents that goes above and beyond by serving on the PCP PAC! This group meets monthly to provide feedback and suggestions for the program and to provide extra support for special events and fundraising. We will honor these individuals at our year-end Children's Concert.

They are: Liesel Carlson, Kris Scheutte, Shannon Carney Oleksyk, Claudia Rosales, Courtney Trunk, Amber Wilson and Laura LeDuc. Thanks also to staff member and fundraising coordinator, Julie Pitsonis.

Do you have special talents and lots of ideas? Are you interested in serving on the committee next year? Please call us at 332-2885. We'd love to have you join us!

The Nationally Accredited  
Peoples Church Preschool  
Established 1951

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## Infant Classroom - Emma Ulrich & Julia McVey

The Infant Room enjoyed all kinds of weather on our walks in April from rain and snow to wind and sunshine. We also practiced our Severe Weather and Fire Drills, gentle touches, and opposites. We had a great turn out for the Art Show and Ice Cream Social. We had a wonderful time seeing our families.

In May we will explore soil and seeds. The children will touch, smell, and see potting soil and zucchini, tomato, watermelon, and sunflower seeds. The Infant Room will also focus on making choices; giving the infants choices regarding activities to do, seeds to plant, and colors to paint with.

We are celebrating three First Birthdays this month: Aidan and Thea turn one year old on May 14, and Liam turns one year old on May 25. The Infant Room wishes our graduating teacher assistants the best of luck as they move on to the next phase of their lives. Ms. Jackie is graduating with a degree in Family Community Services, Ms. Tyra is graduating with a degree in Kinesiology, and Ms. Emma K. is graduating with a degree in Social Work.

This summer we will spend a lot of time outside in the grass by the playground, going for walks, and experiencing water play. Please be sure to bring a swimsuit or water diaper to keep in your child's bin. If you would like to bring in labeled sunscreen for us to apply before going outside, we need to have a doctor's note. We have two summer birthdays; Olivia turns one year old on July 1 and Kilian turns one year old on August 10.



Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's first year!

## Toddler Classroom - Julie Pitsonis and Melissa Mosley

As we continued our journey into the five senses, children became more aware of the world around them. April focused on Smell, Touch and Sight. To a toddler, nearly everything encountered can fulfill a number of these senses. What would start out as a lesson in sight would develop into learning about sounds. One of the favorite activities was called "looking at things differently". This is an easy game for you to play at home. Turn the lights on and off and see what looks different. Have your toddler put your sunglasses on and use some new vocabulary. We compared sand paper and smooth cloths to generate new descriptive vocabulary. There are many oddly textured things found around your house: flooring, wall paper, window glass, screen doors, etc.

One of our learning foci for May is "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle". The children will explore fun ways to do art projects with items that are no longer used for their original purpose. We will create rain sticks with paper towel holders and work on sorting and organizing different recyclable materials from the classroom. Do you recycle at home? Have your child help you sort the items! The children will also learn about Fruit. They will have the opportunity to try new fruits and even help cut some with plastic knives. We will explore a pineapple, utilizing all of our senses and create a fruit pizza to eat for one of our nutrition breaks.

Happy birthday Isla G. who turns two years old on May 9!

We hope you enjoyed the Art Show. The children certainly had a lot of fun creating their pieces. Thank you for coming.

We are low on tissues once again. Please bring in a box when you think about it.



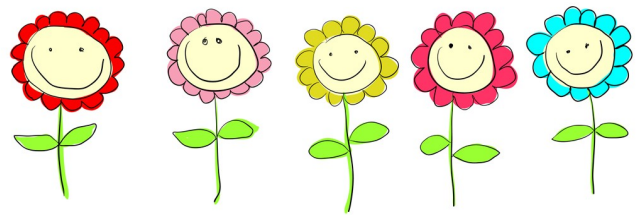
## Twos Classroom - Michelle Clingenpeel

The Two's Class spent the month of April learning about different aspects of spring. We learned about birds. We talked about how they move, what they eat, where they live, and the colors we see on them. We also searched for worms and insects outside. We found some, but it was hard work. Thus, we decided to hang birdfeeders along the playground to help the birds. We also spent time talking about the various aspects of weather. We learned what makes up a storm: rain, wind, thunder, and lightning. We used pinwheels, bubbles, and our own breath through straws to learn how wind has the power to move things. On Earth Day, we traveled to Fenner Nature Center to commune with nature. We learned about turkeys, turtles, salamanders, and toads. During our walk through the woods, we were able to feel, smell, and taste a variety of plants. Thank you to Suzanne, Lauralyn, Kerry, Kaitlin, Chad, and Artemisia for accompanying us, and driving. We couldn't go on these wonderful learning adventures without you.

In May, we will continue to investigate spring, focusing more on flowers and activities that we are able to do outside now that the weather is warming up. We will travel to the MSU Children's Gardens to see it in bloom and observe the pond there. We will also discuss Mothers, how they help us, and what families do for and with each other. We will also delve into pond life. We will talk about what a pond is, what lives in the pond, and what can be found around it.

Happy Birthday to:

Eliana, who turns three years old on June 7<sup>th</sup>  
Kaleigh, who turns three years old on July 16<sup>th</sup>  
Christian, who turns three years old on August 6<sup>th</sup>  
Sara, who turns three years old on August 7<sup>th</sup>  
Gabriel, who turns three years old on August 18<sup>th</sup>



## Preschool 1 - Patti Ellis, Taylor Thompson, and Kristen Bohannon

April was a very special month in Preschool 1. We discussed what precipitation is as well as the topics of water and clothes. We did an experiment using ice cubes and sand. Our goal was to see how fast the ice would melt. We were very surprised that the ice cubes melted faster in the sand!

This month our curriculum will focus on inspirational artists that have influenced skill and imagination. We will discuss Monet and Surrat and their different art styles and we will make art that represents the artist. We will explore different methods of travel, what you need to do to prepare for traveling, and we will highlight two countries you could visit.

This month we will take a trip to Fenner Arboretum on May 12 and will need six parent drivers. On May 25 we will walk to Laurel Valley (located on Michigan State's campus). This is a free trip and any parents that would like to join us would be greatly appreciated. Also please recheck your child's clothes bin for extra, season and size appropriate clothing.

Looking for activities to do at home with your child? The **Reach Out and Read Michigan** activity promotes early literacy by giving new books to children, and advice to parents about the importance reading aloud, in pediatric exam rooms across the state. Visit [WWW.MIAEYC.org](http://WWW.MIAEYC.org) for more information and activities. We love seeing everyone's kites in the hallway. It is an excellent way for children to express their creativity and their interests. As parents you can support your child's interests. Young children are curious and great explorers! Show enthusiasm for their investigations and ask open-ended questions such as: What do you think will happen if...? Why do you think that happened?...

Preschool 1 was the first classroom from PCP to attend a field trip at Home Depot! The children were able to watch paint being mixed, how the workers cut wood, watch how energy saver washing machines help conserve water and put plumbing pipes together. A special **THANK YOU** to Gretchen, Amanda, Heidi, Brian and Jorge for volunteering to drive and help with our field trip to Home Depot. Every first Saturday of every month the Home Depot (on Waverly) has a Kid Workshop. Next month's workshop will include making a Mother's Day present.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Delaney who will turn four years old on May 8 and Peyton who will turn four years old on May 14.

## Preschool 2 Classroom - Beth Detzler, Sara DeYarmond, and Robin Zeiter

In April Preschool Two was lucky enough to have some amazing visitors! Happendance came to Peoples Church to demonstrate how children can have fun while being active and healthy - through the art of dance. Ella F.'s grandmother, Melinda, came to read some favorite stories to the class. Maureen R.'s father brought in baby chicks so the children could see and feel them. If you have a special talent or just some time you'd like to share with our class, please feel free to plan a time to come in or just drop by!

This month the children in Preschool Two are in for a special treat! Near the end of the month, we will take a free field trip to Home Depot as a part of our learning unit on construction. During this unit, we will focus on the teamwork aspect of construction play as well as all the rich opportunities for cognitive learning. Construction play will help your children learn about balance, cause and effect, classification, counting, estimation, whole-part relationships, predictions, and simple machines like ramps and levers. Through experience with construction materials, your children will gain information about texture, size, shape, weight, and flexibility. If any of you have construction knowledge or expertise, professional or otherwise, please feel free to share that with us in whatever capacity you are comfortable.

Thank you to Mark W., June's dad, for finding and transporting our wonderful new refrigerator! Ella F. will turn five years old on June 14, Antonio will turn five years old on June 25, and Christian will turn five years old on June 29. Happy Birthday to all three! Congratulations to all our Preschool Two graduates going on to kindergarten! We will miss you.



## Threes and Fours Classroom - Sue Reszka

In April the children had the opportunity to watch Happendance perform. They were dancing in their seats. Our Easter celebration was also a big success. The children had an Easter egg hunt and helped make special fruit smoothies with Steveanna, Brannon's Mom.

This month our learning focus will include a theme on the life cycle of butterflies. We will have caterpillars in our classroom and the children will be able to observe them from the caterpillar stage until they turn into butterflies. When they are ready, we will set them free outside.

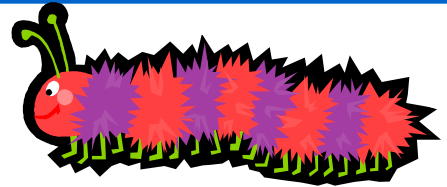
Our curriculum will also include a unit on the development of our pincer grasp and fine motor skills. Our theme will have us writing and drawing with itty-bitty pencils, crayons and chalk. We will sponge paint with itty-bitty sponges and do sorting activities using tweezers. During the last week of class, we will bring back some of the children's favorite games and activities. Monday, May 23, is Pajama Day and the last day of class, Wednesday, May 25, is Bring Your Favorite Toy to School Day.

The Silent Auction begins on May 21 and runs through May 26. Our class is putting together a Gardening Basket for the auction. We would appreciate any gardening items that you wish to donate. Tables will be set up in the hallway on the second floor and then the auction will end on Thursday, right after the Children's Concert. Be sure and come up and check out all the great items there are to bid on. Our End of the Year Children's Concert is in the evening on Thursday, May 26. You won't want to miss it! Your children have been practicing very hard on their songs.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer. I am looking forward to seeing some familiar faces back in the fall. Congratulations to the children who are going to new schools. I know they will have fun and make many new friends. A big thank you to everyone, for all you have done this past year. And a special thank you to the parent co-ops, Liesel, Carrie, Bill, Steveanna and Dayna. You make my job a lot easier.

# Young Fives Classroom - Tammy Epling

It's hard to believe there is only one month left this year. It's been a great year filled with growing, exploring, and fun. Last month the children enjoyed learning about Earth Week. The children had fun pressing flowers for the art show. They also enjoyed learning what a great gift trees are. The children estimated how old some tree stumps were by counting their rings. We also looked at Michigan trees and their leaves. We took a walk to see what kinds of trees grew around the school. We read the book Pie in the Sky and The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree.



During the month of May the children will learn all about insects and read The Magic School Bus, Book About Insects. We will have more fun science experiences like making screeching birds with just a string, sponge, plastic cup and a little water. We will also have fun with balloons by putting different substances in them to see what happens. The class will take a close look at the life cycles of butterflies and frogs. We will end the year by revisiting some of the children's favorite activities they enjoyed throughout the year.

Friday May 13 will be Pajama Day and bring your favorite stuff animal to school day. The last day for the Fives Class is Wednesday, May 25. The End of the Year Children's Concert and Auction Finale will be the evening of Thursday, May 26.

Good luck to all the students that will move on to kindergarten next year. I will miss you. It really has been an awesome year. I've enjoyed sharing my day with your amazing children. Have a great summer!

## Staff News

Congratulations and best wishes to all of our talented PCP  
Teacher Assistant Graduates!



Ms. Jackie is graduating with a degree in Family Community Services.

Ms. Tyra is graduating with a degree in Kinesiology.

Ms. Emma K. is graduating with a degree in Social Work.

Ms. Trisha B. is graduating with a degree in International Relations, Specialization in Peace and Justice Studies.

Ms Kristine is graduating in Family Community Services with a Specialization in Child and Youth Development.

Ms. Courtney is graduating with a B.A. in Special Education and Elementary Education.

Ms. Lindsay is graduating with a degree in Family Community Services .



# MAY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Yard Day
15	16	17	18	19 Still accept- ing Auction Donations!	20 Auction Begins →	21 East Lansing Art Fair
22 East Lansing Art Fair	23	24	25 Last day of classes for Three's/Four's and Young Fives Classes	26 End of the Year Party Auction ends	27	28
29	30 Building Closed for Memorial Holiday	31				

# Imagination Is a Great Way to Learn

Years ago, children did not have electronic toys and video games to play with. All they had were things like dolls and dollhouses, toy cars and jump ropes. No matter what toys they played with, they had to use their imagination to a certain extent.

Today, kids have all sorts of electronic toys to choose from. Even many books talk and allow children to interact with them. While there are benefits to these types of toys, it is still important to let a kid's imagination flourish. Here are some toys that encourage imagination and creativity, providing learning opportunities that many modern toys do not.

**Dough** - It has been around for decades, but self-hardening doughs have withstood the test of time. It can get messy, but letting your kids play with it can bring forth imagination like few other things can. Your child will make all sorts of things with it and you can help by providing tools that make interesting shapes and textures.

**Dress-Up Clothes** - Playing dress-up is a great activity for kids. Providing a variety of costume pieces for boys and girls lets them design their own outfit. That can lead to pretending to be any number of people or things, and imagination is a prerequisite for pretending.

**Blocks** - Blocks come in many shapes and sizes these days. Any of them are good for encouraging imagination. Old-fashioned wooden blocks have the added benefit of teaching kids how balancing works. Soft blocks are safe for smaller children. Legos interlock to allow children to move their creations from place to place. All of these allow children to build virtually anything they want with a little creativity.

**Dolls and Action Figures** - Dolls and action figures that do not talk make it necessary for a child to put words into their mouths. That requires plenty of imagination. Your child can make up stories and scenarios featuring them and she might ask you or a sibling or friend to play the part of another doll or figure. If it is possible to change their clothing or use props with them, that's even better.

Imagination is not only a fun way to learn, it is also effective. While children may learn such things as letters, numbers and even phonics from electronic toys, they are no substitute for learning by doing. Imaginative play often leads children to figure things out for themselves and things learned that way are not soon forgotten.

Imaginative play also often results in a child asking questions that she might not have thought of otherwise. This gives the parent or caregiver a unique opportunity to teach her about things that she is specifically interested in. And it's no secret that children who are interested in learning learn better.

# Insights Into Childhood: Caring For Our Planet - Caring That's Caught

By Fred Rogers with Hedda Sharapan

"Jeffrey, please turn off the light when you leave the room!...Why don't you use the back of that paper instead of throwing it out?" How hard it is to explain to a young child that we have limited resources when, to him or her, it seems that we have so much!

These days we're asking children to care about the environment in many different ways. And yet, to them, the world revolves around their needs and their desires. That's just the way young children are. Just as naturally, they live in the present and for the present. For them, the faraway future may be "tomorrow."

Nevertheless, adults' concern for the environment reflects our thoughts about the future of many tomorrows. No wonder it's difficult for children to understand that we need to care today about some far-off time. Children know best what they can see and touch and experience right now.

Even though caring for the environment can be hard for children to grasp, there's much we can offer them. The greatest thing they can learn from us is our attitude. When we turn off lights and when we turn paper over to use the back of it, when we gather newspapers for recycling, and even when we marvel at a sunset, we send loud and clear messages to our children that caring for our planet is important to us. They'll take in those messages because children want to be like the important adults in their lives. Have you ever seen children adopt the swagger of a favorite grownup, or assume a parent's pose and tone while playing on toy telephones? Nobody "taught" them to do those things. They watched grownups that they loved, and they began to imitate them. Attitudes are "caught" not taught!

Not long ago we heard about a preschool teacher who helped the children in her class learn something about the environment that was important to her. One day some of her children saw a spider crawl out from the windowsill, and one of them was ready to smash it. The teacher, however, reached out caringly and gathered the spider on a piece of paper. She took it out to the garden and set it down in the dirt, where it belonged. Those children adored that teacher, and I'd venture a guess that many of them later on in their lives took on her caring attitude towards many kinds of living things.

Of course it's our continual care for the children themselves that helps them learn to care about what's important to us. We help them develop a sense of belonging to our planet when we help them know that they belong in other people's lives—that they are loved, lovable, and capable of loving.

I believe it's the children who have already grown to feel that life is worth living, and that people are worth loving, who are the ones most likely to grow up rejoicing in life and regarding this planet with loving care. They'll be the ones who will find it very natural in their own tomorrows to turn off the lights and use the backs of the papers.

# Alumni Plaque

If you would like your child's name to appear on the **2011 Alumni Plaque**, please fill out the form below and return it no later than **Monday May 9, 2011**. This plaque appears on the wall outside the Infant Room near the elevator.

Please give your order to your child's teacher or to the office.

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## Peoples Church Preschool Alumni Appreciation Plaque

*With our heartfelt thanks to the teachers and assistants for the warmth, caring and guidance you have given us on our journey through childhood.*

Yes! I would like my child's name to appear on the plaque. I have attached a tax deductible check made out to Peoples Church Preschool. (Minimum \$35.00).

Name to be inscribed on the plaque (please print)

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Thank you for helping to continue the excellence of this preschool. Your contribution will go toward purchasing

## Some of Our Fantastic Auction Items!

Mary Kay Gift Basket

500 one color business cards

Douglas J Body Treatment

Salon 130 30 minute massage

Dick's Sporting Goods \$20.00 gift card

Printed note card and envelope set

2 sets of 4 tickets to Scheherazade -

All of Express Children's Theater

\$50.00 Gift card from Meijer

Walt Disney World-- 4 Park Hopper tickets-

Boppy Play mat

Autographed Red Wings Photo

Handmade fabric tote bag

Handmade messenger bag

Family Pack of tickets for Impression 5

Binder Park Zoo

1 gift certificate 18 holes of golf at Hawk Hallow

\$30.00 at Benninigans

4 Adult tickets at Henry Ford Museum

MSU football tickets. (Labor Day weekend)

Hand Turned wood bowls and vases

Gift Certificates from Olive Garden

Classroom Baskets

\$50 in Olive Garden gift certificates