



Peoples Church Preschool Press

Winter 2012

A Note From The Director



Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed time with family and friends over the holidays. We are looking forward to having your family with us as we begin our 61st year!

One of my roles as the director of the program is to ensure that we are continually growing and improving the services we provide to children and families. In recent years we have made curriculum improvements in the areas of literacy, science, music and nature. As critical as improved learning in these domains is, we won't see much progress or produce the thinkers needed in the 21st century if we forget our focus on cognitive development. Because it is the indispensable foundation for all thinking and learning, I want to assure you that we will continue with our parent education - describing to you (via listing skills) why we include what we include on each classroom's lesson plans. With this in mind we will continue to create classroom approaches and are richly cognitive, and connect thinking skills to subject matter learning.

Reminder

Weather Closing Policy

If EL schools close for a "snow day" the church building will be closed and all programming cancelled. Should the public schools be closed for the holidays or vacations and if the area is under a Blizzard, Winter Storm, or Ice Storm warning issued by the National Weather

Service out of Grand Rapids, the church building will be closed and all programming cancelled.



Open House for New Families

On Sunday and Monday, February 5 and 6, the Preschool will invite new families to visit our school and learn about what our program has to offer. During this open house, families will be able to tour the preschool and get all of their questions answered. Open House times are:

Sunday, February 5	11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Monday, February 6	9 to 11 a.m./ 1 to 3 p.m./6:30 to 8 p.m.



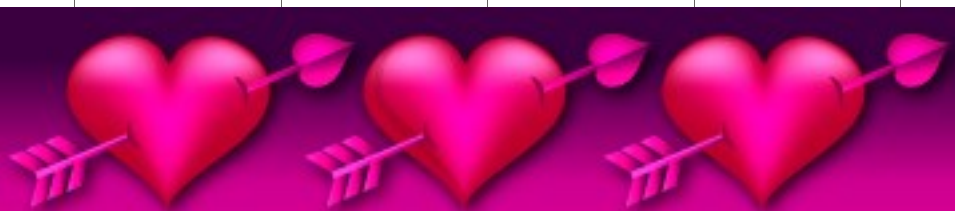
This will be the first time Open House has been available on the weekend and during an evening as well as during the school day, to accommodate all schedules. Please help us spread the word!

January 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 	9	10 <i>Mrs. Tricia's Birthday</i>	11	12	13	14
15	16 <i>Martin Lu- ther King Day Building closed No School</i>	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 <i>Parent Advisory Meeting 7:30 a.m.</i>	25	26 <i>Staff Meeting 6:15 p.m.</i>	27	28
29	30	31				



February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 <i>New Family Open House</i> 11:30-1:30	6 <i>New Family Open House</i> 9-11, 1-3, 7-8 p.m.	7 <i>McAlister's Valentine's dinner</i>	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 <i>Friendship Parties</i> 	15	16	17	18
19 <i>Silly Week!</i> ➤	20 <i>Inside Out and Backwards Day</i>	21 <i>Silly Hair Day</i>	22 <i>Silly Socks, Slippers, and Hats Day</i>	23 <i>Sports Fan Day</i>	24 <i>Costume Day</i> <i>Flag Day</i> 	25
26						

March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 <i>Bring a box of tissues to school day</i> 	7	8	9	10
11 <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	12	13	14	15 <i>Noodles Family Dinner</i> <i>Vision Testing Pre 1 and Y5's</i>	16 <i>Vision Testing Pre 2 and Y5's</i>	17 
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



WOULD YOU LIKE A BREAK ON TUITION JUST BY SHOPPING?

Peoples Church Preschool is pleased to continue a great program to help you earn money toward your tuition. Scrip - a term that means "substitute money" - is gift certificates from national and local retailers, the same gift certificates that you would buy from the store.

How it works: Scrip participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates to the preschool at a discount. Families like yours buy the certificates at full face value (as you would if you were to buy gift certificates at stores), redeem them for full face value, and our school is given the difference as revenue. *The revenue is split between the family (tuition credit) and the preschool: 75% families/25% preschool.*

Scrip is exciting because everyone wins:

- The retailer gets cash up front and repeat business.
- Families get a percentage of tuition reduced with each gift certificate purchased.

The preschool receives a small portion to cover program operating expenses including shipping costs. Any monies left over go toward purchasing new equipment for the preschool.

The Scrip program promises to be a simple and effective way to reduce your tuition payments by putting your regular household shopping dollars to work. During the school year there will be 1Scrip orders placed Monthly. Orders are due by **11:00AM** online at www.shopwithscrip.com. The complete retailer list is available online at www.shopwithscrip.com under "retailers".

PARTICIPATING RETAILERS: Close to 400 popular retailers participate in the Scrip program including *The Children's Place, Toys R Us, Speedway, Home Depot, Barnes and Noble, Best Buy, Starbucks, Panera Bread, Applebees, PF Changs, CVS Pharmacy,* and many, many more.

[Learn more about ShopWithScrip.com and PrestoPay™](#) > This is the site that parents can go to find out information as well as register for electronic ordering and/or paying if they like.

SIGN UP TO USE THE SCRIP TUITION SAVINGS PLAN

Steps are as follows...

1. Go to the site (Shopwithscrip.com).
2. You may choose to watch and listen to an informational snippet on scrip
3. Or, if you just want to get signed up, you should click on the blue text "Getting started". It is toward the top of the page and is in the middle of one of the paragraphs.
4. Click on "not registered sign up here".
5. Enter info (name, password, etc.).
6. Click on "Accept terms".
7. Enter enrollment code to be connected with Peoples Church...ALDC21313673
8. Then click "Join"

You are now registered and can order but must pay with a check unless you continue and sign up for Presto Pay.

Signing up for PrestoPay is just as easy but it does take up to 72 hours for verification of the checking account. If you want to pay with PrestoPay, sign up early enough to let the verification process complete. When using PrestoPay, there is a \$.39 convenience fee for the service.

TO SIGN UP FOR PRESTOPAY:

1. Go to the My Account bar at the top of home page.
2. It will tell you have no PrestoPay account in a blue high lighted box. To sign up, click here.
3. Read the disclaimer and conditions for using PrestoPay and click, Yes, I agree.
4. Fill in requested information (checking account number, bank routing number, etc.). Click "next" at the bottom of the page.

Follow the directions from there. PrestoPay will deposit two random small amounts into your account that you have to verify. After you verify the amount, they take it back out and your PrestoPay account is established.



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.

Putting FUN into Family Fitness

Everyone agrees on these few fitness facts. #1: American families - both kids and adults - are not getting the physical activity they need. #2: Being fit helps you stay healthy and perform better at school and work. #3: Short 10-minute 'sparks' of activity can be just as good for you and more enjoyable than longer bouts of 'exercise.' Make a resolution to have some active family FUN every day and reap the benefits for every body from granddad to the dog!

PLAN

Make a family list: For those "I'm BORED" moments, write down ALL the FUN ways that your family likes to play and post the list where you can easily find it.

Get equipped: Make a couple of FUN baskets or bins - balls, jump ropes, rackets, Frisbees®, and other active toys. Keep them in plain sight, ready for playtime any-time.

Put FUN on the calendar: With today's busy schedules, it can sometimes feel like there is "*no time*." So, you just have to make time by putting it on everyone's calendar.

PLAY

When you think like a child, activity can become an everyday part of your family's FUN lifestyle. Be spontaneous and look for ways to just "*move it*" throughout the day:

- 1. Toss a toy:** Nerf® balls and stuffed animals are great for a quick game of catch.
- 2. Play a game:** Any active game works: hopscotch, Simon Says, or even tag!
- 3. Bounce a ball:** At home or the park, football, basketball, softball, ANY ball.
- 4. Move to music:** It can be real dancing or just old fashioned jumping around.
- 5. Run a dog around:** Furry pets need activity as much as their human families.
- 6. Fly a kite:** All you need is some wind, open space, string, and an inexpensive kite.
- 7. Hunt for treasure:** Hide-n-seek is great with people, eggs, or almost anything!
- 8. Go for a picnic:** Walking or hiking is much more FUN with a meal at the end.
- 9. Chase a dream:** Catching bugs is FUN and so is taking photos of clouds.
- 10. Share special time:** Kids love to do ANY activity with adults who care.

ENJOY

A family that plays together can have a ton of FUN. Active play is always a win-win-win for children's (and parents') physical, mental, and emotional health!