

# Noah's News

January 2010  
Volume 21, Issue 2

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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



## Upcoming Events

### February

- 1-5 Fall Registration for current families
- 12 Noah's Café
- 15 NO SCHOOL Parent-teacher conferences
- 16 Open Fall Registration  
**Sarris Candy orders are due by 19<sup>th</sup>.**

### March

- 12 Noah's Café
- 23 Dessert with Someone Special
- 27 **NOAH'S ARK ANNUAL DINNER AUCTION**
- 29-April 2 Easter Break

## From the Director's Desk

**2010**, a new year that marks new beginnings in some way for all of us. It might be a change in lifestyle (dieting or exercise), a move, new baby, developmental milestones for our preschoolers, and the list goes on! As their teachers, being a part of their growth and development, it is an exciting time of the year. It is a time to reflect on what we have done or accomplished with the children, and also to set new goals and opportunities for individual, as well as, shared growth. We want to continue work on their independent skills, problem-solving abilities and helping them to recognize their gifts. All this can seem daunting at times, but when we work together as a team, positive outcomes result!

Those of you who were able to attend the recent Parent Coffees shared such insightful thoughts. I want to share with everyone the results of our conversations, both at the coffees, as well as our "chats" in

## Playground Update

Finding money to begin and complete our project has been the focus in the past few months. Allison Dagen has spent many hours writing a detailed narrative for grants. Sally Ferko and Dan Kulbieda have done hours of research into foundations that may support this project. They are just about ready to send out the first inquiries to eight identified

the past few weeks.

1) Ideas for the remainder of this year, and also next year -- To encourage healthy snacks we could prioritize the snack list, listing the most desirable snacks first and the least desirable last! Topping the list would be fruit and cheese (when appropriate), crackers and/or yogurt. It was suggested that parents could come in to make popsicles that could be kept in the freezer for birthday treats.

2) Communication -- emails seemed to top the list as the best means of communicating with the most people -- both from the teacher and also parent to teacher. The Parent Contacts are an invaluable way of getting information to everyone.

3) Parking lot safety -- please refrain from using the cell phone while in the parking lot! Also, several parents expressed concern about leaving a car running while taking the older child into school.

foundations. Our fundraising committee has met repeatedly to plan our major fundraiser. Our initial bids for the foundational construction of the playground have come in as \$66,000. We have already raised close to \$22,000. We are looking to the grants and fundraising to make this dream a reality. How can you help? Please

## Director (cont.)

Summer camp forms will be available after the Easter break.

4) Dinner/Auction fundraiser -- we talked about the classroom baskets and also other ways of supporting the event -- by donations of desserts for the event, buying an ad for the program, purchasing a raffle ticket for another beautiful quilt, and of course, by attending!

5) The Natural Playground updates -- grant writing is in progress and hopefully, the work will begin this summer.

6) Registration for fall and for summer camp -- Fall registration is going on now and classes fill quickly, so get your form in ASAP or before February 16<sup>th</sup>, when open registration occurs. Summer camp

forms will be available after the Easter break.

Noah's Ark will begin the re-accreditation process next fall. We are excited about this process, knowing that through it all, we will continue to grow and develop our program to meet the changing needs of each child.

So, Happy 2010 to each of you. May it be a year of peace and good health, enjoying our lives in a state of "thankful simplicity"!

Fondly,

*Gerda*

## Update (cont.)

"Our project has taken on four goals."

consider attending and inviting friends and family to our March 27<sup>th</sup> entertaining dinner-auction. If you can donate items for the auction from a business, or, are aware of foundations that would support our project, we would appreciate hearing from you.

Our project has taken on four goals:

1. To complete the construction of the natural playground.
2. To partner with local agencies for students with special needs.
3. Implement curricular goals in the outdoor classroom.

4. Provide professional development in partnership with professional organizations.

## Easter Candy Sale

Sarris Easter Candy sale has begun. If you would normally buy some Easter candy, please consider buying it through our fundraiser. The prices are the same as in their store. Orders are due the week of February 16<sup>th</sup> - no later than Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

*"One thing that you can do to help in this process is to complete a parent survey when you come in for your February parent-teacher conference."*

## NAEYC Reaccreditation

Looking toward 2011, Noah's Ark staff is preparing for the process of reaccreditation. After our 2006 accreditation, NAEYC revised its requirements for accreditation and raised the bar even higher. This new process will involve a lot of documentation and evaluation of our program. Your staff has set up teams to find our strengths and weaknesses through a self-study. There are ten

standards that we must uphold. Each month we will look at a different standard and share our study results with you. One thing that you can do to help in this process is to complete a parent survey when you come in for your February parent-teacher conference.

Only 8% of U.S. preschools are NAEYC accredited. That puts you in the top 1% of quality early childhood programs.