

Noah's News

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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



News & Views from your Director

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Thanksgiving Break is November 25-27
- ◆ Christmas Around the World is Saturday, December 12
- ◆ Christmas Break is December 21-January 3
- ◆ **SAVE the DATE! March 27th, 2010 is the Annual Dinner Auction.**

At this time of year, in particular, I am reminded of the advice to live our lives in a state of daily gratitude. Tom make a list of what and whom we are grateful for seems like an overwhelming, yet, awesome task. We could begin with the colorful views that fall brings, the crispness of the air and the crunch of fresh apples (from Trax!). When I concentrate on the gratitude for my role at Noah's Ark, your family and our staff top the list.

As you know, the natural playground and NAEYC reaccreditation next year are the priorities for our fundraising efforts. So many of you have stopped to share your thoughts on the playground site pan, marveling at the scope of its effect on everyone, young

Playground Update

Natural Playgrounds completed the design of our natural play space and outdoor classroom this fall. The Board and committees are now working with the company to get a detailed materials list in order to get bids and establish a budget. Right now, it looks like it will take about \$70,000 to get the project well established. It will take additional funds for the company to complete all of the features. So, the grant-writing committee is in full

and old, current families as well as alumni. We are very grateful for your support in purchasing the coupon books and also the Sarris candy sale. Both of these efforts will give us an estimated \$2500 to add to the playground funds! Many of you are currently involved in the planning of "Christmas Around the World", December 12th and the Dinner -Auction on March 27th. I, personally, am not a big fan of fundraising, but when the purpose is for the educational experiences of our preschoolers, I can deal with it and make it fun!

Several of our parents are involved in a grant-writing task force that has begun the process of obtaining grants from local foundations for

swing. The project is promoting the natural environment, helping children of all abilities to relate to the outdoors, and promoting the physical well-being of children. If you are aware of any programs that would help to fund these causes, we want to hear from you. The builder has also said that any donations will significantly reduce the cost of this project. He specifically mentioned rocks (rounded, glacial deposited,

"Children come to us mad and sad, but they know how to add." -
An elementary teacher commenting on the emphasis on academics in preschools

"Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."
 - Warren Buffett

Quotable Quotes:

After a "camping trip" into the wooded area of our playground, one of our Friday Workshop participants, Ty, told his mother, "We went into the real forest today. It was great!"

Director (cont.)

the playground project. If you are interested or know of an organization that might fit our plan, let me know.

On November 18th, five of our staff will be driving to Washington D.C. to attend the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) national conference. We are grateful that we are part of a preschool that values professional development and has included this as a part of its budget.

Without a doubt, the greatest sense of gratitude is gained from the smiles, comments, interactions and

Update (cont.)

weathered are preferred) from 15 inches to 2½ feet in diameter, clean fill, topsoil, tree logs, trees and shrubs were specifically mentioned.

We are now coming up with a budget, a timeline and some achievable objectives to complete this project as soon as possible.

Hola from Maria

Dear Parents,
 Things are going *magnifico* in our first weeks of Spanish. Children seem eager and curious about learning new words and songs! Here is a list of greeting words the children are learning in our first unit. These words can be practiced at home. They're also learning about colors and how they sound in Spanish.

Greetings: El Saludo

Hola is Hello!

Adios is Goodbye!

Buenas Dias is Good Morning!

Buenos Dias a Ti... (Good Morning to You!) song

relationships that we are privileged to share with your child and family. As you share Thanksgiving traditions with those you love, we hope the experiences will reflect the gratitude you feel for all of God's blessings in your life.

With much gratitude for each of you,

Gerda

Gerda and the staff at Noah's Ark

Thank you for all of your interest and support for the fundraisers.

For lots of information and answers to some of your questions, you may want to visit www.naturalplaygrounds.com

We will continue to update you on progress being made. Meanwhile, take a look at the plan displayed near the classrooms.

Colors: Los Colores

Red is Rojo Yellow is Amarillo

Blue is Azul Green is Verde

Orange is Naranja/Anaranjado
 (either way is correct)

Purple is Marado Pink is Rosado

Brown is Café Black is Negro

White is Blanco

Each class consists of a lesson on a topic. Currently, we're learning manners and during December we'll work on numbers, learning activities and Christmas songs. Please take a look at the group crafts in each classroom that were prepared during Spanish time.

Miss Maria

Thanksgiving

Thank you...

Thanks, **Brian and Beth**, for the apple cider that you donated from **Trax Farms** for the open house refreshments.

Thanks, **Beth May and Amy Weiss**, for coordinating the Scholastic Book Clubs.

Thanks, **Denise Tannehill**, for once again providing us with a wonderful preschool directory. Thank you for sharing your time and talents so we can stay in touch with one another!

Thank you to our grant-writing committee, **Sally Ferko, Dan Kulbieda, Allison Dagen, and Kristianna Gizzi**. Thanks for sharing your expertise and your encouragement in our project. Thank you for making our fundraisers possible. **Valerie Winkowski** was in charge of the Sarris sale and **Melissa Pierce** helped with the Coupon books! **We have 3 or 4 books left over if anyone wants to give them as Christmas gifts!**

Traditional Apple Pie from Trax Farms



6-7 good-sized apples, peeled, cored & sliced
 1 cup sugar
 3 tablespoons flour
 $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon cinnamon
 4 pats margarine or butter
 9-inch pie shell plus top crust

Make up piecrust. Place bottom crust in pie pan and sprinkle with a little flour. Add apples. Mix together sugar, flour, and cinnamon. Pour sugar mixture over apples. Shake down a bit. Dot top with butter pats. Add top crust. Brush crust with milk and sprinkle with approximately 1 teaspoon of sugar. Cut slits or design in top for steam vents. Bake 15 minutes at 425 degrees and then 45 minutes at 350 degrees, until top is golden brown.