

# Parent Connection

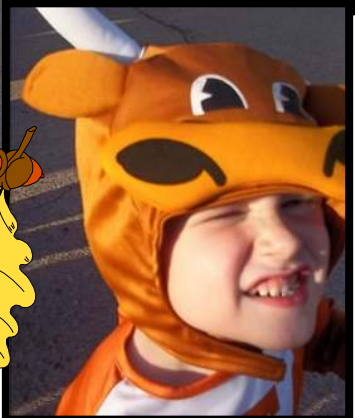
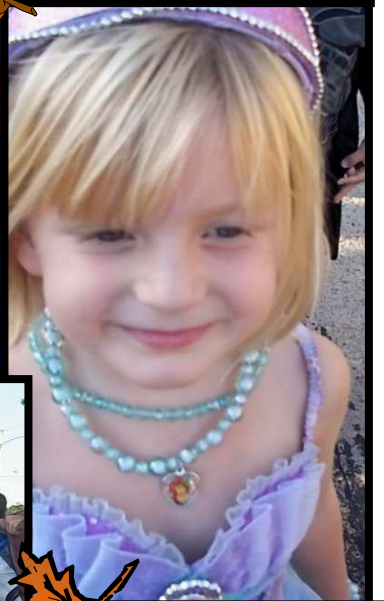
First United Methodist Church's  
School for Little People

November 2011

## Fall Festival was a Great Success!!

A huge **THANK YOU** goes out to the members of our SLP Board for all their hard work and planning! Especially to our *Fall Festival Chairpersons, Stacy Finley and Sarah Fukasawa*. We also want to thank the Optimist Club whose cooker we borrowed and Matt English (former SLP Dad and student) who came with the cooker and stayed to help cook the hamburgers. Thank you also to all the wonderful people (parents and grandparents) who came out to volunteer, the many businesses and individuals who donated either money or food items, and the wonderful Dad's who cooked and cooked and cooked!!!! Thank you also to you and everyone who came out to support our school. We had quite a crowd!!! I hope all of you had as much fun as I did!!!





Look for more pictures on the FUMC Web Site [www.fumcwf.org](http://www.fumcwf.org)! And on our facebook page



**Many, Many Thanks to these good folk who made such generous donations to our school so that we could maximize our profits from our Fall Festival fundraiser!!!**

**WalMart, Patterson Honda, Dairy Queen, Taco Casa, United Market Street, Family Dentistry of Texoma, Pioneer Restaurants**



### *Teacher Feature*


**Leslie Kajs:** This is Mrs. Kajs' 9<sup>th</sup> year with School for Little People and she is teaching the MWF 4's class. Previously, she has taught the 2's for three years and 3's for one year, and has also subbed here for 3 years. Leslie was born and raised in Wichita Falls. She graduated from MSU with a BS in Recreation Leisure Studies. She has earned her Early Childhood Teaching Certification from MSU as well.

She and her husband, Mike, have been married for many years. Mike is an Operations Manager at Alcoa Howmet. They have 3 children, Allison, the oldest, Adam, 19, is a sophomore at Baylor University and the youngest; Caden is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Fain Elementary. All three of Leslie's children are School for Little People graduates!

Leslie says her best memories are the ones she shared when her own children were here. Everyday is a great day at SLP! Her favorite part of teaching is doing some different thing with the children they may not otherwise get a chance to do, such as plating in the sand/water table or painting with something other than a paint brush. That is what makes SLP such a fun learning experience.

Leslie's favorite food is anything she does not have to cook! Her favorite colors are black & gold, orange & blue, green & gold. We don't know if this is her favorite thing to collect, but when asked if she collects anything, she answered, "my furniture collects dust!"



 **Jessica Studer** is an aide for Mrs. Kaj's MWF 4's. This is Mrs. Jessica's, as she is affectionately called, 3rd year at SLP, and we are so glad to have her.

Jessica is married to Loy Studer and has 2 lovely daughters; Caleigh, age 12, is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Lilly, age 9, is in 4th grade. Jessica is a graduate of UNT, majored in music and has enjoyed being a stay-at-home mom working part time.

It's hard for her to pick just one favorite memory, but she really, really enjoys the Halloween parade. It's a lot of fun to see the creative costumes and the bright smiles on the children's faces. She also gets a kick out of the funny things children say when the teachers work "one-on-one" with the children. She has learned some very insightful and sweet things.

Mrs. Jessica's favorite part of teaching is watching the children learn and explore new things. She says the excitement on their faces is contagious! It is such much fun to be a part of.

Poppy seed chicken is Jessica's favorite food. Her favorite color is hot pink. So you know she absolutely loves this year's SLP shirts. She also collects anything Disney!



# Notice!

## Fall Parent Conferences November 2, 3 and 4

Look for sign up sheets on the bulletin boards outside your classroom doors.

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### “We”: The Most Important Feature of a Parent-Teacher Conference

The foundation for constructive parent-teacher relationships is frequent and open communication and mutual respect. When you are positively involved in your child’s education, your child will flourish. Teachers prepare for conferences by reflecting on each child’s interests and progress. Here are some ways you can prepare to actively participate in parent-teacher conferences.

**Be willing and ready to share information about your child and family.** Families are the most important influence and resource in a child’s life. You know your child better than anyone else and have valuable insights to share with the teacher. Advocate for your child. Share things about your child’s life at home—personality traits, challenges, habits, friends, hobbies, and talents—that you feel are important for the teacher to know. What kinds of things do you enjoy doing with your child? How do siblings relate to their brother/sister and vice versa? What kind of discipline do you use? What are your dreams for your child? What are your concerns?

**Stay focused on your child.** You are no longer the shy student who avoided the teacher’s gaze. Nor are you the active four-year old who seemed to always need the teacher’s help to stay on task. It is natural for your ideas about teachers and their role to be shaped by your own school experiences. Being aware of these views can help you stay focused on your child and his/her unique temperament, individual needs, and special interests.

**Never miss a parent-teacher conference.** Use the conference as an opportunity to exchange information with the teacher and discuss ways to work together to enhance your child’s education. If your work schedule makes it difficult to meet during regular hours, make this clear to the teacher and try to set up a meeting time that is good for both of you. If you can’t visit in person, schedule a telephone call to discuss your child’s progress.

Arrive on time. Teachers usually have a tight schedule for conferences— typically 15 minutes per child and family. If you would like additional time to talk, ask for it ahead of time so you and the teacher can discuss your ideas, concerns, and suggestions. Be considerate of other parents whose conferences will take place after yours. Remember that the teacher needs a few minutes between conferences to record and reflect on the information shared and to prepare for the next family.

**Remember, children can hear and remember what is said.** Young children often get mixed messages when they hear adults talking about them, no matter how positive the conversation may be. Arrange for a caregiver for your child or bring a family member to occupy him or her during the conference. If this is not possible, bring a favorite toy or activity to engage the child in another part of the room. Unless a child is expressly invited to take part, the conference is a time for you and the teacher to discuss your child.

**Listen with an open mind.** Concentrate on what the teacher is saying instead of what you are going to say next. Ask questions when you don’t understand. If you disagree with a strategy, say so and tell the teacher why. Voice your concerns, but be open to suggestions. Stay on the subject: your child’s progress.

**Be prepared.** Think about or write down one or two questions to ask the teacher. It’s a good idea to ask the most important question first, in case time runs out. Remember, while teachers have specialized education, they don’t have answers for everything. Teaching just isn’t that simple.

**Keep the conversation focused on what can be done for your child.** When there are problems, parents and teachers need to stay calm and work together for the best interest of the child.

**Stay involved.** Try to visit the center or school frequently, not just for conferences and Back to School Night. Ask the teacher to suggest activities you can do at home to reinforce your child’s learning. Look for opportunities to take part in your child’s education.

From: Seplocha, H. Partnerships for learning. *Young Children* 59 (5): 96–98. NAEYC website

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## Important Information for Our Parents

Parents, please keep in mind that SLP is a state licensed Preschool. We are required by law to adhere to any and all safety regulations in order to keep children safe. If a staff member notices a violation, they are required to report it to the appropriate authorities.

We want to keep you informed of state laws we are required to uphold. Therefore, each month we will review one in this newsletter. We hope you keep these laws in mind.



### Leaving Children Unattended in a Vehicle

Texas is one of a handful of states that criminalize the act of knowingly or intentionally leaving your child in a vehicle. However, the law is not going to kick in if you simply pull up to a curb and quickly step out of the car and drop an envelope in a mailbox all while Junior is fast asleep in the backseat.

### The Law of Five and Seven

The key numbers to remember are five and seven. That is, if you leave a child age seven or under alone in a vehicle for five minutes or more, the law kicks in. Also, if you leave your child in the vehicle for more than five minutes with another person age 14 or under the law applies.

You can face a Class C misdemeanor, which may translate into two years behind bars and/or a fine of up to \$10,000.



### Sharing With Thankful Hearts

The children of School for Little People will be collecting jars of peanut butter and jelly beginning November 1, to share with Interfaith Ministries. We will deliver them to the Ministries' pantry, Nov. 17 and 18.

**Because the children carry the jars, please bring plastic not glass.**



## School for Little People Thanksgiving Celebrations

**Each year at SLP we celebrate the wonderful holiday of Thanksgiving by sharing a "feast" with our family and friends from 11:00-12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Several classes will celebrate together on a designated day.**

**The schedule for this year is:**

**Mon. Nov. 21** Ms. Erica 's, Mrs. Maxwell's M-W-F class, Mrs. Rumpfelt's M-W-F class and Mrs. Kajs' class.

**Tues. Nov. 22** Mrs. Maxwell T-TH class, Mrs. Rumpfelt's T-TH class, Mrs. Moran , Mrs. Connel's & Mrs. Grace's classes.

**Parents are asked to bring a "finger type" food to share.** (Things like sausage balls, pigs in a blanket, chicken nuggets, small sandwiches of all varieties, grapes and fruit of all kinds, veggies and dips, cookies, and brownies have always been favorites, but please feel free to bring whatever you think the children would especially enjoy.)

### Important Fall Information

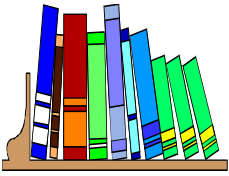
We will go outside each day unless it is raining or the temperature is below 47 degrees. Bundle up your children so they will be warm and comfortable while playing.

Also be sure you have switched out the extra clothing left at school in cubbies from summer short sleeves and shorts to fall long sleeves and pants.



### HELP!!!!

Please send us your brown paper grocery bags with handles. They are very handy for the book orders and for the upcoming Holiday season. Just drop them by the office. Thanks for your help!!!!



## Book Club Orders!

If you are ordering from Scholastic book clubs, the orders are due by Friday, Nov. 11th. (We hope to have them back for you before Thanksgiving.)

Remember, you can also order books online and pay by credit card. Here's how it works:

1. SIGN UP at the Scholastic Book Clubs Web site:  
[www.Scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://www.Scholastic.com/bookclubs).
2. On the parent page, click the "Don't have a User Name and Password?" link, then register for your own username and password. When prompted, enter the one-time Class Activation code. This code ensures that your order is sent to the school. ACTIVATION CODE: **GTBHP**
3. Browse the titles, and place your order directly using your credit card.
4. Scholastic will then notify the SLP account that an order has been placed in your child's name. Your credit card payment will go directly to Scholastic's secure server. There's no need to send money or return forms to school.
5. On the deadline date, the school will then submit all orders. Please note that once an online order had been submitted, it can not be changed.
6. Your online book order will still be delivered to our school for your child to take home.



## Kid's Say the Funniest Things!!

"Kids Say the Funniest Things" is a regular feature in our SLP Newsletter. The stories come from Teachers and parents, for instance;

*In the Extended Care 4's class, Mrs. Janet had a conversation with Lillian Stoglin. Lillian explained to Mrs. Janet, " My tooth is going to come out and the fairy godmother is going to come and pay me money so I can get bracelets on my teeth."*

*Mrs. Maxwell's asked Emma what her Daddy did and she replied, " I don't know." Then Parker Deal said, " At this point, you don't know. At this point, I do know. My Dad fixes stuff. But at this point, you don't know." (Maybe at some point, Emma will know what's in Parker's mind.)*

*Conversation with Parker Deal:*

*Parker: "Are you old?"*

*Mrs. Maxwell: "A little bit"*

*Parker: "Is Ms. Alexys old?"*

*Mrs. Maxwell: "You have to ask her."*

*Parker to Ms. Alexys: "Ms. Alexys, are you old?"*

*Ms. Alexys: "That depends on what you define as old. I'm not 30 yet."*

*Mrs. Maxwell to Parker: "Parker is mommy old?"*

*Parker: "No!!! because she doesn't wear glasses." Then Talon Aspinwall chimes in..." Kay Arthur is old."*

*Mrs. Maxwell to Talon: "Is she?"*

*Talon: "Yeah, she's older than dirt!"*

**Does your child say adorable things? Please share them with us and we will share them with everyone who reads this newsletter.**

**Just leave a note (nothing fancy, any scrap of paper will do) in Mrs. C.'s green mailbox with a brief retelling of the cute thing your child did or said. We will do the rest!**



**Our records audit was completed recently. In order for us to be in compliance with licensing requirements, all outstanding paperwork MUST be turned in by November 4th. Notices have gone out to the families with outstanding paperwork.**

**Thanks for your cooperation!!**



## Director's Notes:

I am always astounded how quickly time passes between the start of school and the start of the holiday season. It seems to me school has just begun and I blink, and it's time to start thinking about Thanksgiving and Christmas! This year has been no exception.

November is a busy month here at School for Little People. Our first **Parent Teacher Conferences** will take place **Nov. 2, 3 and 4. Please don't miss them!!** This is your opportunity to visit with your child's pre-school teacher, ask questions, voice concerns, and receive an update on your child's joys, areas of growth, strengths, developmental progress. Conferences will be set up to accommodate you. Sign-up sheets for appointment times are posted on the bulletin board by your classroom door. If you cannot arrange to be here on the day of conferences, your teacher will be happy to work out another time to conference when it is more convenient for you.

We will be sharing our bounty with Interfaith Ministries this Thanksgiving season. Families are asked to bring contributions of **peanut butter and jelly**. (Please send plastic jars.) Leave them on the cubbies by the classroom or by Mrs. Canafax's fish tank. The children will deliver them toward the end of the month and receive a short tour of Interfaith.

Our **Thanksgiving feast days** are coming up **Nov. 21 and 22**. Please bring a "finger type" food to share. Check with your child's teacher or check the calendar portion of this newsletter for your day. We schedule these feasts from **11:00-12:00**, hoping all of you who work can come visit on your lunch hour. **If you can't make it please try to send a friend or relative to take your place. It is an empty feeling for a child to be the only one without a special person to share his feast.**

It is my hope that you and yours enjoy a memorable Thanksgiving, full of family, sharing, and love!!

## **Remember!!!**

### **Tuition is due Nov. 1st!**

**Reminder, Extended Care payments are billed and due the Monday of the week care is given. If you are paying for Extended Care monthly, charges must be paid at the beginning of the month. Late fees will be assessed on a weekly basis for charges over due.**

## Opportunities for Family Fun during the Holidays

**Christmas Magic 2011** November 4, 5 & 6 at MPEC  
**Christmas Magic Children's events are a great time for the whole family!**



### General Admission Market

**Tickets:** Advance Tickets \$5.00, At the Door \$6.00, 3-day Pass \$10.00

**Children 11 and under are free**

This year's Children's Events promises to be more exciting and unique than any year ever! Children will move along from room to room to take part in fun crafts, story time to hear "The Polar Express", a visit with Santa himself, plus the opportunity to give back to those in need in our community.

Children are being asked to BRING A CANNED GOOD to support The Wichita Falls Area Food Bank. Tickets are \$15.00 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult however there is no charge for the adults to attend the Children's Events.

Tickets available at the Junior League office, [online](#), by emailing [ChristmasMagicTickets@gmail.com](mailto:ChristmasMagicTickets@gmail.com) or at the Christmas Magic ticket counters during Market hours.

## HANGAR HOLIDAY TRADITION JETS TO THE MPEC

Saturday, November 19, 9:00a.m.-6:00p.m.

Sunday, November 20, 12:00p.m.-5:00p.m.

Free Admission

This year's Hangar Holiday at the MPEC features hundreds of professional craft show vendors and also local crafters and home based businesses. The event has an average attendance of 13,000 people. Santa will make an appearance for a photo opportunity with the kids. The event is hosted by the Sheppard Officers' Spouses' Club. Proceeds benefit SOSC scholarships which, last year alone, allowed students to receive more than 24,000 dollars in scholarships. SOSC also contributes money to various base and local charities. According to organizers, this year marks the 26-year reign as the regions largest free two day craft fair.

Hangar Holiday visitors are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item in support of the Airmen and Family Readiness Food Pantry and the Wichita Falls Area Food Bank.

For more information visit [www.hangarholiday.org](http://www.hangarholiday.org)

## Santa House

Some of our classes will be traveling to this.

Open Tues. Nov.29-Friday Dec.9.

Tours weekdays from 9:00am-12:30pm. Evening and weekend hours are also available.

Admission is \$3.00 per person



# November Calendar

Throughout the month of Nov. the children of School for Little People will collect jars of peanut butter and jelly to be given to Inter Faith Ministries. Leave your contributions by the fish tank outside the SLP office. **Plastic jars please!!**

Nov. 1 Newsletter's and Book Orders Out  
Pre-K Tuition Due  
Peanut Butter and Jelly collection begins.

Nov. 2 Yoga for 4's  
**Parent Conferences**  
Mrs. Moran, Mrs. Maxwell's MWF class, and Mrs. Grace.  
Sign-up for a time on the sign-up sheets posted on the bulletin boards outside your classroom.

Nov. 3 **Parent Conferences**  
Mrs. Rumpfelt's T-TH and Mrs. Maxwell's T-TH classes and Ms. Erica.  
Sign-up for a time on the sign-up sheets posted on the bulletin boards outside your classroom.

Nov.4 **Parent Conferences**  
Mrs. Rumpfelt's MWF class, Mrs. Connel's class, and Mrs. Kajs' MWF class.  
Sign-up for a time on the sign-up sheets posted on the bulletin boards outside your classroom.

Nov 6. **Remember Fall back! Turn your clocks back one hour.**

Nov. 7 Music  
Nov. 8 Chapel  
Nov. 9 Chapel  
Nov. 10 Music  
STAFF Professional Development Training  
Nov. 11 STAFF Professional Development Training

Nov. 14 Music  
Nov. 16 Yoga for 4's  
Pre-K Staff Meeting 12:30

Nov.17 Music  
PB&J to Interfaith: Mrs. Maxwell TTH class, Ms. Erica, & Mrs. Connel's classes.

Nov.18 PB&J to Interfaith: Mrs. Maxwell's MWF class, Mrs. Grace, & Mrs. Kajs' classes.

Nov. 21 **Thanksgiving Feast Celebration 11:00-12:00 for**  
Mrs. Rumpfelt and Mrs. Maxwell's MWF class, Mrs. Kajs', and Ms. Erica's classes.  
*Parents be sure to bring finger food to share with everyone and take time to visit our Thanksgiving Museum.*

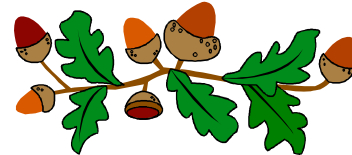
Nov. 23 **Thanksgiving Celebration 11:00-12:00 for**  
Mrs. Maxwell's TTH class, Mrs. Rumpfelt's TTH class, Mrs. Moran, Mrs. Connel & Mrs. Grace's classes.  
*Parents be sure to bring finger food to share with everyone and take time to visit our Thanksgiving Museum.*

Nov. 23, 24, & 25 **Thanksgiving Holiday**  
**SLP will be closed**

Nov. 28 Regular schedule resumes  
Reservations for Holiday Care Out  
No Music Today

Nov. 29 Reservations for Holiday Care Out

Nov. 30 Yoga for 4's



## November Snacks

Milk or water, Cereal with milk, Pop Tarts, and Cereal Bars are always available for our Early Birds who drop off before 8:15. You may also choose to allow your child to bring breakfast from home. Children go to active play at 8:20.

**Breakfast will not be served after 8:15.**

All morning and afternoon snacks are served with water.

### Morning

### Afternoon

Oct. 31 Goldfish	Pudding
Nov. 1 Cheese Sticks & Crackers	Pretzels
Nov. 2 Fruit Snacks	Cheese crackers
Nov. 3 Blueberry Muffins	Graham Crackers
Nov. 4 Popcorn	Ice Cream Cups
Nov. 7 Chex Mix	Apple Sauce
Nov. 9 Cereal Bars	Animal Crackers
Nov. 9 Gold Fish	Peanut butter Crackers
Nov. 10 Pudding	Granola Bars
Nov. 11 Popcorn	Ice Cream Sandwiches
Nov. 14 Peanut Butter crackers	Pretzels
Nov. 15 Yogurt	Goldfish
Nov. 16 Chex Mix	Cereal Bars
Nov. 17 Pop Tarts	Fruit Snacks
Nov. 18 Popcorn	Ice Cream
Nov. 21 Chex Mix	Cereal Bars
Nov. 22 Popcorn	Fruit Snacks
Nov. 23 ALL PROGRAMS CLOSED	
Nov. 24 ALL PROGRAMS CLOSED	
Nov. 25 ALL PROGRAMS CLOSED	
Nov. 28 Apple Sauce	Goldfish
Nov.29 Poptarts	Cheese Crackers
Nov. 30 Pretzels	Pudding



**FUMC Church Happenings!**

**SLP children and parents are always welcome at any FUMC event!**

Come join us for worship 8:30 and 10:30 am each Sun.  
Sunday School 9:15 am

Or watch our live telecast at 10:30 a.m. on FOX 18 or Time Warner 9 or Home Heartland 17.



**Graded Choirs Music and More continues.**

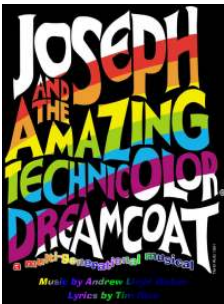
**It's not too late to join.**

3:45 - 4:45 Cherub Choir (4-5 year olds)[Undercroft 14U]

While these choirs are rehearsing MORE will be held for grades 4-6

4:45 - 5:30 Wesley Choir (grades 4-6) [Choir Room]

While Wesley Choir is rehearsing MORE will be held for age 4 -grade 3. [undercroft 17U]



**Sunday, November 13  
5:00pm**

**FUMC Sanctuary**

**Admission is Free**

This fun musical was originally written by Andrew Lloyd Weber for a friend's son's prep school production. It is the Old Testament story of Jacob and his 12 sons (including their wives and children), and, of course, Joseph's coat.

The Music Ministry of FUMC will present this multi-generational musical with over 45 children, youth, and adults in the cast with many more assisting on costumes, tech crew, etc. This is our gift to our church and community:

Admission is **FREE**

- Nursery is available by reservation only.
- Nursery reservation must be received by Thursday, November 10



**Advent Events at FUMC**

**Sunday, November 27**

- 8:30am & 10:30am - **Hanging of the Greens**  
Special Worship to begin Advent!

**Sunday, December 4**

- 9:00am - **Café Le Paul: Advent Edition**  
Atrium.  
Bring a "Christmasy" breakfast item to share!
- 10:30am - **Advent Celebration - 1 service only!**  
Sanctuary.  
Let us prepare for the coming of Christ!

**Tuesday, December 6**

- 11:30-12:30pm - **YES Christmas Brunch**  
Fellowship Hall.  
1:00-3:00pm - **YES Christmas Home Tour**  
Cost: \$14. Tickets go on sale Sunday, November 6 at church or from YES Members

**Saturday, December 24, 6:00 p.m.**  
*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*  
*Communion beginning at 5:00.*

