

Parent Connection

First United Methodist Church's
School for Little People
October 2011



The FLU and YOU!!

Flu season is on its' way, and the Immunization Branch at the Department of State Health Services has sent us information to encourage everyone to get vaccinated against the influenza this year. I hope all of you have gotten a flu shot or plan to get one soon. The Health Department still had shots available as well as Walgreens, United, Harvest Drug, and Wal Mart.

Influenza is a serious virus. Every year in the US, more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications. In the early stages of influenza, many people may not feel sick. Without realizing it, they can spread the virus to those around them. People can infect others for up to a day before they have symptoms and up to 5 days after symptoms disappear. The best way to protect yourself, the children at our school, your family and your coworkers is to get immunized against influenza each year. Because the influenza virus changes each year, the vaccine changes as well. To be protected, you need the current year's vaccine.

So far, at School for Little People, we have not had any reports of children with the flu. We have attached "The Flu" fact sheet information from the Texas Department of State Health Services to the back of this newsletter for your review. They encourage parents to take their child to a doctor and have them checked for flu if he or she is running a fever (especially a high one) with body aches, sore throat, or coughing. If diagnosed with flu, they caution that the child should stay at home and receive treatment as directed by their doctor and should not report back to school unless they have been **symptom free for 24 hours**.

We are being extra diligent about hand washing and keeping our classrooms and toys as clean and germ free as possible. Please help us by making sure that both you and your child uses the sanitizing cleanser located outside of each classroom door before they enter the classroom each day. If your child is sick please keep them at home until they are completely well. If we work together maybe we can minimize the effects of this flu season on all the children that attend School for Little People.

🍏 Teacher Feature 🍏



🍏 **Erica Easter** has been a favorite of the children here for 11 years. Ms. Erica is teaching a 5-day 4's class and working with the extended care for 4's as well. Erica holds a Child Development Associates Degree and previously participated in an extensive training and development program sponsored by the University of Texas at Houston focusing on language and literacy teaching skills.

Erica's pride and joy is her son, Uri. Uri is 17 years old going on 38. He is active in too many things to name. Uri is a senior and attends Hirschi High School and will graduate in the top 10 of his class this year.

Wichita Falls is Erica's childhood home. She moved to Austin, Texas where she worked with Head Start and Wesley School, Wesley United Methodist Church. She returned to Wichita Falls in 2000.

Erica is studying to be a curator of a Children's Museum and to do antique appraisals.

She loves teaching multicultural and history units. One year after making an "I cannot tell a lie cherry pie," the children wrote a letter to President Bush. Imagine the excitement when a letter arrived from the White House! When a child learns about other cultures, that child learns that we are a whole, we are one. Learning becomes exciting!

Erica is an international eater, Jamaican, Mexican, African, just food! Her favorite color is red. She collects artwork, artifacts, jazz music and books. Her house looks like a museum!

🍏 **Janet Wilkinson** has been with SLP for six years. She works as an aide with Ms. Erica in the 4's and also runs the Early Birds and Extended care 4's class.

Janet is grandma to 6 wonderful grandchildren. Janet has worked in child care for 11 years.

She enjoys her job at SLP and has many fond memories. She marvels, along with all of us here, how simple activities can have so much meaning to a child. She loves the minute the "light comes on" as a child grasps a new concept. It is a wonderful thing to know you played a part in that process. Ms. Janet, as she is affectionately called, loves to make arts and crafts with her friends, including Lego and Etch a Sketch creations.

Ms. Janet says she will eat almost anything, loves the colors orange and green, enjoys quilting and collects "out-houses".

"Children can be conceptualized as mirrors.

*If love is given to them,
they return it.*

*If none is given, they have
none to return.*

*Unconditional love is returned
unconditionally.*

*Conditional love is returned
conditionally."*

Ross Campbell, M.D.



October Calendar

Oct. 3 **Newsletters and Book Orders out today**
Music

Oct. 4

Oct. 5 Yoga for 4's

Oct 6 **World Teacher Day**

Music

SLP Board, 4:00p.m.

Oct. 7 **Invites out for Fall Festival**

Oct. 10 Music

Oct. 11 Chapel

Safety Drill, 10:00

Oct. 12 Chapel

Oct. 13 Music

Oct. 14. **Book Orders due**

Oct. 17 Music

Oct. 18

Oct. 19 Yoga for 4's

Staff Meeting 12:30-1:30

Oct. 20 Music

Oct. 21 Fire Drill, 10:00

Fall Festival Reservations are due

Oct. 24 No **Music** today

Oct. 25 Chapel

Fall Festival

Wear costumes this evening only, not to school.

5:00-5:15 drop off in the atrium for children in costumes. Extended Care children will be dressed by teachers in their classrooms, send costumes with them in the morning.

Costume Parade at 5:30

Dinner and fun in the park at 6:00

Oct. 26 Chapel

Oct. 27 No **Music** today

Costume Parade , 9:30 Fellowship Hall,
(Mrs. Maxwell's, Mrs. Rumpfelt's, Mrs. Grace's, and Mrs. Connel's classes wear costumes today)

Pumpkin Caroling to Red Door

A walking field trip for Mrs. Maxwell's, Mrs. Connel's and Mrs. Grace's. classes wear Halloween costumes to school for Pumpkin Caroling.

Oct. 31 **Happy Halloween!!**

Costume Parade, 9:30, Fellowship Hall

(Mrs. Maxwell's, Mrs. Kajs', Mrs. Moran's, and Ms. Erica's classes wear costumes today.)

Pumpkin Caroling to Senior Zone

A walking field trip for Mrs. Maxwell, Mrs. Kajs and Ms. Erica. Classes wear Halloween costumes to school for Pumpkin Caroling.

Check your classroom newsletters for more information about these field trips!!

Plan to be here for Parent Conferences

Nov. 3, 4 & 5



Book Club Orders!

If you are ordering from Scholastic Book clubs, the orders are due in office or online by Fri. Oct. 14th.



All outstanding paperwork must be in by Oct. 15th

We are still missing health forms that must be signed by your pediatrician. We are also missing birth certificates and parent handbook signature pages. These items are required by the state of Texas and we must have them when our paperwork is inspected by our licensing rep. Check with Kim if you have questions about what you may need.



October Snack Calendar

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

Oct. 3 Chex Mix
Oct. 4 Cheese & Crackers
Oct. 5 Pudding
Oct. 6 Muffins
Oct. 7 Popcorn

Afternoon

Granola Bars
Cereal bars
Pretzels
Fruit Snacks
Ice Cream

Oct. 10 Goldfish
Oct. 11 Apples
Oct. 12 Graham Crackers
Oct. 13 Yogurt
Oct. 14 Popcorn

Granola Bars
Poptarts
Chex Mix
Cheese Crackers
Ice Cream

Oct. 17 Fruit Snacks
Oct. 18 Pretzels
Oct. 19 Granola Bars
Oct. 20 Muffins
Oct. 21 Popcorn

Goldfish
Pudding
Yogurt
Poptarts
Ice Cream

Oct. 24 Pudding
Oct. 25 Bananas
Oct. 26 Cereal Bars
Oct. 27 Applesauce
Oct. 28 Popcorn

Fruit Snacks
Pretzels
Cheese crackers
Poptarts
Ice Cream

Oct. 31 Goldfish
Nov. 1 Cheese Sticks & Crackers
Nov. 2 Fruit Snacks
Nov. 3 Pop Tarts
Nov. 4 Popcorn

Pudding
Pretzels
Granola Bars
Graham Crackers
Ice Cream Cups

Just for Information...



Reading Readiness for Young Children?

How can you help a child lay a foundation for learning to read? Enjoy life with your child.

- Talk and sing together.
- Play with toys.
- Look at books and make up stories.
- Play games like peek-a-boo and Ring Around the Rosy.
- Recite Nursery rhymes.

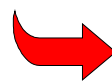


Pumpkin Math for Little Ones

When you and your child are picking out just the right pumpkin, you are likely to be fostering a basic mathematical understanding of size.

Talk about what you see:

- "This one is big, isn't it?"
- "And look, this one is even bigger!"
- "I think this one over here is the biggest of all."



Remember!!!

Tuition is due Oct. 1st and late after Oct. 10th! A \$10.00 late fee will be assessed after the 10th.

Extended Care is due weekly! A \$5.00 late fee will be assessed if payment not received by Wednesday.

In order to keep accounts current, please make sure you are paying ahead. Payments are required before care is given.



Kids Say the Funniest Things!!

In her book, [**The Top Ten Preschool Parenting Problems**](#), Roslyn Duffy observes that one of the hardest challenges parents face is limiting the impact of television on their children's development. Duffy cited research showing that children imitate aggressive behavior they observe on television, and that children who engage in heavy television watching are less likely to be able to read and less likely to spend time outdoors. Here are some of the steps Duffy suggests to parents to limit the impact of television...

- Do not place a television or computer in a young child's bedroom.
- View programs together.....Watching a program with a child gives an adult the opportunity to question, discuss and help a child interpret what she sees.
- Choose non-commercial programs. Most videos from the library...do not promote consumerism.
- Read. Raise a reader. Read to your children. Read with your children. Model reading. Make time for reading.

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

In Mrs. Rumpfelt’s class, they were reading Is Your Mama a Llama. After the story, Mrs. Rumpfelt asked the children, “Is your Mama a Llama?” With hesitation, Jake Savage responds, “NO, but my Daddy is!”

In Ms. Erica’s room, Jocelyn Leaseburg shared with her class that on her 2nd birthday, she will be 4!

From Mrs. Grace’s room:

Conversation between Breagan Blowers, Cooper deMontel and Mrs. Grace:

*Cooper D. to Breagan: “That’s a big bowl!”
Mrs. Grace to Cooper D.: “There is another word for big. It is enormous.”
Breagan to Mrs. Grace: “Yes, and also humongous!”*

When Cooper D. wanted to be called by his full name in class, Cooper deMontel, William said, “Then I am William Alejandro.com!”

In class the children were practicing their manners. To put that practice to the test, Lillian Stoglin asked:Mrs. Grace when done with her snack, “Mrs. Grace, may you be excused?”

Then to Mrs. Connie: “Why are you so old!” (but she said it using her nice and polite manners)

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!



Parents, please remember when parking under the awning, there is a ramp for handicap accessibility. We have some families and church members that require the use of this ramp. Please *be considerate*; do not park in front of the ramp. We have ample parking on the street and in the parking lot.



October 25th

Is the date for our
**Fall Festival, Costume
Parade, and Dinner!!**

*This is going to be fun!!
Don't let yourself miss it!!*

Pre-K parents will drop children off to their Pre-k teachers and aids in the atrium between 5:00 and 5:15.

Extended Care Parents that pick up at 5:00 or after, send your Halloween Costume with your child in the morning. To prevent tears we will dress your child and get them ready for the parade.

All parents will gather outside for the children's costume parade!! We will parade around Travis Street.

Travis will be blocked off at 4:45, so please park in the parking lot.

We hope to start parading at 5:30.

Plan now to come and watch this not to be missed event!

Grandparents and extended family are welcome.

Kodak moments will abound!

Then stick around and join us for hamburgers and play in the park!!

Hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the fixing's will cost \$6.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child age 12 years and under, including SLP children.

To help us to know how much food to buy and prepare, be sure to turn in your reservations and payment for dinner by Oct. 23rd

Many thanks to Rev. John Dillard for his wonderful portrayal of Johnny Applesseed! (Not just one day but 2)

It takes a brave soul to go barefoot with a cooking pot on his head and share a story with 70 or so preschoolers!!



Security Reminder

1. Always scan your card, even if the door is open. It logs you in on the computer in the church office and helps us keep track of who has entered the building. In an emergency situation this is helpful information to have.
2. **Do not** let people come in the door with you. We would rather apologize to someone then put the children or anyone at SLP in jeopardy.
3. In order to enter the building without a card, you **MUST** contact the School for Little People office by calling 766-0575. **Please do not ring the doorbell.** The church office staff is NOT familiar our parents or those authorized on the pick up lists.
4. The staff has also been instructed to not let anyone in so please don't be insulted if one of them asks you to use your card. They are only trying to keep your children safe.



Director's Notes:

The month of September has flown by, and here we are looking at October and all the fun of Halloween, costumes, pumpkins, and trick or treat.

Here at School for Little People we consider Halloween a fall celebration. We put our emphasis on pumpkins and how they grow, corn stalks, scare crows, interesting bugs, and happy Jack-o-lanterns.

As we dress up pretending to be someone else, we are participating in fantasy play which is a special part of early childhood. Let it be joyful and non-threatening. Aren't there enough real things that are scary in the world? Must we frighten our children with pretend ghouls and goblins?

We share our joy with others this month by pumpkin caroling for our senior friends at The Senior Zone and The Red Door on Oct. 27 and 31. The pleasure our children bring to these folks is a special treasure.

The costume parade and Fall Festival in the park is a much anticipated event here at SLP. We hope you and your family will plan to join us on Mon. evening Oct. 25th. We want your child to be able to share his or her costume with us in the parade. For those of you who will be leaving SLP at some point during the day and returning at 5:00 for the fun, drop pre-k children off in costume between 5:00 and 5:15 in the atrium. Please send costumes with children attending Extended Care and their teachers will dress them before the parade begins. This will help us have happy faces when we begin our parade. "Kodak" moments will abound for all!

When wearing our costumes to school, we ask that you leave all masks at home (this is for safety, lest we trip and fall because we can't see.) Please be sensible about what costume props you allow your child to bring, remember the children will be climbing up and down the stairs, going to the park to play, and if you are a 3 or 4 year old parent, your child will be traveling in his costume to share pumpkin carols. We don't want any lost costume parts!! Better not to send them than have them come up missing for Halloween night!!

We would also like to mention that we will have a small costume parade on Thurs. and Mon. mornings, Oct. 27 and 31. Moms and Dads as well as other family members are welcome to come. It will begin at 9:30 and probably take less than 30 minutes. See the calendar for the date your child's class will wear costumes to school.



A Note about Screening!

The speech, hearing, and vision screenings began Sept. 28th and finished Sept. 29th. Those of you who had screenings done should already have a copy of the results. If further testing or treatment was recommended, Amy Miranda, the private speech pathologist, should have provided you with information on your options.

Please remember, if you did not have your child screened and he or she is 4 now or will be turning 4 before the end of the school year, School for Little People must have vision and hearing screening results from a doctor or health agency on file within 30 days of your child's birthday. This is required by the state of Texas.



Parent Volunteers are Needed for Fall Festival!!!!

It takes a lot of helpers to put on an event like **Fall Festival**.

We need people to come during the day for food prep and to set up tables for serving in the park. We need people to help cook and serve the food. People to help hand out tickets and help parents know where to set up chairs for the parade. People to take down the tables in the park and probably a few other jobs as well.

If you can help during the day of Fall Festival, Oct. 25th, or during the evening of Fall Festival please let us know in the office, or call Sarah Fukasawa at 224-1221 or Stacy Finley at 642-1716.



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**



**October 2nd
World Communion
Sunday**

8:30am & 10:30am - Holy Communion
An altar rail offering will be received to benefit the United Methodist

Initiative, Imagine No Malaria, which seeks to eradicate malaria on the continent of Africa by 2015. Learn more at: www.imaginenomalaria.org

11:30am - Around the World Pot Luck Fellowship Hall. Bring food types from around the world (i.e. German, Swedish, Italian, Mexican, Chinese, etc.) to share!



Graded Choirs Music and More continues. You do not have to be a church member to participate.

It's not too late to join!

3:45 - 4:45 Cherub Choir (4 by Oct. 1st thru 5 years old) [Undercroft 14U]

Trinity Choir (grades 1-3) [Choir Room]
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.



Join us Thursday, October 6, 2011 at 7:00pm for the 8th Annual Elizabeth Prothro Organ Concert, which will feature Cameron Carpenter (www.cameroncarpenter.com) on [Pipe Organ](#).

An exorbitant and international virtuoso on the organ. Born in 1981, he is a young American virtuoso, who was the first classical organist to be nominated for a Grammy Award.

This concert is **FREE!**

Canned Food Drive for Interfaith Ministries

First United Methodist Church is participating in Interfaith Ministries Canned Food drive which begins in October and continues through November, and enables them to be prepared to meet the needs of the community as we enter the holiday season. This year they are expecting to have more calls for help than in seasons past. If you would like to donate, can goods can be left in the large plastic containers on your right in the hallway that goes toward the church offices.

The Carnival of Fun

An annual FUMC event

TRICK

OR

TREAT



Sunday October 16

4:30-6:30 pm

A love offering will be taken at the door
instead of admission...

The annual Carnival of Fun for children and their families is set for Sun. Oct. 16th 4:30-6:30 pm.

Food. Cowboys Game on the big-screen in the Fellowship Hall!

Trunk-or-Treating on Travis St. Games in the Atrium. What more could you want?

Recommended donation: \$3 / person.

Want to help? Contact Kim English (children@fumcwf.org or 940-766-4231, x272).

Where to Recycle in Wichita Falls

Know of an item that can be recycled in Wichita Falls but is not on this list? Contact Rev. Sims and let him know: 940-766-4231, x229 or tsims@fumcwf.org.

- **Aluminum Cans** – Here at FUMC. Drop them in the **BLUE** can near the Education Entrance or take them to the [Wichita Falls Area Food Bank](#) at [1320 Midwestern](#).
- **Automotive Batteries / Used Motor Oil** – Advance Auto Parts, Auto Zone, O'Reilly Auto Parts
- **Glass** - **BLUE** Dumpsters at Lawrence Road Transfer Station, Riverbend Nature Center,

United Super Markets, Wal-Mart, Youth Opportunity Center

- **Ink Jet & Toner Cartridges** – Here at FUMC. Drop them in the **WHITE** basket near the Education Entrance. These will be sold to benefit FUMC Missions.
- **Newspapers** - **GREEN** Dumpsters at Lawrence Road Transfer Station, Riverbend Nature Center, United Super Markets, Wal-Mart, Wichita Falls Fire Stations, Youth Opportunity Center
- **Office Paper** – Here at FUMC. Drop it in the **RED** can near the Education Entrance. This provides jobs at the State Hospital.
- **Plastic Bags** – Wal-Mart, Albertson's, United Super Markets
- **Small Electronics**, working or not (**laptops, cell phones, digital cameras, Ipods / MP3 Players**) – Here at FUMC. Drop them in the **WHITE** basket near the Education Entrance. These will be sold to benefit FUMC Missions.
- **Styrofoam Packing Peanuts** – Pack & Mail at [4036 Kemp](#).
- **Wire Coat Hangers** – Comet Cleaners
- **Did you know** you can request a **GREEN** Curb Cart from the city by calling 940-761-7977 (for a nominal \$3 per month fee). In this, you can put grass & tree trimmings, food waste, junk mail, newspapers, magazines, & cardboard.
- **Did you know** that FUMC will receive \$0.02 to go to Missions for every empty package you bring to us to recycle of:



Huggies Diaper Packages
Ritz or Wheat Thins Toasted Chips Packages
Kashi Packages
Capri Sun or Honest Kids Drink Pouches

Drop these in the marked container near the Education Entrance, and these will be made into other products!