

Redeemer Preschool

November 2009



Fall Festival—A Great Success

The November 14th Fall Festival was well attended by over 140 family and staff members. The evening would not have been so enjoyable without everyone's participation. A special THANK YOU to the following members of the Redeemer team:

- Jodylee Meenaghan —for organizing such a fun-filled event;
- Yvonne Roth, Amy Frost, Elise Brinck, and Jill Sheehan —for the delicious food and beverages;
- Susan Marrinson —for the festive decorations;
- Kari Paulsey—for the fun games, crafts and prizes;
- Teachers Kim and Sarah —for the adorable face-paintings;
- Teachers Karen and Trisha—for the beautiful hairdos;
- Our performers Scott Urquhart and the Let's Go Green Group;
- Our musicians Tom Holmes and "Revolver Expanded" Beatles Tributes, Tom's Acoustic Duo "Rant Brother", and finally

ALL THE PARENTS WHO VOLUNTEERED TO HELP MAKE THIS EVENT FUN AND ENJOYABLE FOR ALL.



TEACHERS' WISH LIST—Many, many thanks to all of you who contributed towards your child's class wish list for educational supplies. The teachers and children are so grateful for your generosity in helping to enrich their learning environment.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, November 20

Pajama Night
6:30—11:30 p.m.

November 25-27

Thanksgiving Holiday
Preschool CLOSED

Tuesday, December 8

Parent-Teacher Conferences
Preschool CLOSED
(Children can come with their parents)

Wednesday, December 16

Winter Pageant &
Family Potluck
(Grandparents and siblings are welcome)

December 24—January 1

Winter Break
Preschool CLOSED



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Assessment of Child Progress

Continuous assessment of a child's progress gives teachers the information they need about individual children in order to make curriculum and program decisions. Effective assessment requires:

- Understanding what teachers want children to learn (intentional teaching).
- Knowing the developmental steps teachers expect children to go through to accomplish curriculum objectives.
- Frequent observation of children at play and documentation of what teachers see and hear.
- Collecting information about each child by communicating with families and keeping samples of children's work over time.
- Summarizing what teachers learn about each child to share with families and planning together how best to support the child's learning.
- The use of information gathered for each child to plan for the group and consider which area may need more focused support.



In accordance with NAEYC accreditation standards, we are adopting a new student assessment tool developed by Teaching Strategies, an educational publishing company which serves the early childhood community exclusively since 1988. The **Creative Curriculum Developmental Continuum** assessment system is field-tested, research-based, and utilized by preschools across the nation including government funded programs. It provides the tools for our teachers to gather and evaluate information about children as part of their ongoing work in the classroom, and to link observation to their teaching strategies. It also offers a summary sheet for parents, so teachers can partner with family members to make mutual decisions that help each child grow and learn. The Developmental Continuum addresses the four main areas of child development: social and emotional, physical, cognitive, and language, along with multiple goals and objectives for different age groups.

Toddlers—learn about self and others, basic motor skills, attention, and learn about communicating.

Preschoolers—sense of self, pro-social behavior, gross and fine motors, learning and problem solving, logical thinking, listening and speaking, reading and writing.

Parent Association

Chairperson

Jodylee Meenaghan

Board Liaison

Kelly Dupree

ROOM PARENTS

GREEN FROGS

Mabi Ellis

Tami McCall

YELLOW DUCKS

Elise Brinck

Kari Paulsey

PURPLE DRAGONS

Kimberly Boys

Thomas Holmes

RED DRAGONS

Susan Marrinson

Jill Sheehan

Parent Teacher Conference

The first (of two) parent-teacher conference day is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 8**. The school will be closed to allow the teachers to meet with all the parents. Childcare will be provided by teachers Rachael and Sylvia, therefore, you can bring your child with you. During the 15-minute conference time, the teachers will focus on the learning style and developmental progress of your child. Please come prepared with any questions that you may have, or you can email them to your teachers ahead of time.



Parent Workshops

We will be starting a series of parent workshops in January, 2010. The workshops are held the last Wednesday of each month through May 2010, from 6:30—7:15 p.m. at the church. Please mark your calendar with the following dates:

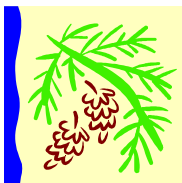
January 27, February 24, March 31, April 28, and May 26.

Workshop topics may include developing children's listening skills, sibling relations, school readiness, nutrition, and importance of play, and are conducted by Parents Place, field professionals from San Francisco Psychotherapy Research Group and other private sectors.

Holiday Celebrations

In our field, classroom practices range from a no holiday celebrations policy to a holiday-centered, thematic approach which may include religious traditions. When carefully planned and thought out as part of a multicultural curriculum, holidays can be a vehicle for learning about the traditions and values of the families in our program and exposing children to the traditions of others. At Redeemer, we celebrate holidays with our children in ways that are respectful, sensitive, developmentally appropriate, and meaningful to the children we

teach. Our teachers also think about other ways to respond to what children notice about the observance, such as experimenting with pumpkins and food tasting (turkey vs. chicken).



The following are some ideas from "Family Works" in spending a meaningful holiday season with your family.

- Get your children involved in the holiday preparation process, e.g., cooking, gift wrapping, holiday cards.
- Engage your children in charitable activities is a powerful way to share the holiday spirit.
- Help your children learn about how others celebrate the holidays.
- Manage the children's gift expectations.



Cultural celebrations go all year round. Please contact your classroom teachers if you have a special tradition or life experience to share.

The Glenwood Labyrinth

As we can all now see, the construction on the grassy area by the church is the building of a labyrinth. A labyrinth is like a maze, except it has only one path. Labyrinths are flat—no hedges or fences. Labyrinths date as far back as 5,000 years and have had many uses. Fishermen in Sweden have walked them before setting out to sea to bring them luck and safety. Native American Indians used them for dancing and contacting their spirit worlds. Some Christians used them as a substitute for making a pilgrimage. The Glenwood Labyrinth will be available for community use as well as for the church and preschool. Our teachers have brought the children down a few times to see the construction. When finished, the labyrinth will be roughly 55 feet in diameter and will contain 3,000 square feet. It is a world-scale, world-class labyrinth, patterned after the famous one in the Cathedral at Chartres in France, which dates back to the early 13th century.



Kids Quotes



When parent Jason (also a police officer) entered the classroom to speak to the children about safety, a four-year-old said, "Why are you in costume?" (This event happened shortly after Halloween!)

A Yellow Duck said to his teacher, "I am not a talking machine, why you ask so many questions?"

After Mumble (our rooster) returned to the farm, the children expressed their feelings. "I want to see him at the farm."

"Sometimes at the farm there's a dark cave where chicken go. I think Mumble is gonna go there."

"He's lost in the field. In the woods."

The following are the Purple Dragons' responses when they were asked the kind of pet that they have/or want.

"Riley.... he is all white. He has four legs and a short tail."

"A kitty that's pink and purple. I want it!"

When the teachers asked the Red Dragons about the things they were thankful for, a boy said, "I am thankful for my lion as he has a big belly button."

Another child said, "I am thankful for my mommy because my mommy gave me my baby brother."

Parent Socialization

Parent connection is highly valued in a relationship-based program like Redeemer. Drop off and pick up time often offers a good opportunity for parents to socialize. Please use the school's lobby, the parking lot, or the lawn area near the church if you need to engage in lengthy conversations. Chatting in the classrooms during transition time may disrupt the class routines.

