



Union Preschool

Newsletter September 2014

It seems like we just said good-bye and packed everything up for the summer and now here we are returning for a bright new year with you. We hope that you have had a happy and relaxing summer. We welcome back our returning families and students. We are always excited to see them return. They grow and change so much over the summer. We are glad to greet our new students and families and welcome them into our community.

We look forward to a very successful year for each child. We are in partnership with you to provide a warm, loving Christian atmosphere in which each child can grow and learn. Your unique family is important to us. We welcome your questions, advice, input and opinions.

The following teachers will be working with the Threes this year: Mrs. Fresta, Mrs. Luecke, Mrs. Brockland, Mrs. Visintine, Mrs. Wegman and Mrs. Landholt. There will be a few assistants to the Threes AM teachers during September. The teachers are all prepared to dry tears and give plenty of hugs. Please try not to be alarmed if there are a few tears. We will take good care of the children. You can help make their transition more successful, if you are very upbeat and keep your goodbyes short.

The Fours are always ready to jump right into new activities. Most of them are returning students and already know the routine. They are very eager for new experiences and will keep the teachers busy. The teachers of the Fours this year are: Mrs. Brockland, Mrs. Landholt, Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Visintine, Mrs. Zanaboni, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Luecke.

Mrs. Behan and Mrs. Murphy are teaching the Junior Kindergarten this year. The children in this group have turned 5 or will have their 5th Birthday shortly. They are being prepared for Kindergarten as are the Fours. We call them the Junior Kindergarten.

The kindergarten meets from from 8:45 – 2:45. Mrs. Wisdom is our kindergarten teacher. She will prepare the children very well to enter first grade in area schools. The Kindergarten homeroom is called the Star Room. It is just across the hall from the snack room.

This is our 43rd year here at preschool. Throughout those years we have developed a very extensive program to help the children develop socially, emotionally, physically and academically. We would like to fill you in on some of the new curriculum programs we have adopted.

Gym activities and physical education will be based on the concepts presented in a program called Spark. We also have some new items in the gym and are especially proud of the giant block set called Imagination Playground that will give the children many opportunities for creativity and cooperation.

The Fours, Jr. Kindergarten and Kindergarten will once again have the writing program which we call Ready to Write, based on the program called Handwriting Without Tears. Mrs. Luecke will be guiding all the classes in this area. We will send more information explaining the program.

This year our music teacher, Mrs. Landholt, will once again be guiding us all in giving the children plenty of opportunities to use musical instruments and enjoy music and movement. The children will use the instruments in the music space in the Panda Room. This is in addition to the singing and finger plays they will all learn at Group Time with their teachers. We have most of our music on I-pods, which make it more available to everyone.

There are new curriculum activities throughout the program and on all levels in the Passport Program from High-Reach. In Math, we are adding to our curriculum with Lending Library materials from Hatch. In Science, we have added a new program also from Hatch involving animals and their homes. Some of the new program materials include take home activities for families. Please enjoy this home school connection. Then return the activity so another family can use it.

Orientation has provided you with the opportunity to meet your child's teacher. We hope that this is just the beginning of months of communication about your child. Together with you we will strive to provide your child with successful and happy school experience. Please be sure that you have received a calendar for the month from your child's teacher. There will be important dates to remember.

And as always, if you have any questions, please contact us. Thanks

Book Orders

One of the greatest gifts that parents can give to their children is teaching them to appreciate books and love reading. We would like to help you by making books available to you for a very reasonable price. We will send book order forms home every month. The first forms are being sent out this week. These come to us from several book clubs including Scholastic. At times, there will be computer software titles available through these clubs.

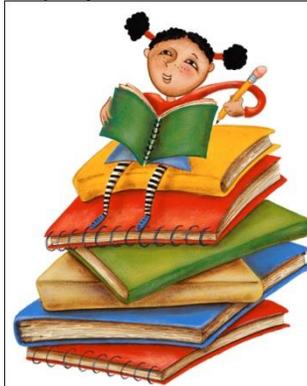
The books are a good value for you and the school receives points for the books that you order each month. The points are cashed in for electronic materials like cameras, CD players and computers.

There are two ways to order.

1. You can send the forms and payment to the office. When you send in your order, please note the date that the order is due. We do not want to disappoint a child because of a missed deadline. Also, clip out the order and return it with your child's name and homeroom on the form. Please write Book Order on the envelope and put it in one of the hallway mailboxes. If you make selections from more than one club you just need one check. The check should be made out to Union Preschool.
2. You may go on line to place an order and pay for them on line. We still get points and none of us have to deal with checks or cash.

Site: www.scholastic.com/bookclubs

First time users will register their own name and password and enter a one-time activation code H7VCX.



Post Cards

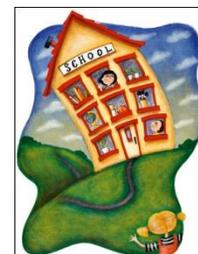


Most of you have noticed the map of the United States on the wall in the Big Bird Playroom. We have had a very successful activity which helped the children begin to understand maps and appreciate the diversity and beauty of our United States. We would like to repeat that activity this year. With your help we would like to see the map covered in post cards. Please have your friends and relatives from across the United States send a post card to your child. The children will really enjoy receiving the post cards and also bringing them to school to share with the class. We will post the cards on the corresponding states. All cards will be returned at the end of the year.

Room Parents

We had a good response to the request for volunteers as Room Parents. You can still sign up in your child's classroom. We will discuss plans for the holiday parties for the children and decide on a coordinator for each teaching team. Afterwards we will send out a letter to all the parents from the room parents requesting a donation for the holiday parties throughout the year. The request will be for a donation of \$ 10.00 to cover costs for snacks and treats for the parties. There will be parties for each class for Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter. It adds a little extra for the children for these special occasions. They really look forward to it and are impressed by their parents' participation. Please send in your donation as soon as possible. We appreciate your cooperation with these volunteers.

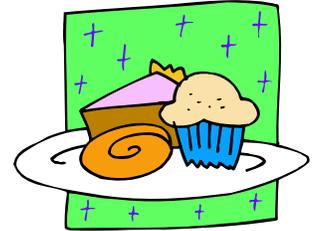
Room Parents will meet Sept 24th and 25th after the Blessing of the Children which is scheduled for arrival time for each session.



Parent Teacher Dessert Night

For the last several years we have had a Parent- Teacher Dessert Night early in the school year. It has been a good way to have parents and teachers spend some time together in an unrushed, informal manner. We have had very good response and ohhh sooo many desserts. This year we will just have the parents of the Threes and Fives bring the desserts. This will cut down on the amount of goodies we have to send back home or save for the children's snacks. We are planning a very interesting evening and hope that you will be able to attend. That evening you will be able to:

- * Meet with the Teachers
- * Meet other parents
- * Win attendance prizes
- * Take a tour of the facilities
- * Share some delicious desserts brought by the parents of the Threes and Fives
- * Go on a Scavenger Hunt throughout the school
- * Watch a video of the children on a typical day at school.



We hope that you will be able to join us. The teachers really look forward to meeting with you. Please remember that this is an evening just for the adults.

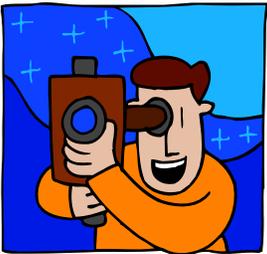
September 24th 7:00 PM

The Blessing of the Children

We will begin the year once more with a special Blessing of the Children. The entire Union community rejoices in the gift of these precious preschoolers and we invite you to meet in the church at arrival time for a ceremony of thanks.

This will take place on September 24 and 25 at arrival time for each session. You may take your child to the homeroom afterwards and we will have the Room Parents Meetings.

School Photos



Picture Day will be October 8th and 9th. We will be sending home an envelope for you to fill out and return for ordering the pictures. We have been working with this photographer for several years now and we have been very pleased with the photos. He will be able to take a photo of your child individually as well as a classroom photo. If you are not interested in a photo of your child you may still purchase a class photo. Many families find them to be a keepsake of the preschool years. Your check should be made out to Exquisite Images. If you would like a photo of a younger sibling, the photographer will be available to take them.

Call the office for a time.

Sing, Dance, Praise

This is a great opportunity for families to join in a noisy, fun church service just for kids. The first of these events is on September 13th. The children will be helping Noah fill the Ark with animals. It should be fun and we hope to create a joyous noise. Come join in. **4:30 Saturday Sept. 13th**

You know the season of sneezing and runny noses will be upon us too soon. Please donate a box of kleenex to your child's classroom.



The Scholastic Book Fair

This year we will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair. As we have mentioned before Scholastic offers a wide range of children's books at a very reasonable price. Throughout the year you will be able to order books from this company. From September 22nd through the 26th we will have a Book Fair set up here at school. The company will send us a whole variety of books. The display will be set up in the gym and will actually take up half the gym. It is so much fun to be able to view the books first hand and make your choices.

The Book Fair will run in conjunction with the Parent Teacher Dessert Night, so that you will have plenty of time to look at the Books. We hope that you will find this helpful especially for first time families.

September 22nd thru September 26th

Also part of the Dessert Night September 23rd 7:00



Wrapping Paper and Gifts from Kids Are First

Fundraising has been and probably will always be a part of school. In the economy we are all dealing with at this time, the funds generated from fund raisers are not just for extras. Last year we are used the funds from this fundraiser for the purchase of two way radios, which added another measure of safety to our school. This year we are earmarking the funds for a booster for our internet to enable us to receive it in more classrooms.

Your participation in our fundraisers is voluntary, however, we appreciate your assistance especially in this endeavor to add another element of safety for your children. Whatever you can do will assist in the purchase. If you do not want to participate in the fundraiser, you may consider a donation.

*Our first fundraiser will include wrapping paper and gifts. Tyler Funding has chosen a package of nice gifts, candy and wrapping paper all for holidays. We have opted out of the prizes that are often awarded with fundraisers. There has been an overwhelming positive response to this decision in the past. Please watch for the catalog that will be coming home early in October. Thanks for your support.



Family Outdoor Club Last year this proved to be a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors as a family. We will hold events at several parks and nature reserves throughout the year. It will always be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:00 – 11:30. Watch for more information outlining the schedule of parks we will be visiting.

Art in the Park We are pleased to be able to be a part of this event in Francis Park this year. Check out our booth on September 28th

Family Picnic This is a great event. Sunday, September 21, 11:00 AM. Right here on the front lawn at school. We join with church members for a picnic with lots of food, games and fun. More information is coming.....watch for it...you do not want to miss this.