

Lakeside Center Dispatch

March/April 2009

Letter from the Director

As Lakeside and other neighborhood schools prepare for next year's enrollment process, there seems to be an inordinate amount of anxiety in the air. We know that enrollment, along with the uncertain economy, gives parents a lot to worry about.

However, one thing you need not worry about is your child's physical safety while at Lakeside. I have worked at a few (and visited many) preschools and speaking from experience, I can say Lakeside has excellent safety procedures. Your tuition pays for a higher ratio of adults to children than required by state regulations. Those of you who fulfill your classroom volunteer hours know - preschool children are never unsupervised - not even in the bathroom!

Furthermore, I am not sure if it is because we are located in a church and therefore experience divine protection, but the only people who come through our door unauthorized are confused seniors looking for the YMCA! On a personal note, I often work late, am in the building after dark, and again, I have had no incidents or feelings of being unsafe. Therefore, in light of Lakeside's track record - (there has been no local incident to warrant immediate action) we have time to come to thoughtful solutions together. Indeed, as this goes to press, various church and parent committee members are working together to examine any shortcomings we can improve.

Speaking of together, schools are generally safe places and parents get comfortable knowing someone is always looking out for their child. However, we need your help. Lakeside does have one most immediate safety risk that occurs everyday at 11:30AM and 3:30PM - some children run out of the building ahead of their parents (who are finishing a conversation in the hall). I have sometimes had to practically leap across my desk to try to catch a child as he runs down the sidewalk signed out and unsupervised...I can vouch for your child's safety while signed in and inside the building, but once he leaves, he is literally beyond our reach.

I know this is partially a function of children growing more confident and independent. We teach them to explore and so - off they go! Nevertheless, they are not yet ready to navigate 19th Avenue alone, so just as I trust the church and various committee members who are working together to calmly and logically address any of Lakeside's physical safety concerns, I trust that as concerned parents you will help us be sure no child leaves Lakeside unattended.

Finally, I began this article by talking about enrollment and I will end it on the same note. Just as you trust that working together we can keep your child safe, trust that by working together as we complete the enrollment process every child will be placed exactly where he is meant to be. Thank you.

Sincerely, "Mrs. E"

Key Dates in MARCH/April

- Mar. 4.....Spring Book Fair 6 pm-8pm
(March Parent Meeting)
- Mar. 7.....Mexican Fiesta/Silent Auction
- Mar. 17.....St. Patrick's Day
- Apr 1.....Parent Meeting 6:30 pm
- Apr 8/9.....AM Parent Teacher Conferences
No classes for pre-school; Kindergarten open
Extended Care open
- Apr 10/13.....School closed for Good
Friday/Easter Monday
- Apr 14-17....Easter Break/extended care open



Spring BOOK FAIR

Wed, March 4^h (MANDATORY ATTENDANCE)

Book Fair 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Social Hall

This is the March Parent Meeting.

ALL WELCOME! BRING FRIENDS & FAMILY!

Ms. Kerry & Mrs. Chao's classes

The month of February seems to have gone by in a flash. The children in both of our A.M and P.M classes certainly enjoyed giving out their Valentines as well as receiving them from their classmates. We wanted to thank all of our children and families for making our Valentine's Day special with all of your wonderful gifts and cards. Your generosity is overwhelming and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We hope everyone enjoyed the individual number books created by both the A.M and P.M classes. The books took a couple of weeks to complete but the children were proud to bring them home to share with their families.

We will begin the month of March by starting with our monthly calendar, as well as continue our letter a week. Several of the children in the P.M class have also received their special "Star" book. We hope you have enjoyed looking through them as much as we have enjoyed creating them. Everyone in class will be a "Star" of the day before the year's end. These special books are great keepsakes that you and your children can cherish for years to come. Both classes will continue to work on their individual "Me Book" monthly pages.



Green is the special color this month as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, so look for snack sign-ups for our special party. In previous years on St. Patrick's Day, our classes have been visited by leprechauns who are very sneaky and like to turn our milk into green at snack time, so we will be on the lookout! Don't forget to wear green!

Our Spring Book Fair will be on Wednesday March 4th at 6 pm. This is the March parent meeting. Please remember to sign in when you get to the social hall.



Along with our St. Patrick's Day activities, we will "hop" into our "Spring and Easter" activities by planting grass and watching it sprout in time for the children's Easter baskets. It is such an exciting event for all of us when those first blades of grass appear above the soil. Watch out for Easter party sign-up in April.

Parent-Teacher conferences for the **A.M. class** will be held on Wednesday, April 8th and Thursday, April 9th. A sign-up sheet will be posted outside our classroom near the end of March. Please remember that there will be **no AM or PM Classes** on Conference days, but Extended Care will be open! Please make sure you sign up for a conference time. We ask that you do not bring your child to the conferences, as there is no unscheduled extended care available.

We want to thank our hard working parents who volunteer so generously of their time in our classroom. Our program would not be able to run so smoothly were it not for your support. As it gets close to the end of the school year we still need your help with snacks and party items, so don't forget to continue to bring in those healthy snacks.

We wish all our families a very happy and fun-filled Easter break! Happy St. Patrick's Day, Happy Spring, and Happy Easter!

- Ms. Kerry, Mrs. Chao, Norma, Laura & Mey

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

Not only is there an art in knowing a thing, but also a certain art in teaching it.

-Marcus Tullius Cicero-

Mrs. Wardell's Kindergarten

As this is the spring newsletter, the following information will touch on some of the activities planned for the months of March and April. With spring scheduled to arrive on March 20, we look forward to some warmer weather. Until then, please have your child bring a warm layer to school, as the yard is very cold when the Kindergartners are out at 9:45 am.

We are going to explore space and the eight planets in our solar system during the month of March. We will talk about the individual planets, their locations and characteristics. The Kindergartners will make a solar system book and learn songs and poems with a space theme. Our space "rap" is as follows:



ABCDE	There are 8 planets, though they're hard to see
FGHIJ	Gravity is strong so that they won't stray
KLMNO	Some orbit fast, some orbit slow
PQRST	Some have rings that can see
UVWXY	Some have craters that are very dry
ZZZZZ	The Milky Way is our galaxy!

We will introduce our reading mat, a language activity that allows the children to 'walk and talk' a solar system frame. The frame reads, "Planets, planets, orbiting in space, you make the universe a wonderful place. 1st planet, 2nd planet, 3rd planet, 4, 5th planet, 6th planet, 7th planet more, 8th planet out in space, around the sun you soar!" It is another way to reinforce word units, sentence structure, ordinal

position, as well as being great fun!

The children will be making rockets out of mailing tubes and personalizing them with other interesting objects. If you have any suitable material for our rocket decorations, we would love to have it. In April, after we take a fabulous whirl through the solar system, we will celebrate the new changes that Spring has brought us in preparation for Easter. This is a wonderful time of year to notice growth and new life around us. Our planet is an amazing place, especially seen through the eyes of a child.

We will be working on a new class book about clouds that gives each child an opportunity to tell what shape the clouds take in their imagination and to illustrate that page. When was the last time you laid on the grass and watched the clouds change shape? It is a wonderful way to spend a quiet moment with your child. Again, each child will make a page for the class book, which is kept at school for choral and individual reading and each child is given an opportunity to make an individual book to take home if they so choose. Of course we will also celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Tuesday, March 17th. It is a day when everyone claims their Irish descent and enjoys the wearin' of the green!

We will continue our group and individual spelling games. The independent spelling and sentence writing that is being done is very exciting-proof they are making the necessary connections between words, sounds and the symbols needed to put thoughts down on paper.

Math games will focus on polishing old skills as well as introducing new ones such as subtraction using unifix cubes, links and pattern blocks. We will move to the recording stage as the children become more familiar with these new concepts. Since they work independently, we love watching the children help each other, explaining their work and sharing their discoveries.

As you make your school decisions for next year remember that your child is watching and listening. How you deal with the acceptance news will impart a sense of success or failure on their part. Leaving Lakeside, for some, the only school they have ever attended, can be a frightening concept for some children. We try to make the transition as positive as we can, although, frankly, it is a sad time for us, too.

Easter vacation begins after class on Thursday, April 10, and classes resume on Monday, April 20. The months will fly by with so many activities and fun projects to pursue.

I hope your family has a restful and enjoyable Easter break and your child will return to school with eagerness and energy to tackle the remaining weeks of school. We still have so much to do and learn in the time left to us. Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for our Kindergarten program.

-- Molly Wardell

Miss Michele, Miss Lupita & Miss Megan's Classes

The short month of February flew by! Both the AM and PM classes participated in many exciting activities and projects. The most significant part of this past month was the celebration of Valentine's Day. Love was in the air as the children worked on and decorated their "Me Book" pages, hearts, February calendars, and Valentine gifts. We also completed a unit on modes of transportation. The AM and PM classes are finishing up their very own transportation books. It was a busy month!

March and April also have a lot in store for the AM and PM classes. We will continue working on our ABC books, and "Me Book" pages. In March, we will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day and Easter is coming right up in April. Both classes will be busy doing all sorts of fun crafts for these holidays. Our St. Patrick's Day party will be held on Tuesday, March 17. Another important note for April: AM parent/teacher conferences will be held on Wednesday April 8 and Thursday April 9. A sign-up sheet will be posted outside of the classroom for the AM conferences. No classes will be held on these two days. Easter break will follow until classes resume on Monday, April 20. This year is really flying by!



We hope you are having a wonderful 2008! Spring is almost here!

-- Miss Michele, Ms. Lupita, and Miss Megan

Ms. Lupita's PM Class

I can't believe we are preparing for spring. Our children have grown so much and I am very proud of them as they are getting ready for Kindergarten. I know they are so excited about their new schools.

We are finished with our ABC books. The rest of the year we are going to be working on number books and on our shape and color books (in English and Spanish).

We will be reading and practicing short stories. We will have a lot of fun celebrating Saint Patrick's Day. And we will have lots of activities to celebrate Easter. (We'll plant grass, color eggs and more).



We are really enjoying our "friend of the week." The children enjoy sharing their family, friends and talents. Thank you for helping your children with their beautiful posters and shows.

We are going to have our Community Workers week. Thank to all the parents who are coming to share their talents and experiences with us.

Chika and I want to thank the parents who are so willing to sign up for class parties and activities. We really appreciate your cooperation and support.

Have a wonderful Easter celebration and a restful vacation!

--Ms. Lupita

Extended Care program

We hope everyone had a wonderful Valentine's Day. February was a "hearty" fun-filled month. Our room was decorated with heart arts and crafts. Our "Question of the Day" questions were centered around love and giving. Check the "Question of the Day" folder, on the inside of the Extended Care door, to view your child's response.

March and April are going to be busy months. We will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day and Easter. Be on the lookout for open-ended projects centered on the holiday themes. We are shifting our project making focus from teacher-oriented to child-oriented. We want to encourage more creative development, rather than give a tangible item for kids to take home.

A few updates:

- The Parent Info board has moved! The board directly outside of the Extended Care room will soon be used as a documentation board. All the Parent Info is newly located on the outside of the Extended Care door.
- Spring fundraiser is here! The Mexican fiesta will be March 7, 2009, and Extended Care is contributing to the silent auction. This year you will get a chance bid on a picture frame signed by the AM and PM Extended Care students, with 2-8x10 photos of the students inside. Good luck to the highest bidder!
- WANTED: donated unisex dress-up clothes, hats, and shoes for our dramatic play area. All clean items accepted. Also, if anyone has a used digital camera they would like to donate, we would love to use it for classroom documentation.

Easter break will be upon us soon, so please make sure to fill out an Easter break Extended Care schedule if you would like your child to attend. Spring is just around the corner, so please remember to keep extra clothes in your child's cubby because the weather will be changing.

We hope everyone has a wonderful Easter vacation!

-- Miss Melanie, Miss Michelle, and Extended Care Staff



PVO President's Note

Dear Parents,

By now, you have been bombarded with information on this coming Saturday's big event and if you have not bought your tickets, there is still time! We will be selling both the raffle and event tickets on **Wednesday, March 4** at the **BOOK FAIR**. This will be a great opportunity to multi-task: buy your books for Easter, contribute to the on-going book drive and buy tickets for Saturday. The spring event committee will also be taking donations up until the night before the event, so if you are not able to attend, but want to contribute, this is a great way to participate. The committee is working hard and is very excited about how things are turning out. I look forward to seeing you all there!

February is certainly going out with gusto. This is a good time to remember to thank the teachers, especially on rainy days when the kids are cooped up! Our main event of February was the second child guest dinner. Thanks again to **Bernadette Hurley** and **Joan Mulkerrens** for organizing this successful night and to the many volunteers who helped serve food and do clean up. My daughter still cannot stop talking about "Harry Potty".

Because of the spring event, we are going to be having a "working" PVO meeting this month. This meeting will be held on the evening of March 6 at 7 p.m., the night before the event. Please contact me directly via email at Miller_tanya@comcast.net if you plan on attending. There will not be any regular business items as our group that night will be helping out the spring event committee on last minute tasks. April's meeting will also be taking place at night, so please read the next newsletter or watch for signs at school for details. Thank you to so many of you who have been attending the meetings this year.

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Tanya Miller. PVO President

Mexican Fiesta and Silent Auction THIS Saturday March 7!

Delicious Mexican buffet with hosted bar!

Salsa instructor and great music to get us all moving!

Raffle prizes: a Wii system, Garmin GPS, two bottles of reserve wine!

New MEGA Raffle: 30 PVO points for the 2009-2010 year!

Silent Auction includes: Fireboat ride, weekend stay at the Marriott, signed Giants baseball, sailing cruise and much more!

Turn in your RSVP and/or raffle tickets to the office or Anna Totah's mailbox - this is an event you don't want to miss!

Reminder: We are not set up for credit cards so please remember to bring your checkbooks for additional raffle tickets and silent auction bids!!



green corner

EARTH DAY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009

We can all feel good knowing that Lakeside teachers, administrators and parents work hard to be "green" in their decisions. A green audit this year has shown continued consciousness to order green supplies, be green with our waste, and make good earth friendly decisions. We can still do more individually, and with Earth Day approaching this may be the perfect time to assess our own green efforts. Consider the following suggestions as you celebrate Earth Day with your children:

- a fun Earth Day activity in the classroom or at home with the kids, is to assess the volume in the green, blue, and black bins/cans.
- consider a Waste Free day/week with your child's snacks or lunches by using reusable containers
- Earth Day is the perfect day to leave the car at home and walk with your children to school etc.
- start putting aside items which you could reuse for Earth Day crafts (e.g. thank you cards, newspapers, magazine clippings, card board boxes etc.)
- we have donations from "green" companies at the Fundraiser and you can bid on these items to make your home a greener place (e.g. reusable containers, toxin free cleaning items)
- complete your own home audit on green efforts (e.g. CFL light bulbs, recycled paper products, reusable containers, non toxic cleaning products, use of green/blue/black container etc.)

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