

Lakeside Center Dispatch

Letter from the Director

First, there was the jostling for point earning positions during the first days of school. Now there is the hustle to fulfill your parent participation requirement. So, with all of this, why doesn't Lakeside put the word co-op in its op. In addition to the parent participation requirement, a co-op has a parent governance component.

Lakeside's governing board is a church committee called the Children's Center Committee. Although it is representatives, this committee reports to the *final* authority - the church.

Therefore, the Parent Volunteer Organization (PVO) & the PVO board's function are to support the school's child's preschool experience. For example, the PVO co-sponsors the upcoming school field trip to Lemo's Friday, October 17. This trip is a Lakeside tradition. Plan to ride the big yellow bus with your child, I guarantee preschool memories.

And it is my hope that spending this day with your child, his or her friends, and teachers will whet your appetite. One parent has already told me that they are pleasantly surprised to find that they really enjoyed their first time understand that other schools will not welcome or invite their presence in the child's classroom on a regular the classroom because we believe in partnering with you to provide an enthusiastic introduction to formal

Partner with us by coming out to the Open House & Book Fair this Wednesday night on October 1st. Although no childcare is provided, most parents accomplish this by taking one child to the book fair while the other parent goes to the classroom at the appointed time. The Open House is an early opportunity to hear from your child's teachers.

So, until then, turn the page and read on to find out what else is happening at this vibrant community & school called Lakeside Presbyterian Center for Children.

- Caroline Bankhead

Key Dates in October (& Nov. 1)

Oct 1.....Open House and Book Fair

Oct 13.....Columbus Day
School Closed

Oct 17.....Pumpkin Patch Trip

Oct 28.....Halloween Party
(T/Th Classes)

Oct 29.....Halloween Party
(M/W/F Classes)

"Back-to-School Night" : Parent Meeting & Book Fair is October 1st:

Book Fair will be in the Social Hall from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Browse and buy to support Lakeside!
No childcare is available

Parent meetings will be as follows – please do not be late:

- Parents of children in the morning classes, meet at 6:30 PM in your child's classroom
- Parents of children in the afternoon classes, meet at 7:10 PM in your child's classroom
- Parents of children in the Kindergarten class, meet at 6:30 PM in your child's classroom

During October the books we read, the poems we recite and the stories we write will reflect a Halloween theme. It is a very exciting time for children and I like to capitalize on their high interest level. Our ABC "rap" will also have this holiday theme. The "rap" is a catchy alphabet song that reinforces letter recognition and rhyming words. October's rap is as follows:

ABCDE.....October is here for all to see
FGHIJ.....Halloween is on the way
KLMNO...Bats and witches are flying low
PQRST.....Let's pick a pumpkin or two or three
UVWXY..The days are colder, oh me oh my
ZZZZZ.....We love Fall, you and me

We have group writing opportunities on a regular basis during which I model and reinforce the writing process-the "Daily News." Each child has a turn to report his or her news which is written down and collated into a monthly book. Our writing center is a daily activity that is supplied with the materials to facilitate the children's independent work.

In math we will continue to explore manipulatives and begin to use them to explore concepts such as sequencing, patterning, graphing and classifying. I use the "magic envelope" which contains patterns the children are able to predict-proof of their inherent understanding of this underlying mathematical principle. Each child has been assessed for number concepts and I am introducing math games that allow each child to work at his or her appropriate level.

October is a busy month with many activities. Please check the school calendar so you will have the dates for Back-to-School Night/Book Fair and the pumpkin patch field trip. There will be no classes on Monday, Oct 13 in observance of Columbus Day.

There will be a class Halloween party, so look for the sign-up sheet posted on the wall as the time draws near. We will be making our own Halloween costumes at school to wear on Wednesday which will ensure that every child is included in the festivities. This allows you to keep their special Halloween costume intact and ready for trick-or-treating on the 31st. Halloween can be an exciting and overwhelming time of the year for some children. We try to keep each child's comfort level in mind during this season. If you have special concerns, please let me know.



Thank you for all the healthy snacks you have been bringing in for the children. After all our activities, the children have worked up a hunger and certainly enjoy your generous food and drink contributions.

In the morning, we encourage the kindergartners to take responsibility for putting their jackets and backpacks in their cubbies. Being responsible for their own things engenders independence and a sense of accomplishment. Thank you for giving them this opportunity to grow and feel good about themselves.

Please be sure to sign in and sign out on the attendance sheets. It is very important that we have your signature for your child's sake and for our liability

We are off to a great start. I hope that your child is eager to come to school and is feeling comfortable. I look forward to the challenges and discoveries ahead!

---- Molly Wardell

Now that the school year has begun, we have gotten a chance to get to know each child a little more every day. Through our theme of "Growing Together," engaging in activities such as the answering the Question of the Day and making portraits of themselves and our families, the children's personalities have shone through and have made this year's batch of Extended Care kids fun and exciting to work with.

Along with our great bunch of kids we also have great staff, who work at various times of the day to keep your children happy and safe. Melanie Turner and Michelle Dimapasoc are our two lead teachers alongside our caring and supportive teacher aides Alison, Sweelina, Jenny, Bonnie, Cindy, Jane, Mey, JeLisa and Laura. Parents, if you haven't gotten a chance to know our wonderful Extended Care staff, please drop in and say hi.

Our Extended Care program is designed to continuously teach and foster your children's growing development. Through exciting projects and activities our goal is to teach and familiarize the basic fundamentals they need in order to go on to Kindergarten. During the time your child spends in Extended Care, they will be given the opportunity to develop and build their literacy, social, emotional, and behavioral skills. We intend to provide these learning opportunities by doing activities and discussing topics that interest them.

As October approaches, we'll be working on Halloween projects. Using our fine motor skills, we'll be making Halloween bracelets and weaving pumpkin cut outs. We'll be making Glad Monster, Sad Monster masks to work on our social and emotional development. We'll also be learning about patterns when we make our Halloween borders for the bulletin board and our Halloween wreaths. We hope you visit our classroom to see these and other Halloween activities we're up to!

Please remember that space is limited in Extended Care. If you would like your child to participate in our Extended Care program, please check in with the office. If there are days in which you would like to drop in to Extended Care, please talk to Melanie or Michelle to see if there is room available to accommodate your child.

We offer pizza lunch every Tuesday and Friday. If you would like your child to participate in pizza lunches, please sign up no later than 10:00 am that day. For those children who are signed up for pizza lunches, we do ask parents to bring in supplementary snacks. Although we do serve pizza, we feel children who have hungry appetites need to not just fill themselves up with pizza but with other healthy snacks too. This will help them eat a balanced lunch.

We also want to acknowledge and thank all the wonderful and thoughtful parents who have brought snack for our A.M. and P.M. Extended Care programs. Bringing in healthy and nutritious snacks for our children helps them learn about and build healthy eating habits for later on. **REMINDERS:** Please take your child to the bathroom to use the toilet and wash hands before entering the classroom. Please sign your child in/out when you drop off/pick him or her up. Please write your child's name on all jackets/ extra clothing brought to school to help us keep track of your child's belongings.

--Melanie Turner, Michelle Dimapasoc and the rest of the Extended Care staff

NEWNEW**Lakeside's GREEN Corner*****

GREEN EFFORT UPDATE: Electronic Distribution of Newsletter

By January 2009, the newsletter and important announcements will be distributed via email. Please join Lakeside in its effort to save trees: Watch for instructions on how to sign up for email delivery of the newsletter and other announcements.

OCTOBER GREEN TIP: How do you compost a Halloween pumpkin?

First, add the "guts" and seeds to your green compost cart during your carving process. When you have finished enjoying your jack-o-lantern, remove all candles, wax, and other contaminants. You can throw the whole thing into your green cart, or break into smaller pieces to help the decomposition go a little faster.

Janelle L. White-Farinacci, Green Coordinator 2008-2009

jwhitesf@sbcglobal.net

Preparing for the Pumpkin Patch Trip

We're looking forward seeing Lakeside families at our annual Pumpkin Patch Trip to Lemo's Farm. The event will take place on **Friday, October 17**, so save the date and take a day off to have fun with your child on the pony rides, spooky train, hay rides, and other activities at the farm. Here is a checklist to help organize for the trip:

- J **Schedule Day Off** - There is only A.M. extended care on the 17th.
- J **Turn in sign up sheet** - Deadline is Monday, October 6
- J **Arrive on time** - Please be in your child's classroom by 8:30 a.m.
- J **Pack a lunch** - There will be a light snack for children, so bring a lunch for you and your child, or money to buy it at the farm.
- J

We will arrive at Lemo's Farm around 10:30 a.m. and families will get to "play" until our bus departure time of 12:15 p.m. There will be a picnic area set aside for when you wish to break for a snack or eat your lunch.

Any questions, please feel free to contact coordinators Mei Lau or Cristina Frazier.

Cristina: frazierc2001@yahoo.com

Mei: lau.inc@comcast.net



Pumpkin Patch Trip Forms Due Oct 6.

Happy Halloween!

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: October 24th!

Please submit your content via email to:
kerryadolan@yahoo.com

Halloween Tip

Halloween can be an exciting, entertaining time for your children, but Halloween events may cause them to be unduly scared, even traumatized. By understanding what your youngsters can cope with, you'll be able to prevent them from being scared out of a good time.

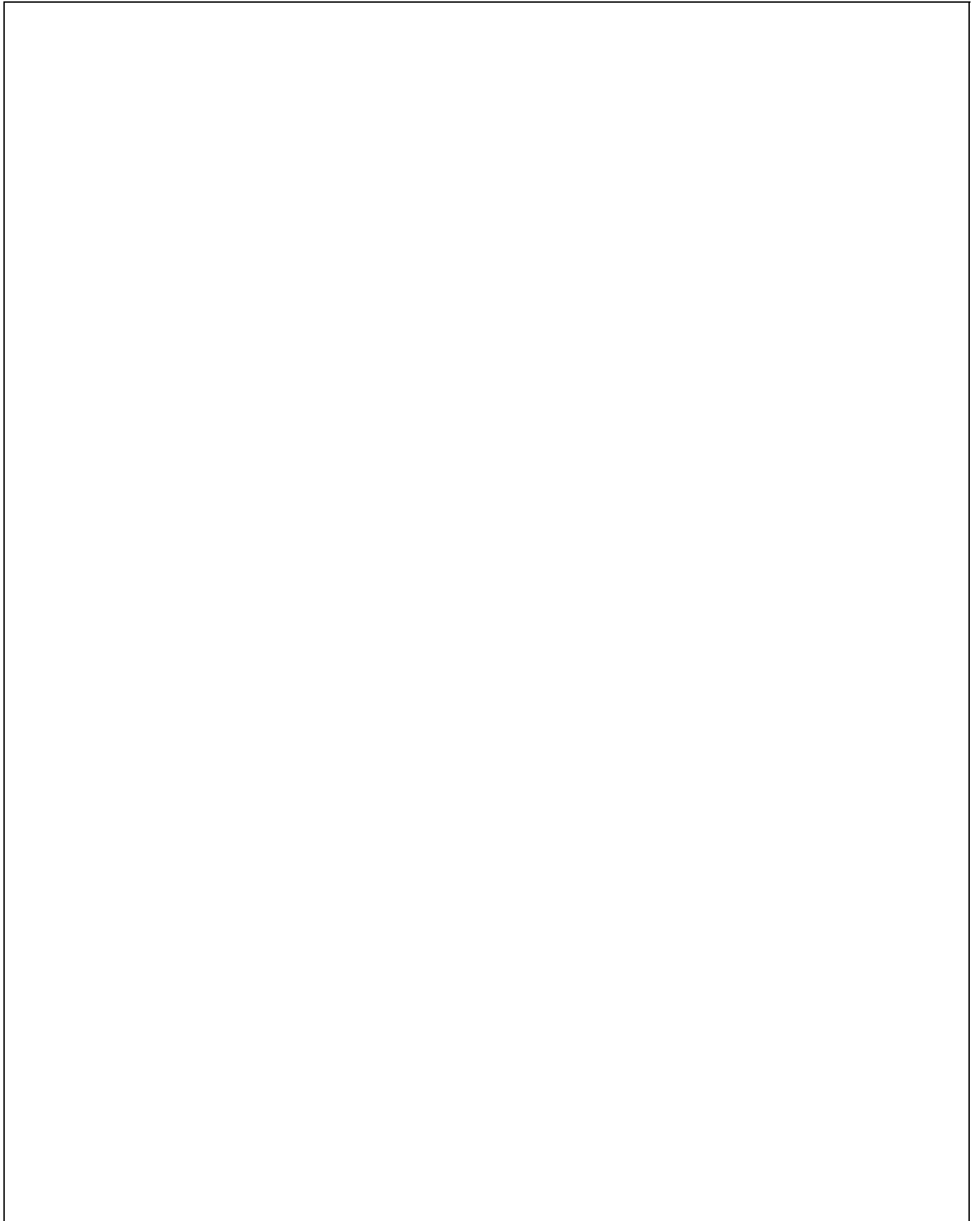
Preschoolers are unable to clearly distinguish between reality and fantasy. Even some children in the early elementary grades are still wrestling with this understanding. You may do your best to explain that ghouls and goblins are "pretend", but the costumed monsters that appear at your door can seem very real.

Frightening masks, costumes, and sounds can terrify children at this age, no matter how quickly the scary masks are removed to reveal friendly, familiar faces. Don't challenge your young kids to "stop being afraid" or make them feel ashamed about their fears. Halloween should be used to make them more emotionally mature.

Remember that your goal is to provide them with fun, not fear. There are many ways for your young children to enjoy Halloween. Just put yourself in their "emotional shoes" and then make plans for a great time.

-- Adapted from Carleton Kendrick, Ed.M., LCSW





Miss Michele, Ms Lupita & Miss Megan's Classes

Welcome to all our new and returning families! We have been in school for only 24 days and the children are already so adjusted to all the schedules, activities and routines of the day. All those first day tears have turned into smiles and all the quiet ones have opened up. Everyone seems to be having so much fun--making new friends, reconnecting with old ones and discovering new ideas. We are as always so amazed how much your children have already learned. We sing our greeting songs and calendar songs in English and Spanish along with learning colors in Spanish as well. They are already so eager to learn and have so much fun with anything new that we share with them.

We just wanted to take this opportunity to remind all of our families of a few important things as your child starts his/her day. Please always remember to have a complete change of clothes in your child's cubby as accidents do happen. Also please keep an extra jacket or sweatshirt in his/her cubby as our weather changes all the time. Please remember to label all of your child's clothes so that they do not get misplaced or lost. Please remember to sign your child IN AND OUT! We realize school has just started but please do not hesitate to come to us with any questions or concerns you might have. We will always make time to speak with you. We wish to Thank-you for all the wonderful snacks you have been bringing--the children especially like the fresh fruit, crackers, sandwiches, bagels, rice cakes and cut up cheddar cheese.

We have already been working on our ME book in both A.M. and P.M. classes--this will be an ongoing project that we will work on all year. In the P.M. we have started our Special Friend books--this is a special book just for your child--each and every child will eventually get one--it will be another ongoing project that will take all year. We have so enjoyed making them and look forward to making one for each child.

" Welcome to the circle whatever brought you here
and know your work is worthy, and know your heart is true
and know that all you give away will come circling back to you"

----Betsy Rose---

Miss Michele, Ms.Lupita, & Miss Megan

Ms. Lupita's PM Pre-K Class

Welcome to all our new and returning families!

August and September were very busy months. Our children are working very hard, busy getting to know one another and adjusting to the new classrooms and routine. We are always so amazed how much your children have already learned. We sing our greeting songs and calendar in English and Spanish.

We are working on our ABC books, the children are very excited and they are learning a lot. We are also working on a bilingual color book.

During October we'll continue with this activities and all of our Halloween excitement. The class will be learning songs and poems in English and Spanish and our month will be fill with Halloween art. We have group writing opportunities. We have a daily writing center full of markers, crayons, scissors and different papers. The children are happy learning new rhyming words, we are having so much fun!

Thank you for the nice snacks, remember we have 14 hungry children. I am looking forward to see you during open house and I really can't wait for our pumpkin patch. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Chika and I are so happy to be a part of your children's life.

Hasta pronto!
Ms. Lupita

PVO President's Note

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the first school year edition of the 2008-2009 PVO Newsletter. This newsletter comes out monthly and is a great way to keep up on dates and events that occur at Lakeside. A very big thank you to Kerry Dolan Button, who is now taking on her third year of producing this wonderful newsletter! We hope that you take the time to read through this every month, as it is one of the ways that the school and the PVO communicate with parents. We are excited to announce that we have plans to "go green" with the newsletter by January 2009. This means that the newsletter will come to you in an email format. You can already view it on Lakeside's website!

The year has gotten off to a great start and I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has already contributed a great deal of hard work. **Jeanne Connolly** worked diligently over the summer to produce our Lakeside bibles, the parent handbook. **Marie Robb** planned and hosted our first day's coffee, allowing parents to connect and re-connect with other parents. **Shelly Dunnigan** led the shirt sales. The ladybug shirts were such a big hit, I believe they may be sold out! **Lysa Lewin** once again got us started on the path to a very successful wrapping paper sale and **Noelle Williamson** has gathered all of our families' information and put together the buzz book. In addition to these endeavors, I also want to thank our director **Caroline Bankhead (Mrs. E)** along with **Tom Angsten**, **Kathleen Lunbeck**, **Janelle White**, and **Kerry Dolan Button** who have met to work on creating an email process for distributing this newsletter and updating Lakeside's website!

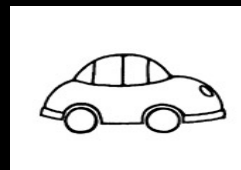
Lastly, I want to thank all of the parents for your help and support so far this year. We had a wonderful turnout at our first board meeting and I have had many parents approach me on ways they can contribute. Whether you are helping with an event or bringing a snack, all of these endeavors are what make Lakeside's parent participation program one of a kind. Be sure to keep your eyes open for upcoming information on the spring event and other fundraisers in the newsletter and at school-we are going to have a very fun year.

See you in the halls!

Tanya Miller, PVO President

SPRING FUNDRAISER

Planning for the highly anticipated Spring Auction is underway. Details will be revealed soon! Get in on the action: Join a sub-committee and earn points! Sign-up sheet on the PVO Board. –Sonali Herrera



VROOM...Start Your Engines...
The Annual Drive starts this month!
Help us achieve 100% participation &
support our wonderful school. Watch
your mailbox for information.