



Augustana Preschool

January

From The Director

Dear Parents and Kids,
Welcome back to school
I hope that you had a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends.

I am excited to be back for the second half of our school year. The time goes so fast!!!

I would like to update you on Augustana Preschool's status on achieving Accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). We have successfully completed the formal application process (Step 2) and this marks our program's formal commitment to

pursue NAEYC Accreditation. The information gathered in self-study (Step 1) was used to gather information for the application.

We must now prepare for Step 3—Candidacy. This involves completing a formal self-assessment specifically targeting the 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards; relationships, curriculum, teaching, assessment of child progress, health, teachers, families, community relationships, physical environment and leadership and management.

This will include involvement of teaching staff, program families, administration and the Preschool Committee. In the next two months, parents will be asked to complete a survey. I hope that you will take the time to share your thoughts and opinions. Your input is essential to the process; we have already made some program changes in response to the survey from last school year.

Let me know if you have any questions about the process.

Happy Winter!

Julie Leslie

Augustana Lutheran Church

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January Birthdays

Abby Schumacher

Samuel Langlois

January 1/2 Birthdays

Marisa Stickler, Matthew Kuefler, Grace Klimisch, Bryce Krajniak, Hayden Zeleny, Jacob Olson, Mamisa Harris.



Registration for Fall 2008

Preschool brochures for the 2008-09 school year will be mailed to your home in the next week. Registration begins February 1st for church members and

returning families and February 15th for all others.

Our schedule will remain the same with MWF mornings and afternoons for 4 and 5's,

and TTh mornings for 3's. A \$45 non-refundable fee must accompany the completed applications.

Please contact a staff member with questions.



Teachers' Corner—Mrs. Collins

Happy New Year. The older I get, the more I realize how fast time goes. My son, Sean, is a senior and is waiting to hear from the colleges he has applied to. He will more than likely study something in the math and science field, engineering or chemistry, or biology. I often think about how he became so good at math and science and I give myself and my husband some of the credit. Why you ask? We spent a lot of time when he was younger playing board games, cards, and reading books. Board games with a preschooler can be difficult but make it simple. Start by exploring the game board and game pieces, talk

about the colors, the shapes, the pictures. That may be how you "play" the games for a while. Next, play the game using rules. Again, they may not be the actual rules but basic rules of play. Card games are a great way to learn math skills and they can be a quick game or a longer game. Use any kind of card, purchased card games, a basic deck of cards, picture cards, you get the idea. Count items on the card, count the cards, match numbers or pictures, play the actual games. Card games are great for introducing math skills.

Reading to your preschooler is also very important. Look at the pictures,

talk about what you see, read the words or let them "read" to you. I am a big fan of story time at local libraries or bookstores, and at bedtime. Who knows, maybe all those games and books will help my son or your child become the next Bill Gates!

January will be a cold month in our classroom. We will be learning about ice, the library, the color white, and snow sports. We do plan to go outside as much as possible this month and we will be bringing out the sleds!!! Good health and happiness in 2008.

Teri

Special Kids

We learned about some special children in December; Joshua Klint, Phoebe Leduc, Anne Monroe, Samuel Langlois, Dianette Moore, Croix Raney, Oscar Holm, Lucy Linnihan and Kayla Matuzak. Thank you for sharing your stories and pictures. You are special!

Thank You

To the generous families who donated over 200 items to Augustana's Food shelf!

A special thanks to the parents who brought the delicious treats for our concerts.

Thanks to Katie Colby-Newton, Sandy Wicklund, and Donna Ar-

riondo who read to us during resource center in December. Thank you to Greg Zeleny for visiting our 3's and teaching us about exercise.

There is no school on Monday, January 21 and Friday, January 25.

Winter

Please bring boots, snowpants, hat and mittens to school each day. We may not go out every day, but like to have that option. We will not go outside when the temperature is below zero. Keep practicing getting dressed for outdoors at home. Please label all items. Thanks.

Congratulations

To Anne Monroe on the birth of her new brother, Brendan. Best wishes to Mike and Mary and big sister Francis. He is a keeper.

Resource Center books are due back to preschool by January 15th. Please bring it in your bag.

Buckle Up

Please be sure that your children are safely secured in the car when you are bringing them to school and anywhere else. This is very important and while some children may not want to buckle up, IT IS A MUST! Thanks for your assistance in this matter.