



**Buffalo United Methodist Preschool**  
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# February Newsletter

## February Theme

We will be "feelin' the love" in February as we gear up for the friendship and fun of Valentine's Day! Our love for family, friends, God and our world will be emphasized through our activities, games, songs, crafts, and room décor---culminating in a Valentine's Party on Feb. 13 (4/5 class) and Feb. 14 (3/4 class). We will decorate Valentine bags in school, and then on the party day your child should bring Valentines for everyone in his/her class. (17 in the 4/5 class and 12 in the 3s). Each child gets to "mail" their Valentines in their friends' "mailboxes", so the easiest way is to have your child sign his/her own name, but not to write the friend's name on each Valentine (unless they truly can read the other names). And I would encourage you to prepare ahead, so your child has plenty of time to sign them herself/himself. By doing a few a day, your child can manage this task more easily. If their whole first name is a challenge, be sure they are at least writing the first letter.

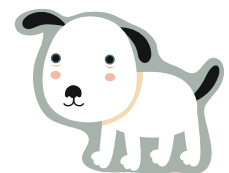
The last two weeks of the month we will have goofy fun with Dr. Seuss, culminating with his birthday the beginning of March. Check your calendar for special days of wearing clothes backwards/inside out, crazy socks and jammies! And plan now to dig out your Dr. Seuss books at home! The kids love hearing these stories over and over (even though adults don't always love reading these tongue twisting tales!!) We get lots of practice with rhyming during these two weeks.

## Second Step Curriculum

We are so impressed with the preschoolers embracing and practicing their Second Step lessons!

For the parents of threes, the informative home video is being circulated through all the families, so it will be coming your way soon. Second Step is a great curriculum, and hopefully we are laying early groundwork for anti-bullying behavior. The follow-up you do from the information in those blue letters truly enhances and reinforces what we are teaching.

Ask your child who Impulsive Puppy and Be-Calm Bunny are!



## Registering for 2012-13

It's that time of the year when we start to think about next year!

We offer our current families and BUMC members first chance at enrolling for 2012-13 during the month of February, and then follow with open registration in March. We will have an Open House on March 4 for the community so that others can see our great facility and talk to the staff.

Enclosed in today's folder you will find two registration forms. If you do not have preschool needs for next year, please pass the materials on to a friend, and be sure to tell them about our open house on March 4 from 2-4:30.

**YOU** are our best advertisement, so to show our appreciation we will waive your \$40 registration fee for next year and offer half off registration to any family you refer who enrolls. We also offer any family with two preschoolers a 10% tuition discount on the second. Your Preschool Advisory Board recommended a \$5.00 increase in tuition for next year, the first increase in five years of operation. Our registration fee of \$40 will not change.

## Show & Tell for 3's

Show and Tell begins for the 3s the second week of February! This valuable activity enhances vocabulary and sentence development, listening skills, attentiveness, and self-confidence.



At home your job is to help your child choose ONE item to bring, and to practice some things to say, such as why they brought the item, where they got it, where they keep it at home, why they like it, etc. The item is returned to their backpack after showing, so let them know we won't be playing with their items here at preschool.

Each Tuesday the girls will have Show and Tell time, and each Thursday the boys will have Show and Tell time. If they forget to bring something and are upset by it, we let them choose something in the room to share.



February 26 Ciara  
February 26 Josiah

## Kid-Fit

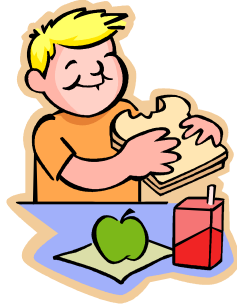
Our intentional p.e. program was launched in January and we are excited! Jill from Kid-Fit came in with lots of energy, equipment, music and lessons on the heart. We moved and grooved for 30 minutes each day and really had our hearts thumpin'! She will continue to be here every other week as you can see on your calendar, with lessons and activities on heart and then muscles in February. We were all very hot after our workout, so I would suggest layered clothing on the p.e. days so the kids can take off some clothing and not get so overheated. We are thankful to Allina Systems for the grant money to provide this healthy activity for our children this school year. It shows the community effort to help educate our youth at a young age toward healthier lifestyles.



## Lunch Bunch

We had a wonderful first month of Thursday Lunch Bunch with the 3s!

You sent excellent lunches, the children ate so well and so politely, and Mrs. Hartke loved having the time to extend their learning through board games, memory activities, flannel board stories, and games.



Please know that you have the option to have your child join each month, and the fee is \$25 added to your monthly tuition.

The daily Lunch Bunch for the 4/5s continues wonderfully as well. You also have the option to have your children join monthly. Tuition is \$200 for the 9-1 class.

## Class Composite

Our preschool is choosing to gift the Class Composite to you rather than charging for it, as I know the individual pictures were a bit high priced. I am considering a different photographer for next year, so I would appreciate any feedback from this year and also any names of photographers who you would recommend. I also am checking new places for printing our logo clothing, so I would appreciate any ideas there as well. Just jot a note and stick it in your child's folder or send an email. Thanks for the help!

## Quote of the Month

*"Upon the subject of education, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in." Abraham Lincoln*

## Attendance & Health



Thanks for calling/emailing when your child is home sick. We have had a lot of children with colds and coughs, so please continue to diligently hand wash with soap and catch those sneezes and coughs in that "secret spot" (crook of the arm) to keep germs from spreading.

We are thankful to the Senior High Youth who sanitized our facility and many toys over winter break as a service project, which added to our attempts to keep things germ free. The healthy snacks you send (table ready, please)---especially fruits, veggies, and 100% juice---continue to help ward off colds and illness. Remember, good exercise and plenty of rest are also crucial to keeping us all healthy.

## Parenting Tip

**"10 Rules to Follow When Raising Kids"**  
(taken from the January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 issue of the Star Tribune)

1. **Follow your heart.** Children sense when adults are being sincere. And you'll model for your children how to communicate honestly.
2. **Appreciate each child's strengths and respect limits.** All children have intrinsic worth and special qualities. Similarly, each child has abilities in some areas and challenges in others. Our job is to encourage them to stretch within safe and acceptable boundaries.

**BUMPreschool will share two each month.**