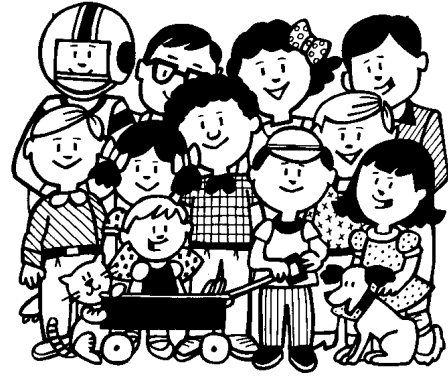


YELLOW SCHOOL NEWS



Yellow School at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
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November 2016

There will be wonderful aromas coming from the kitchen during November. Roasting pumpkin seeds, homemade cornbread, pumpkin muffins, harvest soup and a Thanksgiving Feast give the children opportunities to plan, measure, predict and see how heat changes liquids and solids. Lots of yummy science and math!

Election Day is approaching and many of the children have been discussing the voting process. We vote for various things in all our classes – what shape eyes to cut in the jack o' lantern, what shape crackers to have, etc. so the children can understand the voting process.

You may see some scarecrows around the school as the children continue learning about how things grow and the best ways to keep them growing.

At this time of year many of our songs describe Thanksgiving dinners and turkeys. The children will be learning a turkey dance – always lots of fun!

We will all be talking about the things for which we are thankful and

learn a bit about the historical roots of Thanksgiving.

You may want to reinforce some of that history by visiting the **PILGRIM FESTIVAL** at First Congregational Church on Saturday, November 19 from 10:00 noon to 4:00PM. The church is located on Beinhorn (at the corner of Brogden) near Voss and I-10. This celebration of our Pilgrim heritage will include games, crafts, a demonstration of Pilgrim artifacts, a petting zoo, food and more! It is lots of fun for the whole family.

FIELD TRIP: On Wednesday, November 16, the Pre-K's and the afternoon class will visit Rice Epicurean Market on Fountainview. While there, they will shop for food to cook for their Thanksgiving feast (Friday, Nov. 18).

Note: Everyone in the afternoon class will come to school in the morning on feast day to complete preparations and enjoy the fruits of their labors.

REMEMBER:

One of these days, the weather will cool off and the playground will be chilly especially in the morning...we hope! PLEASE make sure your child has a jacket, warm sweater or sweatshirt to wear.



Also, please make sure everything has your child's name on it.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARING!!

At this time of the year, as we give thanks for our many blessings, we have some wonderful opportunities to help us teach our children the joy of sharing with those less fortunate.

The kindergarten will be having its annual **Food Drive** on Nov. 18; the children will be making and sending home flyers to all the classes asking for food for the drive. All food collected will be sorted and counted and then taken to the church food pantry for distribution. Watch for your flyer!

The pantry will also distribute books to children, so please go through your **children's books** at home and consider donating some. You may send books to school at any time. This collection is ongoing throughout the year.

Each year, **Settegast Heights**, a low-income housing project, hosts a **Christmas** party for their residents. You may choose a child and purchase a gift and a book for your child. Most of the children whose names we have are babies up to 6 years old. See Naomi or Shonda for more information.

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

Holiday time is a great time to enjoy music with your children. Don't forget the Nutcracker Ballet and the Houston Symphony Family Concerts.

Here at the church, **MDPC'S Family Christmas Festival** will be held on Sunday, December 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. There will be lots of fun advent crafts and dinner. Bring the family. It's a great addition to the Advent Season.

SOME FAVORITE RECIPES

YELLOW SCHOOL PUMPKIN MUFFINS

Mix all together:

- 1-1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup pumpkin
- 1-1/2 tsp. cinnamon



Pour into greased baking muffin pans or loaf. BAKE at 350 degrees for approximately 20 minutes. Yield: 40 mini-muffins, 12 large muffins or 1 loaf.

PUMPKIN CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 2 c. flour | 1 c. brown sugar |
| 1 c. oatmeal | 1 t. baking soda |
| 1 tsp. cinnamon | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| 1 c. margarine | 1 beaten egg |
| 1 t. vanilla | 1 c. pumpkin |
| 1 c. chocolate chips | |

Mix all ingredients, alternating wet and dry. Bake at 350 for 20 to 25 minutes.

PLAYDOUGH (Don't eat this!)

2-1/2 cup flour
1/2 cup salt
6 tsp. cream of tartar
2 1/2 cups water
3 TBSP. cooking oil
Food coloring or dry tempera

Mix all ingredients and cook, stirring constantly, until the consistency of dry, mashed potatoes. Remove from heat, cool and knead until smooth. (Paste food coloring results in the strongest colors.) Keep in ziplock bag; squeeze out the air.)

CHILDREN'S FAVORITE HOLIDAY SONGS

I'm a Very Fine Turkey

I'm a very fine turkey and I sing a fine song, "Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble,"
I strut around the barnyard all the day long and my head goes bobble, bobble, bobble!

The Pumpkin Rolled Away

The pumpkin rolled away
Before Thanksgiving Day
Said he, "They'll make a pie out of me if I decide to stay."

The turkey ran away
Before Thanksgiving Day
Said she, "They'll make a roast out of me if I decide to stay."

The cranberry rolled away
Before Thanksgiving Day.

Said he, "They'll make a sauce out of me if I decide to stay."

CALENDAR

Nov. 1, 3, 15, 17- Chapel
Nov. 1,3 – Grandpas
Nov. 6 – **Daylight Savings Time ends**
Nov. 12 – Women's Spiritual Retreat see MDPC website for more info
Nov. 13 – Pre-k and kinder children sing at church at 11:15 service
Nov. 14 – visit from the mounted police
Nov. 16 Field Trip to Grocery store
Nov. 18 – Food Drive
Nov. 19 - Pilgrim Festival at First Congregational Church, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Nov. 23-25 – School closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov. 28 - School resumes
Dec. 6 – pre-ks and kinders sing at the Annual Women's Christmas Party at church. Plan on attending!

BRICKS

Don't miss out on the opportunity to have your brick in the next group of commemorative bricks to be laid at the Yellow School. The children love to find their names on the walkway and it is a great way to help the school. Send your form back NOW!

CHAPEL CHAT

We are so happy to have the opportunity to share God's word with your children throughout the year in Chapel Time! During November, we are studying about Daniel and Jonah from the books of Daniel and Jonah. We are learning to listen to what God says, Psalm 85:8. We will begin the Advent story towards the end of the

month. At this season of Thanksgiving, we are grateful that we get to spend time with your children. Thank you for sharing them with us!

Becky Funderburk (aka Miss Becky)

PARENTING TIPS

Fine Motor Development

means, to many people, the way a child holds and uses pencils, crayons and scissors. It is actually much more and, to understand fine motor development, it is important to understand how the body develops.

Human development progresses from the head down and from the trunk outward. The torso and shoulders develop long before the elbows, the hips before the knees, etc. Skilled use of the hands and fingers is the last thing in a long process of development.

Fine motor skills develop as the children have opportunities to practice movements by doing activities such as:

- Roll out playdough with a rolling pin, both with hands positioned on top of the handles and under the handles.
- Play with clay (takes more effort than playdough, but provides good results.)
- Dribble a ball; practice counting at the same time.
- Stand with feet about 6 to 12 inches from a wall. Place palms flat on the wall. Bend at the elbows and move face towards wall. Push back out. Repeat and practice counting while doing it.

- Screw nuts onto matching bolts. Use various sizes beginning with large ones and moving on to small ones.
- Use water misters (the trigger type) to water plants and/or to play with in the bathtub.
- Use kitchen tongs to pick up and sort objects such as small cars and large legos. As child becomes more proficient, switch to tweezers and smaller items such as beans, cereal, M&Ms.
- Play with toys such as legos and Tinker Toys.
- Use hole punches to punch holes in scrap paper. Make confetti.
- Play board games that have small pieces that must be grasped and moved.
- Practice cutting straight, zig zag and curved lines.
- Wring out rags (a good bathtime activity.)
- Tear strips of paper to use in art projects.
- Wind up toys.
- Put coins or buttons in a "bank". Count as you do it.
- Manipulate clothespins.
- Draw/write with chalk, pencils and crayons – NOT markers.
- Carry full laundry baskets and/or food bags from the grocery store.

Fun activities such as these are better than tasks at which a child might "fail" or those that are very repetitive. Through these kind of fun, natural activities children improve their fine motor without frustration or boredom.