

**LENEXA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PRESCHOOL/CDO NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2020**

The curriculum this month will focus on the joy of sharing love and friendship with our family and friends. As we make and exchange valentines, we will enjoy the warm and wonderful feelings that Valentine's Day brings us. Each and every day my heart is touched by the love I see being shared and expressed here in our school. We are truly blessed to be a part of this vibrant Christian community that is committed to nurturing children. I hope your heart will be touched by the love you see in our classrooms and halls too. Happy Valentine's Day!

Ms. Lori

SCHOOL CLOSING

LUMC Preschool and CDO will be closed on Monday, February 17th, for President's Day.

FEBRUARY DATES

T-K Songfest – Feb. 12th

3-Year-Old Preschool Songfest – Feb. 13th

NO SCHOOL – Feb. 17 – President's Day

COLD AND FLU SEASON

With cold and flu season in full swing, we are making a concerted effort to keep our school environment germ free and need your help. Please don't send your child to school when they aren't feeling well or displaying symptoms of illness. We would appreciate your not taking a chance of exposing the whole class and the staff. Additionally, please teach your child to cough/sneeze into their elbow, wipe their noses with a tissue and throw the tissue away themselves, and wash their hands after doing so. Helping children learn healthy habits is a "team effort". It pays dividends when we teach the same habits at school and home.

VALENTINE SONG

J - E - S - U - S (sung to the tune of "Bingo")

There is a man who loves us all

And Jesus is his name – OH

J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S

And Jesus is his name – OH

Fun ideas for sharing love and developing connections with your child:

1. Spend a little time each day playing entirely at your child's direction.
2. Write a love note (or draw a love picture) and leave on your child's mirror, dresser, etc. for them to discover when they wake up!
3. Talk in the car on the way to/from school instead of watching a DVD.
4. Use magnetic letters to put loving messages on the fridge.
5. Send your child a card in the mail with stickers inside for a surprise.
6. Teach them the universal sign for "I love you". Use it with each other often.
7. Develop a secret gesture only the two of you know the meaning of.
8. Give your child a foot massage.
9. Run fingers through your child's hair.
10. Spend an afternoon cooking or baking together.
11. Do a floor puzzle together.
12. Find a preschool appropriate board game and schedule regular "family game time" into your day/week.
13. Say it, say it, say it, say it, say it. Children (and adults) never tire of hearing how much they are loved!!!!!! Happy Valentine's Day!

FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE

Mark your calendars for our festive Father/Daughter Dance on March 7 from 6:00-7:00 pm, at LUMC. More details will come home via backpacks and in upcoming newsletters. Get your dancing shoes on and get ready to ROCK! 😊

PARENT/CHILD LITERACY BAGS

We are so happy that many of you are checking out and enjoying the literacy bags in your homes! So, all may continue to do so, please remember to use the books and items in the bag with parental supervision only. We also ask that you keep the bags only a few days at a time. Please check that everything on the tag comes back with the bag, and if something is missing let us know in the preschool office. If you find something after the fact no problem, we LOVE to have lost items returned at any time! Keep reading and having fun with the bags!

SAFETY REMINDERS

Please refrain from opening the door to people who don't have our school code. If you encounter that situation, please alert a staff member or someone in the office before allowing them to enter. Also, please do not hold the door open for those behind you unless you know them to be a preschool or CDO parent. Thanks for your cooperation in limiting easy entry for anyone who doesn't possess the school code.

What's Gone

This is one of my favorite games for indoor play with preschoolers: Place 4-6 objects on the table/floor in front of your child. Verbally say the name of each object together. Have your child close his/her eyes, then remove one of the objects. Ask your child to name the object that is gone. You can make it more challenging by adding more objects, removing more than one, etc. Be sure to take a turn also and have your child remove an object for you – kids love doing it for parents! To increase vocabulary, try doing this with objects in your home your child is not familiar with. This is a fun, easy learning game – Enjoy!

PRESCHOOL MUSIC AND MOVEMENT NEWS

Love is in the air! Your little ones will be singing about the greatest gift we all can give, LOVE! Ask your kiddos if they can spell the word “heart” for you and how many eyes and ears a teddy bear has. T-K and 3-year-olds will delight their parents with silly and sweet songs at their songfests this month. (Raise your hand if you remember “Skidamarink”!) We will end February focusing on reptiles and amphibians as we sing about dinosaurs, frogs, and even boa constrictors!

T-K NEWS

We have been very busy working on recognizing, writing and sounding out letters and counting/clapping out the number of syllables in a word. We have been learning to recognize numbers 1-20 and we practice writing our letters and numbers in the air! This month we will study Rainbows...why are there rainbows, what colors make up a rainbow and we will even try to make a rainbow in our classroom! The T-K Songfest is February 12th at 9:15/12:30 in the Wesley Room. February 14th is Valentine’s Day and during this month we will be making cards for our family and classmates. We will also be playing post office and learning how to address and mail a letter. During the last part of February will talk about fairy tales (with rhyming words), continue journaling and working on our fine motor skills.

PRE-K NEWS

As we move into February, we will learn about the mail system from beginning to end. The children will be encouraged to role play as mail carriers in our classroom post office. We will also be creating a special Valentine while practicing cutting hearts. The children will learn about the concept of “Half” and “Whole” using hearts. We will then be learning about healthy hearts and healthy teeth. It is such a wonderful learning experience for our students when our dramatic play area is turned into a hospital! Number recognition, counting, sorting, patterning, and 1 to 1 correspondence are a few activities we will be doing with conversation hearts. We will end the month exploring dinosaurs and their habitat by making a diorama.

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY ENRICHMENT

February may be a short month, but we have it jam packed with tons of fun! We will start the month learning about taking care of our teeth! We have an experiment planned where students will get to see the power of toothpaste and teeth brushing! We will have a week of friendship, love and hearts as we celebrate Valentine's Day! We can't wait to make conversation hearts dance and create a love bug. During the last two weeks we will learn about the Post Office! We have a fun project planned with post cards. Just a reminder, if your child is in enrichment two or more days a week please send a toothbrush in a baggie in their backpack to brush his/her teeth after lunch. Thank you!

3-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL NEWS

Love is certainly in the air in our three-year-old classrooms this month. Our kitchen areas will be turned into post offices complete with uniforms, mail carrier bags, scales, stamps, packages & letters for mailing, and mailboxes. We will construct our own Valentines for our families that are sure to become a family treasure! The children will decorate Valentine sacks with a variety of media choices, among them a favorite, marble painting. Before class and during free choice time on Thursday, February 13th, we will bring Valentines from home to give to our classmates. No need to address them to specific children unless they are gender specific. Since our preschoolers will distribute their own Valentines, it is much easier to leave the envelopes blank. Thank you! Our Songfests with Ms. Sommer will be on Thursday, February 13th. You will receive information on the specific time assigned to your child's class. This performance only lasts about 10 minutes so DON'T BE LATE or you will miss it! Bring your video cameras as you will want to view this with your child over and over again! It is a favorite event! Feel free to invite grandparents or extended family. We will have another songfest on the last day of school. Towards the end of the month we will talk about Dr. Seuss and learn about nutrition and have a center set up for doctor and dental health.

TUESDAY/THURSDAY ENRICHMENT

February will be a fun-filled month as we celebrate Valentine's Day and use heart shapes in our art projects. We will mix colors and talk about the properties of magnets when we make magnetic marble painted hearts. We spend time this month talking about pets, what they teach us, and how to help take care of them. To finish the month, we will make spin art kites. Spin art is always one of Enrichment's favorite art activities and is another fun way to talk about what happens when we mix colors. As always, we are having a lot of fun with your children. Thank you for sharing them with us!

TODDLER NEWS

Our shape this month is the heart. We will be finger painting with red and white paint to make pink Valentine hearts and at circle time we will be counting heart shapes on the felt board. Throughout the month we will be having fun with zoo animals and singing songs about monkeys and alligators. Just a reminder to be sure everything is labeled that is brought to school (backpacks, coats, lunch box, cups, blankets, stuffed animals, etc.) If you are working on potty training be sure you send them in clothes that are easy for them to pull down and pull up and plenty of extra clothes in case of accidents. Thank you!

OLDER 2'S AND 3'S CDO NEWS

It's hard to believe that it is already February. Time flies when you have as much fun as we do. It's amazing to see the growth that has taken place so far. We love seeing the kids grow and become more confident and social.

Our activities this month include:

*Community Helpers –especially the mail people since we will be delivering mail (our valentines) the next week.

*Valentines - During this week we will decorate valentine bags and deliver valentines to all our friends. More details will come home soon.

*Dental health and a pet vet

*Construction –Let's get building!

Our shape this month is a heart –of course! Our colors will be pink and purple. We hope you enjoy this fun time of year and take advantage of giving your kids lots of hugs and kisses!

FANTASTIC FRIDAYS

This month we will start by finishing our space unit. We will have fun navigating the universe as we learn all about the planets. The finale will include watching Jupiter Fizzle with a fun science experiment. We will then move on to Valentines and fairy tales. The Three Billy Goats Gruff is always a fun favorite! The children will retell the story with the use of character, setting, and sequence skills. And last, but certainly not least, the ever-popular Dinosaur unit. (my favorite too :) There will be Dino's in lava, egg excavation, dinosaur silhouette painting and much more. It's sure to be a fun month!