

March, 2016

Thank you all for making our classroom parties for Valentine's Day so fun and festive. The children were overwhelmed with the amount of cards and goodies they received.

You may have noticed how many children seem to be hanging around our 4-year-old classrooms. Preschoolers are everywhere. Body pictures are one of our most industrious projects of our year. Creating a life-size image of yourself provides a lot of learning activities and language development. Children build strength in small fingers and hands by painting and cutting, free artistic expression is a positive emotional release, vocabulary increases when we compare and contrast size, weight, hair length and color, eye color and clothing styles, affirmation of individual differences and group similarities becomes a great self-awareness and multi-cultural activity and our self-concept and self-esteem is nourished, as well as, good nutrition and healthy habits are learned as we discuss how much we have changed since we were born.

March is Dr. Seuss's birthday, so we will be reading lots of his stories and eating Green Eggs & Ham for snack! Parents will be coming in to read some of the Dr.'s favorite stories. Since it is also National Nutrition Month, we begin our lessons on the "My Plate". (Hopefully all the Valentine candy is eaten with mom & dad's help!) Eat right, exercise & have fun!

With Easter coming so early this year March has turned into a pretty busy month! Pizza for Lunch Bunch will be on Thursdays & Fridays, only beginning March 3 & 4. Our 4-year old classrooms & pre K will be heading to the Stater Bros. Market on Mary Street for a "behind the scenes" tour of stock rooms, refrigerator cases, freezers, bakery, meat department, box compactor & loading dock. All the places mom & dad never get to go! Next Mrs. Lani will be here to make hand print plaques - a great Mother's Day Gift, DAD! Then Lucky the Leprechaun' will be up to his old mischief, messing up our rooms & leaving gold nuggets in our sand. Keep a watchful eye out for him cause he's tricky!

With not much time to get ready for Easter & hunt for eggs, our parties & parades will be on Thursday & Friday, March 24 & 25 and we will head into Spring with "Diary of a Worm" & "Buzzy Bees" presentations from The Discovery Science Foundation.

Happy Easter,

Lee Ann Salmon

Fall Registration begins Tuesday, March 1st.

We have tried to register everyone already at FUMPS & now we open up to our waiting list. If you haven't registered or know someone whom wants to, please pick up paperwork from the office as we are filling up fast. Thank you for all your siblings, relatives, neighbors, friends & referrals!

The contents of packed lunches has surely changed in the 30 years I have been at FUMPS! We used to tell children to please eat their sandwiches before they ate their cookies. Now I hear teachers saying that humus looks good or you ate all your okra - good job! One thing we all still seem to enjoy is a good pizza so "Pizza for Lunch Bunch" will begin Thursday & Friday, March 3 & 4 and is **offered only on Thursdays & Fridays** until our last Lunch Bunch on May 20th. For \$8.00 children can stay for Lunch Bunch and get two slices of pizza (one cheese & one pepperoni), a glass of milk and a piece of fruit. Children may still bring your own packed lunches for Lunch Bunch. If you are staying for pizza, please write "PIZZA" on the Lunch Bunch column of the day's sign-in sheet. Thanks. The \$6.00 Lunch Bunch fee, as well as the additional \$2.00 for Pizza can still be paid with next month's tuition payment. **ENJOY!!!**

March's Calendar:

- 1 Fall Registration Begins
See's Easter Candy Fundraiser Begins
- 3 Dr. Seuss's Birthday
- 3 & 4 Pizza for Lunch Bunch Begins
- 7 & 8 Fire Drills, "Stop, Drop & Roll", "911" & "Duck & Cover"
- 9 & 10 4's & Pre K Field Trip to the Stater Bros. Market on Mary St.
- 14 See's Easter Candy Fundraiser Orders Due this Week
- 14 & 15 Hand Print Plaques @ 9:00 a.m.
A Great Mother's/Grandmother's Day Gift!
- 15 & 16 Open House Planning Meeting 9:15 in the Child Care Room
- 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day "Lucky the Leprechaun" Mischief
- 20 Palm Sunday
- 22 & 23 Easter Egg Hunts
- 24 & 25 Easter Parties & Parades @ 11:30 on the Youth Patio
-No Lunch Bunch on Parade Days-
- 27 Happy Easter
- 30 "Diary of a Worm"
- 31 "Buzzy Bees"

April

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 4 - 8 Spring Vacation/Preschool Closed - HAVE FUN!**

Happy March Birthdays

Caring Caterpillar	Sunny Sunflower		
Ace	3/31	Bonnie	3/3
Cute Kittens	Lucky Ladybugs		
Mariah	3/2	Steven	3/5
		Kenzie	3/10
Mrs. Musarra	3/13	Kyle	3/10

Birthday

A birthday is a special thing

*With cards & gifts and songs to sing;
A cake with candles all about
And wishes when you blow them out;
And one more year of standing tall
To add a mark upon the wall;
A day of extra special fun
To dream about when it is done.*
Margaret Hillert

So Many To Thank and So Little Space . . .

Special thanks to Mrs. Linda Pinnell from the Elks Vision Screening Project for her patience & dedication. Linda has been screening children for more than 36 years for Amblyopia. Getting to play the “Pirate Game”, wearing an eye patch and earning a sticker are all part of the fun she creates. If your child received a referral, please do follow through with a check-up. “Lazy Eye” caught before age five can be completely corrected. We’ve also discovered that behavior can improve dramatically when a child no longer has to struggle to see. The Elk’s can help financially with eye doctor visits & purchasing glasses, so please give Linda a call if you need assistance. The Elk’s also collect old glasses. If you have a pair bring them to us and we will make sure they get recycled.

To Happy Owls **Tessa & dad Chad** for getting us a brand new drinking fountain for our classroom & installing it in record time! It’s easy to push, squirts at just the right height & is all shiny & pretty! To **Felix & proud, grandpa Dentist Dr. Lee**, for teaching us how to keep our teeth bright & sparkly clean & providing each preschooler with a neat little pencil bag filled with a toothbrush, toothpaste & floss!

To Caring Caterpillars **Mrs. Setlik’s dad** for supplying us year-after-year with enough plastic sheeting to cover our fence for snow days! To **Ronald Andrew & mom Elena** for the yummy bananas & crispy apples for snack! So healthy & we like both!

To Cute Kitten **Levi & mom Elizabeth** for the 2 HUGE boxes of Goldfish crackers & the package of letter bags. To **Sadie & mom Tina** for the very tasty & different orange grapefruits for snack.

To Busy Bee **Nixon’s** cousin, graduated preschooler **Brad** for the entire Fire Fighters outfit, books, puzzles, lots of workbench tools & trucks. It was like Christmas around here!

To Sunny Sunflower **Bonnie & mom Rebecca** for the boxes of Kleenex. We have sure needed them this week. It seems like everyone has something! To **Cameron & mom Melissa** for the sweet oranges & subbing for us when we need you. To **Lexi & mom Erika** for the BIG bag of sweet, tangy lemons for lemonade. It’s so good when you squeeze it yourself!

To Lucky Ladybug **Rowan’s mom Tabitha** for all the collecting, sorting, cleaning, cutting & packaging of our Campbell’s Labels For Education, Box Tops

& Juice Packets. They earn us extra \$\$\$ to help put new manipulatives in each classroom!

**LOOK AT THIS LIST
COULD WE BE MORE BLESSED!**

Thank You All

For those families heading on to kindergarten this September & missed our Kindergarten Readiness meeting, please come in the office & pick up a copy of Mrs. Carolyn Linderman's presentation. It was well presented & full of valuable information.

School Cutoff Dates

- ❖ Your child needs to be 5 years old by September 1, 2016.
- ❖ Students with birthdays falling between September 2nd & December 2nd may still enroll, but will be considered Transitional Kindergarteners.
- ❖ Look beyond your child's chronological age when enrolling them in Kindergarten.
- ❖ Remember to consider all of the social, academic, & developmental factors when deciding if your child is ready to enroll.

Full Day Kindergarten - What A Typical Day Looks Like

- ❖ 8:40-9:10 - Roll, Calendar Activities, Alphabet Review, Sounds & Letters/Phonemic Awareness.
- ❖ 9:10-9:50 - Writing
- ❖ 9:55-10:15 - Recess
- ❖ 10:15-11:20 - Mathematics
- ❖ 11:20-12:10 - Lunch
- ❖ 12:10-1:15 - Language Arts, Letters, Sounds, Rhyming. Read Aloud Stories, Comprehension & Learning Centers.
- ❖ 1:15-1:45 - History/Science
- ❖ 1:45-2:00 - Recess
- ❖ 2:00-2:30 - ELD/Music/P.E.
- ❖ 2:30-2:45 - Pack-up/Clean-up/Finish-up
- ❖ 2:45-2:50 - Dismissal

Academic Expectations of Kindergarten by November.

Language Arts

- ❖ Consistently write their name correctly.
- ❖ Differentiate between numbers & letters.
- ❖ Differentiate between a letter & a word.
- ❖ Recognize at least 20 of the 26 upper & lower case letters of the alphabet.
- ❖ Know the sounds of the consonants presented in class.
- ❖ Hear the beginning sounds of the consonants presented in class.
- ❖ Hear the beginning sounds in a word.
- ❖ Match words that begin with the same sound.

Math

- ❖ Count at least to 20.

- ❖ Recognize the numbers from 1-10.
- ❖ Be able to sort & classify objects by size & color.
- ❖ Add & subtract to 10.
- ❖ Understand fewer, less, greater, more.
- ❖ Understand Part-Part-Whole.
- ❖ Be able to understand Tally Marks.

Things You Can Do!

- ❖ Read to your child daily!
- ❖ Build their vocabulary with everyday conversation. Discuss daily routines, feelings, experiences. Listen to what they say & gently correct - Avoid using baby talk.
- ❖ Practice managing emotions & being sensitive to others.
- ❖ Have your child listen to & then follow 4-5 step directions.
- ❖ Let your child play & create! Play is critical to developing your child's imagination, creativity, critical thinking skills, & problem-solving ability.
- ❖ Create a routine at home to help your child get oriented to following directions.
- ❖ Give your child developmentally appropriate chores at home & hold them accountable for doing them. These types of activities will automatically transfer over into the classroom & help your child feel successful & comfortable.

Kindergarten Readiness Involves Four Primary Areas of Development.

Intellectual - Growing Brains

- ❖ Shows an interest in books & reading.
- ❖ Holds a book & turns pages correctly.
- ❖ Knows some songs & rhymes.
- ❖ Participates in rhyming games.
- ❖ Identifies some letters.
- ❖ Pretends to read & write.
- ❖ Knows first & last name.
- ❖ Can tell about an experience.
- ❖ Can tell & retell familiar stories.
- ❖ Has had a variety of experiences - such as the library, park, zoo, post office, etc.
- ❖ Can use crayons, pencil, scissors.
- ❖ Expresses ideas with drawings.
- ❖ Is willing to try to complete a task.

Physical - Motor Skills

- ❖ Can run, jump, climb, swing, & use balls.
- ❖ Able to hold & use a pencil.
- ❖ Can cut with scissors.
- ❖ Paints across the midline.
- ❖ Can tie their own shoes - or is learning to!
- ❖ Can ride a tricycle.

Social Emotional - Fitting In

- ❖ Will listen to an adult & do as told.
- ❖ Can cooperate with other children.
- ❖ Can play with other children without hitting or biting.
- ❖ Can sit for 20-30 minutes.
- ❖ Can follow rules.
- ❖ Understands & follows oral directions.
- ❖ Able to share, take turns, compromise, & problem solve.
- ❖ Desire to be independent.
- ❖ Responsible for their personal belongings.
- ❖ Able to separate from their parents for the school day.

Self-Care - Taking Care of Business

- ❖ Is independent in using the toilet.
- ❖ Can wash their own hands.
- ❖ Can blow nose, cover a sneeze.
- ❖ Can snap, button, zipper, or belt their own pants.
- ❖ Can take off & put on coat/sweater.
- ❖ Can eat unassisted.
- ❖ Recognizes their possessions - jacket, lunchbox, backpack, etc.
- ❖ Can clean-up their own personal area when asked to.
- ❖ Gets 9-10 hours of sleep each night.

In the Spotlight . . .

Mrs. Lisa Higgins was born in Anaheim and moved to Riverside at age 6. She is a middle child with one older sister and one younger brother and they are all very good friends. Lisa lost her dad in 1995, but she is close to her mom who lives right around the corner. (Lisa's mom comes in & paints with our preschoolers every other Tuesday!) Married to her husband Jim in 1994 they had 4 boys over the next 8 years - James is on a Band Scholarship at Boise State, Charley -17 & George -15 both attend Poly H.S, & Andrew -13 is at Gage Middle School. Her greatest joy, & some days greatest challenge, is being their mother! She enjoys band performances & baseball- especially if one of the boys is playing- Spring Training, reading, gardening & cooking.

Lisa sees preschool as being a child's first group-care experience outside the family and it should be a loving environment providing positive learning experiences where children can explore safely & freely the things that are of interest to them. It is a place to learn about some of the many wonders life has to offer.

Over the years Lisa has worn many hats. She has volunteered at Alcott Elementary School, been a hotel manager, customer service assistant, sales manager, bookkeeper & administrator for Riverside Ballet, but we are most pleased she has been part of FUMPS for 10 years! She has kept our play yard organized, been a classroom teacher & our nutrition specialist, & now is managing our preschool office. If you haven't already, stopped in to say "Hi", I guarantee you will walk away smiling!

Mrs. Ramona Laib came to us when daughter Ashley was a preschooler here and with a long history in Child Development due to the fact that her mother-in-

law is the Director of Granada Park United Methodist Nursery School. She has worked in the field either with us at FUMPS, at Granada Park or at Mountain View Christian Preschool for over 15 years!

Born in East Los Angeles & moving to Bloomington in 2006, Ramona has been happily married to husband Jeffery for 15 years. Daughter Ashley now 11 is a 5th grader at Sycamore Hills in Fontana & comes & spends her days off with us at FUMPS.

Ramona feels preschool strengthens children's cognitive growth & provides optimum opportunity for physical maturation & real experiences. She would like her classroom environment to reflect an atmosphere of valuing each child's integrity, reaching out to each other in a caring way, model altruism & respect human differences. She feels that with young children everyday can be different with new experiences arising so your program & teaching methods must be flexible because children learn best with a combination of structured & informal lessons.

Believing as we do that children learn best with an emphasis on all 5 senses, her curriculum would be constructed with integrated learning centers & projects that ensure all areas of development. Teaching to the cognitive, emotional, social, physical & creative self contributes to building an environment filled with love & cooperation.