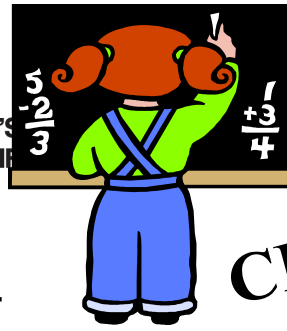




www.celebrationchildrenscenter.com

Our Saviour's Celebration Community Life Center



From
The
CHALKBOARD
February 2011

The Chalkboard is a monthly publication of The Children's Center. Editor: Sharon Koplinski

Parent Education Series:

Kindergarten Readiness

Monday evening,
February 28, 7 PM

Are you ready?
Is your child ready?

Join other parents for an evening of information and questions with some good answers. Two teachers, current and retired, from Naperville Districts 203 and 204 elementary schools share their wisdom with moms and dads contemplating the first big send-off for a child Kindergarten.

Accepting the invitation to be with us this evening are Lynne Sherman, our current LTL teacher as well as retired Kindergarten and 1st grade teacher and Stuart Vance, sometimes referred to as "the teachers' teacher". Stuart is currently a kindergarten teacher at Springbrook Elementary in Naperville.

There is no cost for this parents' evening. However, we ask that you call Celebration Children's Center for seating reservations: 630-281-4300.

January Highlights

Pets of all kinds! There's a prevalence of dog owners in our classrooms according to the polls taken by the children. (Any kind of a classroom count is fun to a preschooler ... "because then you get to carry a clipboard around the room and make pencil marks by words *dog, cat, bird, etc.*".) Some of us have kittens, birds, and guinea pigs, too! We opened our own veterinary clinics in the rooms. The doctors treated the stuffed animal variety and prescribed exercise and a well balanced diet. We talked about what animals eat. Animals need some of the same things we eat in order to be healthy.... Bones are fun but just for chewing. Sometimes dogs eat bone shaped treats. They look like cookies; but they're kind of like "stale cookies". Some of the classes made cookies shaped like bones in our Kid's Kitchen (with sprinkles and frosting). Then everybody wanted to be a dog and sample a few. Animals like treats, just like children. Sometimes you have to tell them when they've had enough. ... There were dog shows in the classrooms on stages made in the block area. It was fun to see what the owners could make a stuffed animal do, with or without an audience. In Godly Play we heard the story of Jesus, as a young boy, who got lost in the temple one day. His mom and dad looked all over for him. They found him talking to the *pastors*. His mom and dad weren't worried anymore:) It was letters **V, P, and X**; veterinarian, pets, ... x-rays, and xylophone. We thought *xylophone* was a funny word. It's really a "Z" word that was "just trick 'in us" by wearing an "X" !? Ms. LeeAnn taught us a *talking song* about a dog who lost his bone in the bed sheets. But he found it after he told his other doggie friends to get out of bed And there it was!! (see page 2) ... Pets teach us so many things; even how to put our toys away so we know where to find them!

“I know it’s good for us, but my family won’t eat oatmeal.”

Well, try this. It’s simply *Toasted Oatmeal*, and they’ll eat it.

Mix in a bowl

1/3 cup “*real*” maple syrup or honey

1/3 cup vegetable oil

1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Add, and stir until coated with the liquid

4 cups rolled oats (not “quick” oats)

Spread mixture on a jelly roll pan (cookie sheet with sides) so there is an even thin layer. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes. Remove from oven and stir, turning thoroughly.

Return to the oven for another 10-15 minutes, or until golden in color. Take out of the oven and immediately, **while still hot**, mix in the following spice combo:

1 teaspoon cinnamon

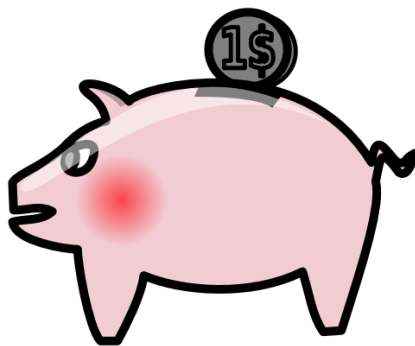
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

1/4 teaspoon allspice

Allow granola to cool completely on the baking tray; then store in an airtight container at room temperature.

Variations: Before baking, you can add up to 1/2 cup sunflower seeds or chopped nuts. After baking, immediately after taking the granola out of the oven, sprinkle it with the spices and fold in up to 1/2 cup raisins, chopped dates, or other unsulfured dried fruits. Or just leave it plain and simple; and call it ***crunchies!*** Sprinkle on vanilla yogurt, ice cream, or just pour cold milk over it and eat like any cold cereal.

***February’s
Theme***
***Spend, Save,
Share***



When You Don’t Put Your Things Away

(Surprise your preschooler by belting out this favorite Ms. Lee Ann taught them. It has a beat to it but no real tune, other than singing the words *Roll Over* on 3 notes going down 3 steps.)

There were 5 in the bed.

And the little one said,

“Roll over,..... Roll over”.

They all rolled over, and one fell out!

There were 4 in the bed.

And the little one said,

“Roll over,..... Roll over”.

They all rolled over, and one fell out!

There were 3 in the bed.

And the little one said,

“Roll over,..... Roll over”.

They all rolled over, and one fell out!

There were 2 in the bed.

And the little one said,

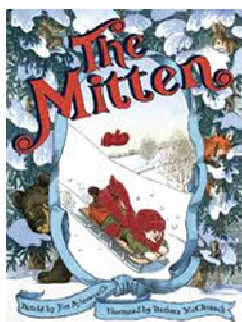
“Roll over,..... Roll over”.

They all rolled over, and one fell out!

Then the little one said,

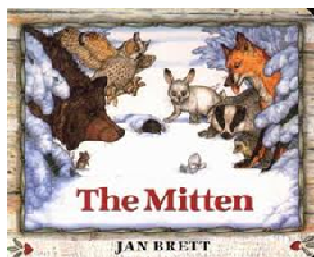
“THERE IT IS !

I found my bone!”

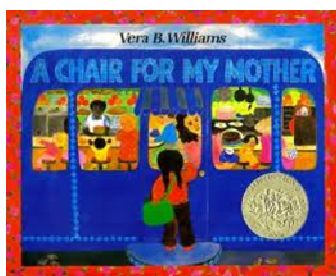


February Learning Through Literature

February 4 ...
The Mitten
adapted by Jan Brett and Jim Aylesworth



This oral Ukrainian folktale is retold by Massachusetts author Jan Brett and Illinois author Jim Aylesworth. How are the stories the same? How are they different? How will WE retell the story?



February 11 ...

A Chair For My Mother

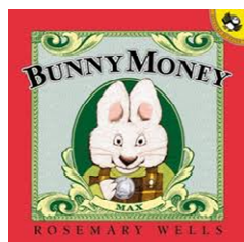
by Vera B. Williams

Vera B William's Caldecott Honor Book is a beautiful story of a jar of coins, saving, sharing, and the power of love in a community. The message connects to the parable of the Good Samaritan.

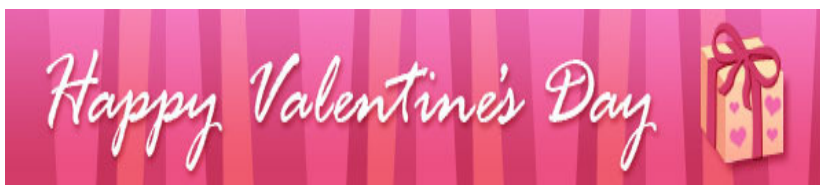
February 18

Bunny Money

by Rosemary Wells



The value of money and giving unfolds in this money mix up by Osborne Humor Award winner Rosemary Wells. What choices will WE make with our earned money?



Manna Monday is February 7
.... just in time for Valentine's Day

Say "I love you" with a gift card. Or better yet, say it with chocolate. Fannie May is very good to The Children's Center with 24% of our Fannie May gift card sales coming back to us.

Download or just take a look at the current order form at

<http://www.mannaexpress.net/ExpressAlpha.pdf>

Orders are due to The Children's Center office by noon on Monday.

There was a conversation in a preschool classroom about getting lost. The teacher asked the children, "Why do you think God's directions are better than our directions?"

A little girl raised her hand, "..... because, Ms. Karen, God's map is so much bigger than ours."



School Pictures the last week in February, as it turns into March

Pictures again this year will be done by Nicole Waite of

"Simply You" Photography

www.simplyyou.info

Watch for order packets coming home last half of February.