

2007 – 2008 PRESCHOOL OVERVIEW

It is hard to believe that the end of the first year of First Lutheran Church Preschool is nearly upon us. It has been an busy, fun-filled adventure. The start of the school year blessed us with six beautiful children eager to learn. The second half of the year, we were blessed with two more little gifts from God.

Each month has a different educational theme with each week focusing on a more specific theme. March, for example, was "On the Farm". Weekly themes included, "Crops on the Farm", "Feathered Farm Friends", and "Farm Animals". A little known fact is that the first week of March is National Pig Week. Here at First Lutheran Church Preschool we celebrated Pig Week by creating paper mache pigs, sharing pig stories (The Three Little Pigs, My Lucky Day, and The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig), playing Pig, Pig, Wolf, and ending the week with a Pig Out Party of pizza, pink pig cupcakes, and a viewing of "Babe" complete with popcorn (focus on the letter P/p).

We planted crops of portulaca (planning ahead for Mother's Day) and plum tomatoes. Each child will end the school year with several tomato plants to enjoy at home all summer to remind them of the school year.

Each month I plan and organize a field trip to further enhance our educational theme. On March 27th we visited Friendship Farm, a family farm specializing in organic products and "all natural" beef. The children received a tour of the bakery while wearing a stylish hair net. They were able to see the baking process from start to finish by kneading and baking their own little loaf of bread. They experienced the joy of eating their own warm, fresh out of the huge oven bread. We visited with two chickens, numerous black angus cattle, heard geese honk, and witnessed from the field the arrival of a baby calf. Friendship Farm also grows native plants that we were able to see and discuss with Mrs. Costello, the farm owner.

These activities filled the month of March. You can imagine all that has happened during the school year. We have had special visitors share their knowledge with us; Captain Seranko and his police car, Dr. Croft, his assistant Linda and his Golden Retriever puppet Romeo to discuss safety with dogs, and Dr. Cobb with gloves and face masks to talk about caring for our teeth. Field trips have included Kerber's Dairy, Pet Supplies Plus and the Westmoreland Museum of Art.

We have also enhanced our classroom work by adding a religious curriculum. Every month there is focus on a Bible verse and a Bible story. We create works of art that coordinate with the Bible story, and Pastor Doug, Pastor Marleen and Firlu reinforce and build on our lessons with Chapel Time each week. Our students have their own Preschool mouse, Fruit Loop. He is a baby mouse who wears a green scarf. Fruit Loop goes to Chapel Time each week, riding in our little shopping cart, with canned goods, donated by the children. The children take the canned goods down to the food pantry at the end of Chapel Time. We discuss and reinforce how much their food is needed and used by hungry people within our community.

Yes, this year has been a busy, fun-filled adventure for all of us. Miss Doris, the children, and I thank all who have shared in this adventure by donating time, books, supplies, toys, games, learning materials, etc., to First Lutheran Church Preschool. We are grateful to all who have embraced us.

Sincerely,
Miss Barb (Barbara Krunzky)