

PARENT NEWSLETTER

Donations for Easter Chapel

Our Easter chapel services are fast approaching. They will be held on Tuesday, April 9 for the Chickadees, Wrens and Hummingbirds and on Wednesday, April 10 for all remaining classes. During this service we celebrate the gift of new life which is consonant with the Easter message itself in which Jesus enters into new life and extends that gift to everyone. Ms. Maribeth points out that there is new life all around us in the blossoming of the trees, the birth of puppies, baby chicks, and the like. Following on the heels of our chick

raising project, this will make perfect sense to our students.

As you know, we always do a community service project with each of our chapel services. This year we will be supporting the Washington Animal Rescue League which helps to give new lives to rescued animals. They have a long list of items that they need for their rescued animal population. The best part is that this doesn't require you to buy anything unless you choose to do so. Instead, consider donating some old sheets or towels

which they need in abundance. If you do choose to go buy something, please include your child in the process. Explain that their gift will be helping all of our furry friends to have a better, new life.

Should you have any questions, please email Lee (lwalsh@chevychas.eumc.org) or call the office (301-652-7660).

Thank you for supporting the Washington Animal Rescue League.

Dates of Interest:

- **April 1: Last tuition payment due**
- **April 3: pre-K field trip to "Winnie the Pooh" at Adventure Theater**
- **April 8: Potomac Pizza pizza making for entire school**
- **April 9: 2-day 2's chapel**
- **April 10: Easter chapel**
- **April 15-22: NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)**
- **April 23: School resumes**
- **April 29: 3's Field Trip to the Audubon Nature Center**
- **April 29 & 30: Hearing & Vision Screening for pre-K classes**

ITEMS NEEDED BY WARL

Old towels or sheets, Bedding, Toys, Leashes/Collars, Baby Gates, Food (small starter bags), Treats, Chew Toys, Balls, Bowls/Feeding Dishes



Curriculum Corner: Board Games



Several weekends ago when my husband was out of town with one of our sons and my oldest child was at work, I was at home alone with my 13 year old. We decided to eat supper together and then pull out a board game. I told him to choose whatever he wanted to play. Imagine my surprise when he returned with Candy Land. Yes, my 13 year old had chosen Candy Land. And yes, we played. I think that Clay chose to play that game because I always lose at Candy Land. Somehow I always get to the very end and find myself being recalled to the peppermint forest or somewhere else near the beginning that allows him the opportunity in which to win.

Playing that game with him made me nostalgic for the days when my boys were really little and we played game after game of Candy Land, Chutes and Ladders, Trouble, Clue Junior and Mousetrap. Providing more than an opportunity to spend quality time together, playing board games is a great way for your child to learn lots of lessons. The earliest board games like

Candy Land reinforce the learning of colors, beginning counting, and one to one correspondence. If you draw a card with 2 orange squares then you have to be able to count to 2 and find two orange spaces in succession. Games that have a die or dice increase the difficulty by making it necessary for a child to be able to count to 6 or 12. Cognitive skills are further developed because children may need to develop strategy which requires making predictions about what will happen next and certainly requires cognitive flexibility.

Apart from the counting skills and color recognition skills games require attention and focus as well as patience and turn-taking skills. It is easy for a child to get distracted or impatient as she waits for others to take their turn or as he completes the multiple steps required to complete a turn.

Board games help develop fine motor skills. Tossing dice and manipulating tokens around the board help to develop finger nimbleness. Some board games like Tiddly Winks and Mousetrap even help to develop eye-hand coordination.

Finally playing board games

helps to develop important socio-emotional skills. There is risk in playing a board game because one might lose the game. Game playing requires a certain amount of bravery. Values like integrity can be emphasized or undercut depending on whether rules are enforced. Some children, even young children, will try to cheat in order to win. What happens in response teaches children about what you value. Learning how to win and lose gracefully is important and now that there are fewer opportunities to learn these lessons in sports and in the classroom playing games becomes more significant for teaching those lessons as well.

There are mornings during class or afternoons during Adventure when the teacher may pull out several board games to play. Now you see why a teacher might wish to play board games with her students. Doing so provides so much more than mere entertainment.

And yes, I lost at Candy Land.....again.

Cleaning Out Your Child's Closet? Bring Those Clothes to School

We have a large, white collection box for Child Care counts available **until April 5th** located on each of the main floors. Child Care Counts is a local 501(c)3 non-profit, started by a Chevy Chase family. Their primary mission is to help local, low-income working families afford quality child care for their preschool aged children through a child care scholarship program. Many of their

parents are single moms who would struggle to pay for safe, state-regulated care. As part of a community outreach effort, they regularly hold collections of "gently used" clothing at area businesses, schools and day cares. Donated clothing is washed and sorted. Some of it is given to families in the program but most is taken to a community program that serves low-income families. They set up a "pop-up

boutique" where parents can select items for free. They never resell or otherwise use the donations. Donations of children's clothing (**birth to size 8**) are welcome – we take shoes too. Please no torn or stained clothing. For more info: www.dcchildcarecounts.org

April Book Recommendations

The Tree Lady by H Joseph Hopkins: I'm sneaking this one in at the tale end of Women's History Month. This is the true story of Katherine Sessions who is credited with the greening of San Diego. Learn the story of how this pioneering woman made the city into the nature oasis that it is today. The illustrations are great too.

Compost Stew by Mary McKenna Siddals: In the month celebrating Earth Day I couldn't pass this one up. This story features rhyming text aimed at teaching children about how to make compost and what it is used for. The books manages to make rotting vegetation appealing.

Worm Weather by Jean Taft and Matt Hunt: Recommended by our own Kate Monahan this book explores how rainy spring weather brings all the worms to the surface. This features two children attired in rain slickers. This is supposed to be one of the wettest springs on record so this may give your children some ideas about how fun it is to take a rain walk. So fun!!

Egg by Kevin Henkes I'm a huge Henkes fan. This almost wordless book provides surprises and delight to any little one and would be perfect for that Easter basket. The simplicity is especially good for our youngest preschoolers.

A Sweet Passover by Leslea Newman: This is a great introductory story about Passover and how it is meaningful for a family whose youngest member quickly tires of eating matzah until she realizes the true significance of the matzah.

The Story of Jesus board book by Thomas Nelson: This simple, straightforward book recounts the events of the Easter story without flinching away from Jesus's death. Good Friday is a difficult story for young children, but this one tells it without being too scary. Disclaimer: this was recommended by someone—I haven't read it myself.

