

# Messiah Lutheran Child Care Center's Director Report

January 2010

Messiah Lutheran Child Care Center has been full of activity and energy throughout 2009. We have a wonderful group of dedicated, loving teachers and support staff who reliably care for and educate between 155 and 170 children during the school year and about 110-120 children in the summer months.

The summer of 2009 was a year of upgrading our school's facilities. Our lunchroom was remodeled to include new, expanded cabinetry and countertops, an industrial refrigerator, an industrial freezer, and running water to the 2 newly added sinks. Donations for engraved bricks from families and friends of Messiah Child Care, as well as monies raised at the school's annual spring fun fair, provided the funding for a fabulous patio and picnic area as well as new landscaping, near the school's southeast entrance. Donations made in memory of our friend and colleague, Miss Sue, were used for the statues and plaque that can be found on the patio. Additionally, an Arlington Height's boy scout used our playground for his Eagle Scout badge, by removing and replacing all of the wood chips and sand from our playground area as well as providing funding for a portion of the project.

During the school year, Messiah has pre-school classes for 3 and 4 year olds and Kindergarten for children who are 5 by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Additionally, we have a winter, spring and summer, 1 hour/week, Parent-Tot class. The school is open from 6:30am-5:30pm throughout the year. Pre school hours are 9:00am-11:30am. Summer programs are available to children 3-10 years old and include a wide variety of outdoor activities and fieldtrips.

Messiah Lutheran Child Care Center children receive a traditional, play based pre-school education. Their days include stories, music, art, indoor and/or outdoor large and small motor activities. They follow a curriculum, based on the Illinois State Standards for pre-school education, of language arts, math, science and social sciences, in addition to a Christian education with their classroom teachers and our pastor

The weekly calendar at Messiah Child Care also includes diverse enrichment opportunities. In addition to the large assortment of classroom activities (social, academic, physical, etc.), children at Messiah experience weekly music classes with Mr. Kurtis on Mondays and Tuesdays, Wednesday chapel and Thursday classroom visits with Pastor Lynne, Friday Spanish class with Miss Diane, and Tuesday and Thursday pm. French classes with Miss Jennifer. Miss Pat, of Kid's Dance Express, offers an optional 45 minute class of dance and movement on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Kindergarteners, who attend Messiah in the afternoon, enjoy an hour of enrichment between 12:30 and 1:30pm. each day.

Throughout the year, the children of Messiah participate in projects that extend beyond the school's wall. At the end of each Wednesday chapel service, children are invited to donate an offering of food. The children walk the food, which is donated to the Maine Township Food Pantry, to the front of the church and place it on the altar. During Lent, each classroom collects pennies (nickels, dimes, etc.) which are then donated to the food pantry, as well. Our 2009 donation of \$451.61, put our donations of the past 8 years, at over \$3300. Each month a Messiah class walks to St. Matthews Center for Health, to do an activity with the Center's residents. Activities have included cookie decorating, bunco, singing, and an ice cream social. In December, the children delivered 8 handmade gingerbread houses to the center's residents.

Other activities that took place at Messiah during the 2009 year are:

## **January:**

- Open House for Younger 3 students and Younger 3's class begins
- Winter Parent-Tot classes begin
- Participation in the Park Ridge Library Pre-School Fair
- Kindergarten Open House for prospective Kindergarten students
- Summer and fall registration forms are distributed to current families

## **February:**

- 'Be My Valentine' Pizza dinner and Valentine making party (Valentines are delivered to St Matthew's residents by a class of Messiah students)
- Registration for summer and fall classes
- 'People in our Neighborhood' class rotation week and classroom visits from librarians, firefighters, doctors, etc.

## **March:**

- Collect pennies during Lent for St. Matthews
- Spring Parent-tot begins

## **April:**

- Scholastic Book fair
- Two night of Ice Cream social parties including entertainment by magician, Mr. Ash

## **May:**

- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Individual Classroom field trips
- Miss Pat's end of the year dance/movement program

- June:**
- Kindergarten Graduation
  - End of school family picnic
  - Beginning of summer classes
- June, July August:**
- Summer programs for children aged 3-10 years old
  - Kitchen remodeling, patio and garden construction and playground refurbishing
  - 6-8 field trips to local attractions: Pirates Cove, Barnaby's Pizza, Marriott Lincolnshire Theater, Chicago Kids Company Theater, Flick Pool, Legoland, etc.
- August:**
- Open House
  - Beginning of fall school session
- September:**
- Guest author, Kathleen McMahon, read her book to the children on the school's new patio
  - Younger 3's class begins
  - Fall Parent-Tot begins
- October:**
- All school field trip to Goebbert's Pumpkin Farm
  - Autumn classroom rotation week
  - Parent-Teacher conferences
  - Class pictures
- November:**
- Family week
  - Thanksgiving luncheon for children and their families
  - Field trip to Marriott Lincolnshire to see 'The Christmas Carol'
- December:**
- Two P-nutcracker dance programs performed by Miss Pat's classes
  - Three classroom Christmas programs and family Christmas parties

Our school's PTO supports our school's extra projects (playground equipment and maintenance, computers, library, AV equipment, etc.) by sponsoring many fund raisers throughout the year. Included in these fund raisers are the Spring Fun Fair, monthly manna orders, bi-annual cookie dough and gourmet popcorn sales, selling Entertainment books, monthly Scholastic book orders, Scholastic Book Fair, Jewel Shop-and Share, collecting 'Boxtops for Education', recycling used ink cartridges, Messiah school t-shirts and sweatshirts, and e-script.

We have an amazing staff, dedicated to providing the children daily with new challenges and an exciting varied curriculum. They provide a loving, nurturing environment where the physical, social, emotional, cognitive and spiritual development of each child is encouraged and celebrated. I would like mention that we are honored to be able to offer a consistant staff to parents each year. Many schools face a high annual turnover of teachers, but thanks to our outstanding and dedicated staff, we proudly welcomed back the same staff as last year:

Our lead classroom teachers are: Cathy S., Cristina K., Janelle W., Kelly B., Laurie B., Ro M., Suzanne P., and Terri H. Our assistant teachers are: Ann O., Amy C., Bette H., Debbie D., Diane T., Eilis K., Joy D., Kristin K., Laura W., Rose Marie D., and Vanessa B. Our parent-tot teacher is Aly A.; our Spanish teacher is Diane T.; our French teacher is Jennifer M. and our music teacher is Kurtis D. Our support and office staff include: Diane K. (lunchroom manager), Janine H. (office manager/director's assistant), Rita K. (bookkeeper and school resource manager) and Pat D. (dance and movement instructor).

Our substitutes include Diane E., Phyllis O., Kim B. and Dana S.

We thank our Child Care Board and the parishioners of Messiah for their kind words of encouragement, for their support of our school's mission to share God's word with the children and for their continuous support of our Center. We thank Pastor Lynne for her chapel services and classroom visits. We thank Jennifer for her ability to keep us in sync with all of the church activities and to keep us up to speed with her computer knowledge. We thank all of those who are instrumental in maintaining the property and ensuring a safe and clean environment for our children. Those of us who work throughout the year at Messiah Lutheran Child Care Center are privileged to share God's Word with the children and to play a vital role in each child's growth and development. It is a job that we respect and embrace.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6*

Yours in Christ,

Miss Karen  
Messiah Lutheran Child Care Center Director