

Education Commission minutes from 12-12-09 meeting:

Present: Jim Soisson, Peggy Casing, Tom Wietchy, Linda Griffith

Absent: John Naperkoski

Peggy reported that GIFT numbers are strong. Our year on the Creed is going well, with great connections to the liturgical calendar.

We have many new initiatives that have begun, or will begin after the first of the year. These include: Women's Fellowship (about 3 or 4 in attendance in the morning, 14 or 15 in the evening. We had a great December meeting with a focus on prayer and fellowship.); Women's bible study to be lead by Jill Dines; and four Little Rock Scripture Study groups (three part training has begun) will begin shortly.

We have individuals who are considering facilitation of a financial workshop.

We are in need of help with the December 13-18 GIFT sessions. Facilitators are needed to conduct individual stations.

Jim gave a report from Holy Family School. All going well. Fruit is to be delivered shortly.

Sue Wilcock's report from preschool:

This month brings, of course, Advent and Christmas. Our students have been visiting the church and chapel as well as talking about the season of Advent as well as Christmas. We will end our calendar year with carols and cookies/crafts for the families and students. The preschool will close on December 18th and reopen on January 4th.

Part of our focus right now is pursuing the enrichment classes as well as a possible Spanish program. We have surveyed the parents with more defined parameters and they are responding to these questionnaires right now. Once the information is gathered we will know more. At this point, the reviews have been mixed, but it does seem that we will be holding some enrichment programs.

Another major focus right now is preparing for registration and Open House. I have decided to slightly change the schedule next year. We currently offer the 3's sessions as follows: MW or TTH and an optional Friday session – of which not everyone can get in. It made it difficult to handle registration with this set up, plus it made planning the calendars and such more difficult as well. So, we have decided to make the 3's schedule as follows: MWF or TTH. Last year for registration everyone who wanted the 3rd day option preferred the MWF schedule – but in some cases were forced to take the TTHF schedule. In the end, we believe that a 3 day program for the 3's is best scheduled as MWF and will offer it as such. This will alleviate many of the problems we ran into as well. No other changes to the schedule will be made for the fall. At this time, we have scheduled our Open House for January 27th from 6-8PM and I will be printing off fliers and advertisements to be passed out. In addition, it will be posted on our website once I have made them up. Registration packets will also be put together to be dispersed at the Open House.

I have also been looking into a variety of fundraising opportunities. These activities involve mostly collecting items rather than seeking donations. Currently, we have begun collecting Capri Sun drink pouches. In addition, there is an opportunity to collect Frito Lays chip bags as well and I plan to get us going on that one too. These programs not only help us earn money but help the environment as well since we are recycling materials. The last one I have been looking into is a Scripps program that involves getting families to buy their gift cards through us and then we earn a percentage of each gift card ordered. I am thinking of doing this once a year – maybe in early or mid November as a holiday collection. Since we have to pay for shipping it would be most advantageous for us to do it only with large quantities otherwise we might spend more on shipping than we earn from the purchases! Hopefully, we will have this in place for next fall.

Well, that sums up the current event in preschool. As always, if you have any questions, please let me know.

Sue Willcock, Preschool Director

All were encouraged to attend the joint meeting of the commissions and council.