

G.R.O.W. in the Son Parent Newsletter

Teresa Todt, Director
Phone: 438-2180
Website: www.trinityauburn.org
Email: grow@mwii.net



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Happenings and Highlights at G.R.O.W. in the Son

If you never have, you should. These things are fun and fun is good. Dr. Seuss, Oh, the Places You'll Go

I had some fun of my own recently asking your children a few questions. I was humored and surprised by some of the answers. Below is what they had to say.

Mrs. Todt: What do you like best about G.R.O.W.?

Alex H.: Legos and playtime

Drake L.: Miss Sarah!

Kelsey M.: Kid's making stuff in the kitchen

Katilyn M.: Playing bingo and kitchen time

Melissa F.: Eating here!

Mrs. Todt: What would you like to change about G.R.O.W.?

Ben S.: I'd change the dress up area into a car area.

Dylan K.: I'd change the puppet area into a monster truck course.

Mrs. Todt: What would you do different if you were in charge of G.R.O.W.?

Kelsey M.: I'd put in a swimming pool!

Cameron A.: I'd make one classroom for boys only and one for girls.

Great ideas and very creative! Your children are funny, bright and very entertaining. Watching them interact with one another, learn new things, and just have fun while at G.R.O.W. is a privilege we teachers do not

take lightly. We are thankful and blessed by each and every child. Once again, thank you for entrusting your child to our care. And as always, feel free to come to me with your concerns, questions or suggestions. My door is always open to you!

Summer Enrollment

Camping on the Cornerstone @ Trinity, our summer program, will begin the first week in June and run through August 13. New this year are field trips to Decatur to visit the zoo and museum. Small group trips to the YMCA in Taylorville and Kick's have also been added. And if you want your children to participate, we'll once again drive them to swimming lessons in Virden.

Don't let your children miss out on the fun. We currently have 24 children enrolled, and enrollment is limited to 44. Open enrollment will begin on March 1. Children on a waiting list will be eligible at this time, as well as children from the surrounding communities. If you have not enrolled your child and need summer care, you can pick up an enrollment form in the front of the family folder tub. Simply fill out the form and place it in your family folder. Just ask Teresa, Gina or June if you have questions.

Lost & Found

Please check the lost & found box. There are some nice items of clothing, gloves and hats inside. Leftovers will be donated to Goodwill on March 1.

From the "Scrip" Corner...

Just an update to let you know that in the first six weeks of 2010, G.R.O.W. has received \$207.85 from the SCRIP Program. That may not sound like much to some people, but that will sure help the G.R.O.W. program purchase new equipment, replenish supplies, or even just help with the cost of snacks. This \$207.85 is basically "free money" to the program.

We recently started carrying \$10 Family Video cards and \$100 Shop N Save cards in our cash 'n carry supply. Please prayerfully consider using this program to support G.R.O.W. in the Son. It's as easy to purchase and use as a gift card. Actually it's easier because you don't have to stop at a store to purchase it. If this program doesn't seem convenient to use, please let Teresa know what might make it more appealing. We'll see how we can help make it easier for you to use.

A Moment With Miss Gina

"When I walk in love, God is present."

1 John 4:12

February has been an inspirational month for teachers. Bitter cold temperatures and frozen snow has, on quite a few days, eliminated outdoor play as an option at G.R.O.W. At other times outdoor play is limited to the concrete areas.

As a result, my small groups are experiencing some new activities with the objective of incorporating more physical movement and also more imagination into small group activity time. I tried jazzercise with group two and they really grooved with the pop rock renditions sung by children. In jazzercise we stretch muscles, get the

heart rate up with exercise and then we DANCE! They dance in a line and follow my moves. It's wonderful to see them brimming over with smiles and energy! Puppets and songs went over well in group one. Though there were a couple of children that could not be coaxed into participating, these children did have fun watching others though and I do believe that, at some point, they will feel comfortable enough to join in!! Each one minute song tells a little story that can be acted out by puppets. I usually stop the song about half way through and let the puppets have their say. This proved a bit challenging for most five year olds at first. Ten year old Kelsey came to the rescue and showed the little ones how to dialogue and use creative voices. She really helped them to shine! Thank you Kelsey!! The past few weeks have also brought fun exercises with sound, voice and musical instruments; some of your children love music. I enjoy trying new ways to bring more children into the love of music since it is a love of mine and many others too!!

The Hero and the Princess is another new activity being played out in the drama center. We use castle builders, two heroes, two princesses and one or two antagonists such as a witch and a monkey or an evil king and his henchman or... Once we have the castle and the stock characters the children then put their own ideas into the making of how this small group will play out. I'm glad to say that I have not had any complaints about this small group. Everyone thus far has found a place for fun in The Hero and The Princess!

I am grateful to the cold winds of February that have sparked a new flame of

imagination within the hearts and minds of your children here at G.R.O.W. So much fun, so little time!! February will soon be over; warmer winds will blow and there will be other ways to have fun with the many and diverse experts of fun that are God's very special children, of whom I am always challenged and mightily blessed to love and serve!!

Mrs. Callarman's Corner

HOME WORK MACHINE

The Homework Machine, oh the Homework Machine,
Most perfect contraption that's ever been seen.
Just put in your homework, then drop a dime,
Snap on the switch, and in ten seconds' time,
Your homework comes out, quick and clean as can be.
Here it is—"nine plus four?" and the answer is "three."
Three?
Oh me . . .
I guess it's not as perfect
As I thought it would be.

Shel Silverstein

I do believe the snow has decided to stay for a while. Although I do not mind nor do I think your children mind. Thank you for making sure your children are bundled up tightly and bundled up warmly for outside play! They love the snow hills that have formed and truly enjoy rolling around and building forts.

We were blessed with some extra time spent together with early outs and holidays. That time is always very special for me because it gives us a time to really interact with your children. Having a lunch together is truly a blessing because we are allowed more time to just hang out and laugh. We watched a wonderful a movie that I do recommend all of you watching...Miracle Dogs Too! It is a very sweet and wholesome movie for you and your family.

Monthly Calendar

God has truly blessed us as teachers. I am so thankful for the opportunities He gives us to really listen and help your children. It is amazing to me how His love pours through and overflows within His program. It amazes me, too, how He uses each of us for His will. Small groups are a prime example of how He uses us. I love listening to stories your children provide about their everyday lives or what is happening at school that particular week.

One particular area of great enjoyment for me is during homework time. I thoroughly enjoy watching and helping your children with their studies. The best part is when I see that flicker of recognition when your child understands a certain lesson or he or she is able to sound out the correct word. I truly love teaching the older kids different techniques of study habits. I came across the above poem in a book, A Light in the Attic, and instantly I thought of the G.R.O.W. kids who do homework here at G.R.O.W., oh the Homework Machine! Wouldn't it be great if there were such thing?!

This month has gone by so quickly. I am sad to see the days fly by so quickly. I wish I could grab each one and hold on to every word that was said or every piece of laughter that was heard. Check out the Kim's Caring Corner by the way, there are lots more little feet walking like Jesus!

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| March 19 | 11:20 school dismissal-please add \$7 per child to your tuition this week |
| April 2 | G.R.O.W. closed-Good Friday |
| April 5-9 | No school-Children at G.R.O.W. all day. Please add \$7 per child per day to your tuition this week. |

Birthdays Blessings

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| March 3 | Cameron A. & Dylan K. |
| March 17 | Mrs. Marques |
| March 23 | Drew K. |

