



A Night on the Red Carpet

A Walk on the Red Carpet

Our annual fund raiser is Saturday, February 25th. You won't want to miss this fun evening. Talk it up with other parents in your child's room and come together.

There will be games, great food and drinks, socializing, the silent auction and the live auction.

Since our event is the night before the Oscars some people are wanting to dress up a bit. That sounds fun

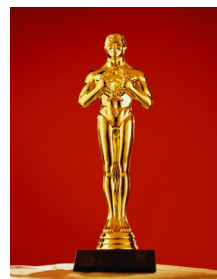
but the dress is everything from nicely casual to dressy.

If you haven't donated to your child's class basket yet, please get your donation in so the workers can assemble the baskets. If you are unsure what the basket theme is for your class, ask the teacher. Hopefully you all got an e-mail on it.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year to help keep tuitions from rising too steeply.

Not all items are pricey. You can get lots of good things without emptying your pockets.

Mainly we ask that you support our school by attending. We look forward to seeing you at this fun event!



Friday Night Fever

Don't miss our big family night event Friday, February 10th from 6-8 PM. It is sponsored by the Church and the Preschool and is truly multigenerational. There will be refreshments, dancing, trivia and live en-

tertainment. I wonder who is coming?

This is a totally free evening and we encourage you to bring all the children, preschool age or not, and the grandparents. Smith Hall will be rocking

Just think, in one month you can have a night out with the kids, and a night out without the kids. Now that's a deal!



Shadow Rock Preschool

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Special points of interest:

- ☺ 2/9 CPR, no afterschool KDO
- ☺ 2/10 Friday Night Fever
- ☺ 2/20 No School, President's Day
- ☺ 2/23-2/24 Parent/Teacher Conferences, NO SCHOOL
- ☺ 2/25 Preschool Auction

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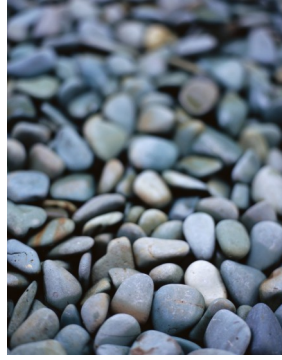
Tile Mosaic Wall by Marilyn Rampley

Do your kids love to touch the mosaic tile wall in the Parlor? Have they found the owl and the 10 ants marching one-by-one? What about the bunny and the tortoise, the snake and the coyote?

When Shadow Rock Church turned 25 (almost 15 years ago), the mural was designed by two artists and created by church members and preschool students. The grouping down low just to the right of center with

all the small green and orange pieces is the Preschool Patch. Every child imprinted a clay piece. You'll find class symbols, too, such as a Bee and Rainbow, Unicorn and Jellybean, Butterfly and Dragonfly.

If you look hard, you'll find eve-



ry letter of the alphabet, John Lennon, Elvis, and the names of many folks instrumental in the beginnings of Shadow Rock who have passed away. It's such an interesting piece to study over and over.

Around the edges you'll find some phrases you may be familiar with. For example, find "unique and unrepeatable" and "You are loved." Now you're at the heart of the wall...and the preschool.

Thanks Playground Workers

I so appreciate all the help we had on the 20th cleaning up our playground. Many hands made it possible to move tons of sand and fill the sandbox and the fall areas quickly.

Trees and bushes were trimmed to keep little fingers from being tempted to reach for branches and twigs which could cause injury.

There was also sweeping, raking and

dumping large amounts of trash before we took a break and decided it was good.

To each of you who showed up, thank you, thank you. We truly were out of the parking lot in just over an hour.

The children noticed all the new sand on Monday and were happy to start digging again.

And so the work continues as they move and dump and we move and dump.

Until next August we are in a good place.

Yeah!

I love to dig tunnels. Who knows where they will go. And as I dig the tunnels, I use my muscles so!

Birth Certificates

Even though our Preschool Registration has been moved to April 11th, it isn't too early to locate that birth certificate. A copy will be required the day of registration.

Don't forget that as of February 15th you will be able to download the registration form and video

release form on-line.



We are looking at a much easier process this year and hope we all

find it less stressful. We won't even begin until 9:30 PM so you can get your preschool children in class, get a ticket, have a coffee and a visit while you wait your turn.

As always your preschool charges must be current by Registration Day.

What a Preschool Needs to Learn by Maria Zafonte Levine

Every parent wants to know that their child is in the right preschool environment, one that will give them a great start. Local preschool websites boast a "structured academic day," offering sections about their "Preschool Curriculum" or "Early Childhood Enrichment Instruction." Those sound great, but what do they mean and will they help my child?

Lev Vygotsky, a respected psychologist and educator, "maintained that at 4 or 5, a child's ability to play creatively with other children was in fact a better gauge of her future academic success than any other indicator, including her vocabulary, her counting skills or her

knowledge of the alphabet" (Tough, 2009). The latest research in neuroscience and cognition bears this out: a child's ability to interact with others, control impulses, and practice using short term memory may be the key to their success in school and life.

The work that comes home from Kindergarten isn't terribly demanding, but it would be a nightmare if a child didn't have the control to sit and focus on it for a block of time. Kindergarten teachers teach the ABCs and 123s but they don't have the time to work on self-control, respect for peers, cooperation, attention span or self direction. That is what a preschool should "teach" by way

of an environment where play and experiences are the mode. That is what a preschool should do. And that is what Shadow Rock does.

Ask your child's teacher how they make this happen in the classroom and stay tuned—in the next newsletter we will give you some examples of how Shadow Rock teachers are creating future academic success through play and experiences in their classrooms.

Tough, P. (2009, September 25). *Can the Right Kinds of Play Teach Self Control?* Retrieved January 30, 2011, from The New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/27/magazine/27tools-t.html?pagewanted=all>

Heard in the Halls

When Mrs. Thurman told the children she needed her glasses to read the story because the letters were too small, a little girl stood up and told Mrs. T. she would tell her the letters because she was learning to read.

During snack time in the Unicorn class last week one of the girls told Mrs. Neaville that she could come visit her house but that she would have to take

off her shoes because the cows like to lick their toes. When asked if there were cows at her house, her response was, "Oh yes!"

As the children were returning their lunch boxes after eating in KDO, one child told another he had diarrhea twice that morning and he still wasn't feeling that good! Oh boy does that make the teachers feel great who

have just spent several hours with them.

A little boy being picked up from Kids' Kapers asked his mom if she still loved him. "Oh yes," was her response. Love it!

Watch out for cows licking your toes!!!

Play Grounds Fun Zone & Cafe

Shari & James Bernau, Mimi's parents in the Bees class, have recently opened a new fun space for young children that you might want to check out for your child or to book for a child's party.

3500 sq. ft. of indoor play

space creates the perfect summer entertainment when the pool is about the only other option.

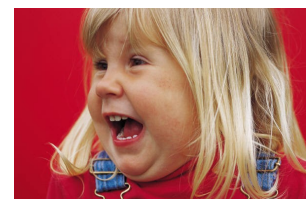
There is also a café with coffee and espresso drinks.

Let's support our local families in every way.

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Preschool Registration is Wednesday, April 11th.

(Please note the change in dates from our previously posted calendar.)

Wednesday, April 11th, beginning at 9:30 am in the Parlor

- Re-enrolling current students from the 2011-12 school year.
 - Siblings of current Shadow Rock students
 - Siblings of previous Shadow Rock students.
- Shadow Rock Church UCC members (membership date as of 1/1/12)

Thursday, April 12th, beginning at 9:30 am in the Parlor

- All new students to Shadow Rock Preschool

Items needed at the time of registration:

- Completed and signed registration form*
- Photo copy of child's birth certificate (new requirement)
 - Signed Photo and Website release form*
- Registration fee (cash or check only) - **NON REFUNDABLE**

* (forms will be available on line after February 15th)