News Notes —

Some time ago you received a flyer about our upcoming Northwest Adventist ECEC workshop, June 23 and 24, 2013, for directors and head teachers:

It’s Pointless without HIM!

The workshop will begin with lunch on Sunday at the North Pacific Union Conference headquarters (5709 N. 20th St., Ridgefield, WA, at I-5, exit 14) and will end mid afternoon on Monday. Accommodations for Sunday night will be reserved for attendees at the La Quinta Inns & Suites, just nine miles down the freeway from our NPUC office.

Co-sponsored by the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) and its six conferences, the workshop is FREE to all directors and head teachers of Seventh-day Adventist centers/schools within the six conferences of the NPUC. A registration form is included in this newsletter, as well as other details. Only one form needs to be filled out per center/school. It is then to be sent to your local conference education department (note addresses on the registration form).

Those who attended our first Northwest workshop in 2011 can attest to the fact that besides training and education, it was a great opportunity for networking with colleagues from across the Northwest.

Among our guests will be Dr. Davenia Lea. From Silver Spring, Maryland, Dr. Lea heads the work of Early Childhood Education for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (NAD), whose territory includes the United States, Canada, Bermuda, and Guam/Micronesia.

Besides the expertise of all our presenters, we have much to learn from each other! Several of you who attended the 2011 workshop expressed that you not only took home many great ideas from presenters, but from fellow directors and teachers as well. Each center/school has its own personality—come prepared to share!

Another happening this summer is this: Boise Valley Pre-K/K teacher Melanie Lawson will be part of the NAD summer committee in Providence, RI, working on a curriculum for Pre-K that will coincide with the new Kindergarten Stepping Stones curriculum. Keep Melanie and this committee in your prayers!

May God bless you with a delightful Spring.

Sue
FROM HERE AND THERE—

Last year, my classroom’s theme was BEE-happy. I taught the preschoolers the song, “Be happy, be kind, be loving, be true, I'll meet you in Heaven and live next door to you.” During worship, this was one of our regular songs.

I had five posters cut as honey bees suspended from the ceiling, above stations where children would go during the class hours. I wrote on each BEE’S wing a word from the lyrics of the song. I also had a large stuffed BEE that the children would pass/share as we sang this particular song. After singing the song, exciting imaginations during our discussions about what heaven will be like, made it even more FUN!

The last day of school, four year old Cole, a non-church member, who was shy and rather quiet, came to say good-bye to me. He was going to be moving to Tennessee. I told him, “Cole, you're leaving me, and I don’t know when I'll see you again”. Timid as he is, Cole looked at me, and answered with such a profound confidence, “I'll see you in Heaven!” Mom’s teary eyes and mine connected, and then they departed down the hallway. It’s ALL God’s doing!

Erinda R. Kosaka, Pre-school teacher
Central Valley Christian School

“The new kindergarten curriculum, Stepping Stones, ‘rocks’”, stated Missy Harriss after using the first unit to be released, “Brr, It’s Cold” in her pre-K/K class in Dillingham, AK. Missy shared this funny incident, “Two little 4 and 5 year old boys were talking about a fellow classmate who was needing to be disciplined. One of them responded, ‘Send him to the Arctic because it’s sooooo cold’. The other little boy, disagreed, ‘No, no, send him to Antarctica because they have to walk upside down.”’ (Missy now hails from Amazing Grace Academy, Palmer, AK.)

“Our preschool students performed a short skit for the Senior Valentines program in February. It was about Elijah trusting God—how he heard the voice of God telling him to tell King Ahab it would not rain for the next few years. The skit ended with Elijah and the widow praising God for meeting their needs. The preschoolers then recited Philippians 4:19, ‘My God will meet all my needs’ and sang, ‘I Will Obey the Spirit of the Lord’.

Most of the children knew the story well, but for one student it was new, and the whole concept came to life. He continues to ask questions about God and I am all too happy to answer. I thank God for providing this school where children can learn about God and His love for us.

Teresa Tefts, Director/Teacher
Lewis County Adventist School Preschool

Parenting Tips to Share...

Understanding Anger’s 5 Causes

A helpful way to uncover what’s behind your anger is to recognize anger’s five basic causes. This list is often helpful to bring some rationale to feelings. Use these causes to guide your self-reflection when you start to feel angry and then move into a more healthy response.

1. Physical Pain - When a child hits you or you step on a sharp toy, your anger may, in part, be fueled by the physical pain you experience.

2. Blocked Goals - Trying to leave the house by 7:35 am and turning to see that your three-year-old took her shoes off again can lead to anger.

3. Violated Rights - When the five-year-old is knocking on the bathroom door, a mom may feel angry and think, “I have the right to go to the bathroom in peace.” A dad may believe that he has a right to come home and have a few minutes to relax in quiet before taking on family problems.

4. Unfairness - When a mom sees a big brother picking on his sister, or a younger child harassing an older one, she may get angry because of the obvious unfairness of the situation. A dad may feel it’s unfair that he has to help bathe the kids after putting in a hard day’s work.

5. Unmet Expectations - A mom might say, “I expected to arrive home from work to cook dinner, but instead I come home to this mess!” Unmet expectations seem to go along with the job of parenting but often result in angry feelings.

Discovering what is causing your angry feelings will often help you see where your child needs to grow or change, giving you more insight into how to discipline most effectively. Understanding the five causes of anger can help you as you relate to your family.

Putting a label on your feelings may help you redirect some of that energy to a more productive response. You may begin to see patterns in yourself and identify one particular cause that is more common for you. This observation can help you know how to adjust your reaction.

Excerpts from Good and Angry, Exchanging Frustration for Character In You and Your Kids, by Dr Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN.
GETTING TO KNOW ...YOU!

...Geneva Vazquez

Anyone who has visited the area, can understand why Geneva Vazquez has not ventured far from the beautiful place where she was born and raised, Wenatchee, Washington. It is there that single-handedly Geneva raised six children, four biological kids and a set of newborn twins she took into her home and heart fifteen years ago, “because they needed to know Jesus”.

Regarding previous employment, Geneva comments, “I have been in the field of childcare so long (19 years) that I do not remember much else, except working in fruit warehouses.” To which she adds, “This is much more rewarding!” Outside childcare, Geneva’s interests and hobbies include hiking, biking, thrift shopping, and Native American history.

As director of Cascade Christian Childcare and Preschool, licensed for ages 1-12, Geneva oversees the care of 120 children. She comments, “My teachers love ‘their’ kids”. And she adds, “I love to hear that a child has taught their parents how to pray or that ‘our’ kids sing God’s praises uninhibited wherever they go. I wonder what our world would be like if more adults were that way.”

Regarding an area of early childhood education that she’d like to see changed or improved, Geneva responded, “I would like to see more opportunities for growing ECEC for those who cannot afford it, and higher pay and benefits for our ECEC teachers. They work so hard. After all, this is the most important time of learning our ‘our’ children!”

...Ruth Atwood

Born in south Texas, Ruth Atwood was the middle child of seven. Her dad and grandfather were ranchers so Ruth and her siblings learned to work cattle from the time they could sit upright on a horse, and to garden. Ruth says her folks always made room for more so she had many foster brothers and sisters. “I attended a rural school for my first ten years. My grandfather’s name was on the plaque of the school as one of the founding fathers, and I had the same first grade teacher as my father!”

Mark, Ruth’s husband, loves to cook and she adds, “I love to eat his cooking!” They have two grown sons, one living in Texas and the other in Alaska, an hour north of them, and two grandchildren. Besides Bible study, Ruth is very interested in the study of health, nutrition and natural and herbal remedies and cleanses.

Ruth entered the teaching field ten years ago after working as a small business office consultant. Two years ago Ruth and Mark moved to Anchorage where she started the Pre-K/K program at Anchorage Jr. Academy. “I’ve been somewhat driven “to do” in my life. Pre-K/K gives me permission to play and have fun while we all learn together.” Having taught in the public school system, she adds, “I am so blessed—I can talk about Jesus—He is real and ever-present in our classroom.”

Commenting on the uniqueness of their school, Ruth says, “Over the last two years the enrollment of the school has grown from 20 to 60. We have worship together every morning as a student body. Seven SDA churches support our school. And there are 92 ethnic groups in Anchorage so our school is quite diverse—I love it! Something else unique about her school? “We often see moose on the school grounds.”

APRIL is National Child Abuse Prevention month!
Family Stewardship Program

One School’s Idea For Cutting Costs & Getting “Family Buy-In”

_________ Christian School is committed to providing an exceptional Christ-centered education. We continue to grow and develop. We do this with a partnership between the leadership of our school—Executive Board, Advisory Board, administration, faculty, staff, PTM (Parent Teacher Ministry) and families. These entities work cooperatively to implement improvements required to keep up with today’s educational needs, to defray costs and improve our school community.

The Family Stewardship Program creates a partnership that is aimed at utilizing the strengths of our students’ families. What does Family Stewardship mean for you? Similar to many private institutions like ours, we require each family to commit 20 hours of work, related to the activities of our school, each year. We encourage the use of the gifts and talents each of our families is blessed with. This significant output can be accomplished in many different ways by any or all members of each family.

Families unable to participate in the Family Stewardship Program will be charged $10.00 per unfulfilled hour. Late-entrance families will have pro-rated required hours. Additional hours of service would, of course, be greeted with enthusiasm and greatly appreciated!

Families with ONLY preschoolers at our school are asked to complete 5 hours per family. (If you have one preschooler and one student K-8th grade enrolled, the 20 hour requirement applies.)

You can track your hours on the main page of our website: select “Parent Information,” then choose “Stewardship Hours Reporting.” Here you will help us to accrue the hours you have dedicated. Hours for the 2012-2013 school year can be recorded now through the last day of school. (If you do not have regular access to a computer, our office staff would be happy to assist you with the recording.)

Knowing that many hands make light work, we are excited to offer this program as a way of keeping costs down and to be able to provide educational tools that would otherwise be cost prohibitive. Thank you for blessing our school with your involvement. We know you will feel the blessings as well.

Below is a list of potential opportunities for students and parents to participate in during the upcoming school year. You will be surprised at how fast your hours add up.

- Back to School Night
- Family Fall Festival
- PTM (Parent Teacher Ministry)
- Advertising/Public Relations
- Veterans Day
- Field Day Hot Dog Lunch
- Winter Fun Nights
- Spring Fundraiser
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Pastries with Parents
- SCRIP Sales
- Office

There are many other opportunities that will be advertised throughout the year as well.

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” I Peter 4:10
Northwest Adventist
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION WORKSHOP
June 23 – 24, 2013
North Pacific Union Conference office, Ridgefield, WA

It’s Pointless Without HIM!

2013 ECEC WORKSHOP information—

⇒ The workshop is FREE to all directors and head teachers of SDA centers/schools within the NPUC, who register by MAY 8.

⇒ ALL meetings (both days) will take place the North Pacific Union Conference office (5709 N. 20th St., Ridgefield, WA, I-5 exit 14).

⇒ The 2-day workshop begins with a delicious Mexican lunch Sunday noon.

⇒ Accommodations (1 room per center/school) will be reserved for you for Sunday night at La Quinta Inns & Suites.
   (For more than one room per center please contact your local conference liaison for authorization.)

⇒ Hotel amenities include: in-room microwaves & refrigerators, indoor swimming pool, fitness center, free internet.

⇒ Dress is business casual.

⇒ PLAN TO BRING:

• 5 minutes worth of HIGHLIGHTS about your center/class—it’s uniqueness, successes, failures, dreams! This could be in the form of a poster, a PowerPoint (we’ll have computer/projector), a skit, photos on a thumb drive, DVD, or just shared by you.

• Any handouts you would like to share (i.e.) enrollment/registration forms, parent and employee handbook, parent newsletters, marketing tools....

• Inspirational experiences you’ve had sharing Jesus with your students and their families.

(More information including topics and schedule, will be sent to registered attendees.)
Northwest Adventist
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION WORKSHOP
June 23 – 24, 2013
North Pacific Union Conference office, Ridgefield, WA

It’s Pointless Without HIM!

REGISTRATION FORM (one per center)

PLEASE PRINT
Name of Center/School

 Address of Center/School

Name(s) of Attendee(s)     Position at Center/School     Phone #     Email address

Accommodations (1 room per center/school *) will be reserved for you for SUNDAY night at La Quinta Inns & Suites.

Please check one:  
☐ 1 King bed (1-2 people)  
☐ 2 Queen beds (2-4 people)

Special lodging requests (i.e. handicap room)

(*If more than one room is needed for your center, please check with your local conference office ECEC liaison for authorization.)

Please submit this form to your local conference office ECEC liaison by May 8:

ALASKA Conference  
Tom Maher  
6100 O’Malley Rd  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
907-346-1004  
Tom.maher@ac.npuc.org

IDAHO Conference  
Patrick Frey  
7777 Fairview Ave  
Boise, ID 83704  
208-375-7524  
Patrick.frey@idcong.org

OREGON Conference  
Wayne Wentland  
19800 Oatfield Rd  
Gladstone, OR 97027  
503-850-3500  
wayne.wentland@oc.npuc.org

UPPER COLUMBIA Conference  
Jim Mason, Becky Barts  
3715 S. Grove Road  
Spokane, WA 99224  
509-838-2761  
jimason@uccsda.org  
beckyb@uccsda.org

MONTANA Conference  
c/o Bette Wheeling  
175 Canyon View Rd  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
406-587-3101  
Bette.wheeling@mc.npuc.org

WASHINGTON Conference  
Shirlene McClendon  
32229 Weyerhaeuser Way S  
Federal Way, WA 98001  
253-681-6008  
Shirlene.Mcclendon@wc.npuc.org