Hi Friends,

It was great to see so many of you in June at our NPUC workshop. I loved witnessing the networking that took place, reconnecting with many of you, as well as meeting new colleagues (welcome!).

I hope you were as inspired as I was, by the presentations, Power Points and breakouts by Davenia Lea and Sherri Uhrig. We gave them big assignments and they surely came through for us! Both brought a wealth of information to the table, Sherri from her former years as an ECE director and for the last 14 as director of children’s ministries at Oregon Conference, and Davenia, from her work in early childhood as university professor and education department dean, and now as North American Division EC director.

I especially appreciated our NPUC Vice President for Education (in other words, Superintendent of Education), Lanny Huribert’s presence, with us for the two days. That speaks volumes of his interest in the ministry of ECE, and the value he puts on YOU. (The 2013 education code supplement that he led us through is now on our website.)

As she mentioned during her presentation, though Suzie Hanson is executive director of Washington Federation of Independent Schools, she will be more than happy to answer questions from any of you—no matter what state you live in—relating to the privileges and unique challenges of private schools and how to best work with state entities. (She expressed several times her gratitude in getting the opportunity to dialogue with you. Reach her at: shanson@wfis.org.)

It was a privilege to once again have Art Blinci join us from Adventist Risk Management. How many insurance corporations take the time to meet those they serve and to advise them to be proactive, and to teach them preventive skills? Art graciously shared his Power Point presentation which you will find on our website (NPUC.org, then to Departments, Education, Early Childhood).

For those who did not have the opportunity to attend the workshop, you may be puzzled by the photos at the top of page 4. Carol McLeod presented us with an opportunity to “transport” our children to Munguluni Mission School in the country of Mozambique through outreach, by putting together boxes for under privileged children. Just today I saw thrilling video footage of a classroom of young Munguluni students getting their very own box filled with goodies that had been packed by children in Bend, Oregon. There will be more about how to be involved in this ministry on our website soon.

Lastly, don’t miss pages 5 and 6. Jerilyn Burtch of Palmer, AK has created a wonderful Bible resource room called, The Courtyard. Her ideas are great for anytime, but for those wishing to develop something special for those Friday early Sabbath hours, this may be a great idea. (You may not have an extra room, but you may have a moveable cart.)

May God bless each of you!

Sue

“In the little children come to Me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Luke 18:16

Your center can be a part of LET’S MOVE WEEK, Sept. 22-29, 2013. Visit this website for more ideas on how to get moving: www.AdventistsinStepforLife.org.

On the homepage of the website is info on a FREE webinar on September 17 about ages, activities, etc.
Children Matter to God

From: Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions
by George Barna

Children are a gift from God.
Deut. 7:13; Ps. 127:3

Adults receive special blessings through their children.
Num. 5:28; Deut. 28:4, 11; Lam. 4:2

Children are desirable.
Gen. 9:7; Deut. 6:3; Luke 1: 24-25

Children need to be taught how to think and act in relation to God and His ways.
Ex. 12: 26, 37; Deut. 4:9-10, 6: 1-7; 31: 12-13; Ps. 78: 4-6; Prov. 22:6

To have a fruitful relationship with God, children must be taught to obey Him.
Prov. 8:32; 19:26; Jer. 2:30; 3:22; Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20

Children are so valuable to God that He commands us to protect them.
1 Sam. 20:42; Ezra 8:21

God wants to have a genuine relationship with His children.
Ps. 8:2; 34:11; 103:13; Mal. 2:15; Matt. 21:15; Mark 10: 13-16

God loves children enough to ensure that they receive discipline.
Prov. 3:11-12; 13:24; 19:18; 23:13; 29: 15-17; Eph. 6:4

God enjoys the nature and personality of children.
Matt. 18:3; 19:14; Phil. 2:15

It's Pointless Without HIM!

The June 2013 ECE workshop presentations are listed below. Those starred (*) have been added to our website, and more will be added as available.
(Go to: www.npuc.org, then Departments, Education, Early Childhood)

SUNDAY, June 23
Intentional Teaching of the Whole Child—Sherri Uhrig
*Leading “On Purpose”: That’s a Good Point—Davenia Lea
*Sharpening the Point: GOOD, BETTER, BEST - Observation and Assessment
—Davenia Lea

Breakouts
Meaningful Story Telling: That’s Developmentally & Age Appropriate
—Sherri Uhrig
The Visionary Director: Advocacy, Effectiveness, Efficiency
—Davenia Lea

MONDAY, June 24
Building Respectful Relationships with Your Kids, Families & Community
—Sherri Uhrig
ECEC Points of Interest in the NPUC: Heading Forward...Together
—Lanny Hurlbert
What “Changing Times” Means to Private Schools—Suzie Hanson
*Pointed Thoughts on Safety: Developing & Maintaining a Safe, Healthy Environment in 2013...and Beyond—Art Blinci
*Teaching Those Who Color Outside the Lines: Recognizing & Reaching Special Needs Children & Their Families—Davenia Lea
Learning Diversity, Practicing Inclusivity, Through Outreach
—Carol McLeod

2 GREAT Books!
Joining Children On The Spiritual Journey: Nurturing A Life of Faith, by Catherine Stonehouse
Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions: Why Children Should Be Your Church’s #1 Priority, by George Barna
CASCADE CHRISTIAN (Wenatchee) won a beautiful rug donated by Carpets for Kids! Yeah, Crystal!

Roxie & Kelsie, mother & daughter team representing THE LEARNING NEST, came from Olympia.

Sandie, from KING’S KIDS in Portland, won a bear!

Arlene holds a second rug, also donated by Carpets for Kids. Congrats, PRECIOUS TREASURES (Mt Vernon)!

North American Division ECE director, Davenia Lea, presented several seminars as well as chairing a forum for directors.
Carol introduced us to...
The SHOEBOX PROJECT
for
Munguluni Mission School
In Mozambique
(more about this in the near future)

Sherri led out in a seminar just for
teachers, part of which was
“hands on”
**Parables**

Little stories, tiny mysteries with clues. They usually begin with “The Kingdom of God is like . . .” or “I am . . .” We practice telling parables like telling jokes --we want kids to have the “ah-ha!” moment and “get the punch line.” That way, they’re more likely to “own” the parable, and continue to meditate on it, letting its significance deepen as they mature.

**Books of the Bible Cabinet**

The Books of the Bible cabinet features each book made roughly to scale. We study the various and amazing ways God has communicated and preserved his word.

**The plan of salvation and my place in it**

In the Primary class we begin work with interactive timelines. We look at the Plan of God -- from Creation, through Redemption, to the Second Coming. Each timeline in the series allows students to build in more scriptures and historical details. We’re zooming in on the “blank page” -- the page in history that God wants to write with you!

**Courtyard:**

Partnering with God to write your page in the Great Controversy

For more information contact Jerilyn Burtch

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

JBURTCHAK@ME.COM

907-841-1897

For children’s conversations with God

Kindergarten (ages 3-6)

Primary (Grades 1-3)

A hands-on introduction to parables, geography of Israel & stories of the life of Jesus.
nurturing the child’s prayer life

Geography of the Land of Israel
Activities include:
- finding Alaska & Israel on a globe
- pegging Nazareth, Bethlehem & Jerusalem on a 3D map of Israel
- Assembling a 3D “puzzle map” of Jerusalem

These hands-on activities help set the historical context for Bible stories. They help us realize, “Jesus, God incarnate, came to Earth!” and “God has work for me to do here, in Alaska!”

Narratives
Every story comes with its own Scripture booklet, diorama, and 3D figures so children have a way to keep their hands busy while they think about the miracles in the life of Jesus.

Prayer Time
Each story includes an invitation to mull over the story by tracing scripture verses or drawings, or responding through art materials like watercolors and collage. In the Primary class students are working toward taking over leadership of the weekly prayer time -- choosing scriptures, prayers & responsive readings. This experience increases their enjoyment of and participation in worship with their families in church. They are prepared to take leadership in church as they mature.

Celebrations
We want the biggest celebrations and most memorable traditions in our children’s lives to focus on what God has done & will do. When God introduced Passover, he explained that he was counting on children asking “Why are you doing this?” God told parents that this was a great chance to explain how God had delivered them. So we study Passover as the background for the Last Supper and how we celebrate Communion together now. We celebrate the giving of the Ten Commandments as the background for Pentecost, and appreciating what the Holy Spirit wants to do through us now. In Primary we begin studying The Day of Atonement and how God used that teaching to start the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Practical Life Activities: Preparation for Prayer
In order to pray, it helps to slow down enough to be able to listen for God. Practical Life activities like pouring and tying and polishing do more than develop fine-motor skills and the ability to complete a task with multiple steps. They help children develop confidence in their ability to be independent and contribute to family life. Most importantly, Practical Life activities give us an opportunity to practice “prayer without ceasing,” bringing prayer into the routine activities of life.