ECEC News...

*A special ad hoc meeting* was held at the NPUC office in Ridgefield, WA on December 12 and 13. Committee members included three NPUC early childhood center directors, three NPUC conference superintendents/ECE liaisons, and NPUC education personnel. The purpose of the meeting was to review the new model ECEC policies developed by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (NAD) and to translate these into policies unique for our territory of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. It is hoped that this document can be adopted by the NPUC Board of Education very soon. Regarding the meeting, committee member Jodi Giem, director of Eagle Adventist Christian Center, stated, “I think it was a great benefit to be there and see all that has to go into it and how difficult it is to write policies for several states who all have different requirements.” The input from the three center directors was invaluable.

*The new SDA yet-to-be-completed kindergarten program, Stepping Stones, was introduced to a select group of kindergarten, and pre-K/K teachers at two sites (Sacramento and San Antonio) in November. Initial reviews were very positive, with much excitement among attendees. Melanie Lawson, Boise Valley Pre-K teacher commented, “I like that all curricular areas are covered and that the spiritual aspect is woven all the way through. Each new month has a spiritual theme and the activities included keep referring back to it. Also, I like that the themes are built off the trade books which will help to inspire the children’s excitement and make story time more relevant.” It is hoped that curriculum for early childhood programs will “quickly” follow and piggy-back this program.

*2012 North American Division TEACHERS’ CONVENTION*

**THEME: Journey to Excellence: Moving Hearts & Minds Upward**

Full time ECEC directors/teachers: Plan to be in Nashville, Tennessee, August 5-8. More than 6,000 of your colleagues will be joining you to hear inspiring music and motivating speakers in general sessions (including Carlton Byrd, Dwight Nelson...) , and more than 450 breakout sessions, some specifically for early childhood. Contact your conference superintendent a.s.a.p. for more information.

*New NPUC early childhood directories* were mailed out in early December—one per center. If you would like a second copy please contact me. Also, make me aware of any changes, additions, deletions throughout the year.

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

Luke 18:16
Getting Acquainted with TAMMY HAMMOND

I was born in Renton, WA and moved to the White Salmon area where I spent the majority of my childhood. To be honest about my experience in school, I was the child that every teacher could not wait to get rid of. In college I got my act together and took Early Childhood Education from Walla Walla Community College. Now I am in the school system working, where I never thought I’d be! I would say that’s the biggest part of “God leads you”.

I have been married for 18 years to a wonderful man (Dan) and have twin boys (Bradley and Brandon) who turned thirteen on December 13 and 14. Yes, they were born on different days; 4 ½ hours apart -- God has a great sense of humor! Hobbies include watching hockey and football, bike riding, scrapbooking, hiking, long drives in the mountains, and time with my boys.

For ten years I had a home day care before becoming the preschool teacher at Northwest Christian School (Puyallup, WA). When we moved into our new school three years ago we became licensed and I became director of the preschool program. This is my seventh year of teaching/directing the preschool at NCS. We started a second preschool program this year. Eighty-six percent of our families are from the community.

What’s an area of early childhood education I’d like to see changed or improved? I would like to see the directors earn the same respect as K-12 teachers so that preschool is brought onto the same page as the rest of our school. And, that schools would understand that preschools have WAC codes that must be followed, and we could use their support in following those rules.

A few unique things about our program are: 1) We put on full Christmas and Spring programs for the families. 2) We have “portfolios” for each child at the end of the year that are scrapbooked, individualized yearbooks. 3) We allow parents to customize which days their child will attend during the year; whether it is Monday, Wednesday, Friday, or perhaps Monday, Thursday, Friday. They choose what fits their family’s particular needs.

We have 36 children enrolled, ages 2.5-5; eighteen each in our 2.5-4 preschool and our 4-5 pre-K. I also direct the before and after school care programs which serve another thirty families with children in kindergarten to 8th grade.

My philosophy is: “Every day is an adventure. You will never have the same day over.”

Great websites (thanks for sharing!):

Empowering kids to make healthy choices. Curriculum kits, posters, DVDs, etc.: www.learningzonexpress.com

EC articles, toy/book suggestions, exchange & networking, ask questions/get answers: www.ChildCareInfo.com


A children’s ministry site, yes, but SDA ECE is just that! Get Bible-based materials at a discount that will spiritually enhance your curriculum (they are located near our office—I recently met with Brian & was impressed): www.Equippingkids.com

Science ideas: www.pbskids.org/sid

Curriculum supplement for pre-kindergarten: www.hwtears.com
Join LANA the iguana for snacks that are both fun to make and eat! Easy kid friendly recipes that are quick to prepare and include at least two fruits and vegetables. Recipes in LANA’s Fruit & Vegetable Snack Recipes book (for ages 2-9) include:

- Kiwi Teddy Bear Rice Cake Snacks
- Veggie Bagel Face
- Sweet Potato Smoothies
- Strawberry-Kiwi Popsicles
- Fruit Rainbow
- Veggie Flower Garden
- Stuffed pea Pod Canoes
- Pretend Fried Egg
- Pretzel Apricot Spider

Order online: Learningzonexpress.com—$19.95

Also check out Lana’s Favorite Recipes Cookbook—$4.95

WHO WE ARE - Food for Thought
(excerpts from our colleague, Christine Gillan Byrne, Ed. D.)

“We just completed our biennial ECEC Directors’ Workshop (for our sister territory consisting of AZ, CA, HI, NV and UT). One of the issues brought forward had to do with Adventist ECEC programs wanting to become Montessori and/or Reggio ECEC programs. In brief, this was my response:

The greatest strength of other ECEC models, be it Montessori, Reggio, or any other, is in their adherence to a shared philosophy. The greatest weakness of other ECEC models lies in the lack of an educational system to guide the implementation of that shared philosophy.

In order for Adventist ECEC programs to meet their full evangelistic potential, they must operate from sound philosophical, educational and systematized protocols consistent with Adventist ideology and practices. These three components are missing from other ECE models be it Montessori, Reggio, HighScope...or any other method.

The Adventist Church has a well developed educational system that is highly respected around the world. We have a philosophy of education; outlined in the Bible and detailed in the book Education. This provides guidance and purpose in developing policies, procedures, guidelines, curriculum, teacher preparation programs, professional development and certification, program standards and accreditation – all the standardized expectations for ECEC programs and ECEC teachers.

How those Biblical methods are practiced can be more eclectic and incorporate aspects of other ECE models. But being eclectic in our practical application of Adventist methods does not change our foundational philosophy. We are Adventists in philosophy and we adhere to the education methods outlined by the Bible and further emphasized by Mrs. White.

Adventist ECEC programs should not “become” or change their name to indicate that they are philosophically different from Adventism. Adventist ECEC programs should know and adhere to the Adventist philosophy of education. Adventist ECEC programs should know and adhere to the instructional methods outlined in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. We can draw from Montessori, Reggio, HighScope, etc. – but we are not Montessori, Reggio, HighScope, etc. We are Adventists.”
A New Center Opens!

*Learning Cove Daycare*  
Coos Bay, Oregon

*Learning Cove Daycare* is located inside the Coos Bay Seventh-day Adventist Church, a facility also shared with the Adventist school where fifteen students are enrolled in grades 1-8. The center currently can hold twenty children ages three to six years.

Center director Katrinka McReynolds (left) comes with a background in business management and six years experience in home day care, besides experience as a teacher’s aide and kindergarten teacher. Katrinka and her husband have four children.

Besides being bilingual, head teacher Melissa Metcalf (right) has a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a minor in early childhood education. She has taught preschool, as well as elementary school in California and Oregon. Melissa and her husband have two daughters.

Katrinka writes, “*We had many amazing blessings for our center as we started this process. God provided not only for our needs but also often for our wants. People came forward with donations who had no way of knowing that was exactly what we had asked for. We had moments where it seemed that we could not possibly make this work and where we questioned if we had really heard this call to ministry correctly. We both see this as a ministry, a God thing. It is His and when it looks gloomy we count our blessings and give Him the praise.*”

Congratulations, *Learning Cove Daycare* and Katrinka and Melissa! May God richly bless you and all the little people and the families whose lives you touch.
**How Much Technology in the Classroom?**

*Another point of view...*

Some parents and educators have a message: computers and schools don’t mix.” This surprising assertion appeared in an Oct. 22 *New York Times* article, “A Silicon Valley School That Doesn’t Compute.”

The school, which enrolls children of parents from Google, Apple, Yahoo, eBay, and Hewlett-Packard, is “the Waldorf School of the Peninsula, one of around 160 Waldorf schools in the country that subscribe to a teaching philosophy focused on physical activity and learning through creative, hands-on tasks. Those who endorse this approach say computers inhibit creative thinking, movement, human interaction and attention spans.... The school’s chief teaching tools are anything but high-tech.... Not a computer to be found. No screens at all. They are not allowed in the classroom, and the school even frowns on their use at home.”

Here is the viewpoint of a typical parent, Alan Eagle, an executive at Google:

“I fundamentally reject the notion you need technology aids in grammar school.... The idea that an app on an iPad can better teach my kids to read or do arithmetic, that’s ridiculous.” And asking, “What’s the rush to learn technology in schools?” Eagle observes, “It’s super easy. It’s like learning to use toothpaste. At Google and all these places, we make technology as brain-dead easy to use as possible. There’s no reason why kids can’t figure it out when they get older.”

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**Eco-Healthy Child Care**

*For Healthier Children and a Happier Earth*

The Eco-Healthy Child Care program endorses providers who comply with at least 20-25 best practice techniques. They offer child care providers free training and free marketing via their website (www.oecoline.org/ehcc), newsletters and other media outlets. They work hard to get you the credit and support you deserve. They also encourage parents to choose Eco-Healthy Child Care facilities.

Follow these easy steps to get started:

1. Request a checklist. Call 503-222-1963 x1919 or download one at www.oecoline.org/ehcc.

2. Review the checklist. Call if you have questions.

3. Complete the checklist. Comply with at least 20-25 items listed, including the two required items necessary for endorsement.

4. Verify your completed checklist. Ask a non-employee witness to confirm the completion of the tasks on your checklist, including the two required items. Make sure the witness co-signs your completed checklist before returning if for endorsement.

5. Submit for endorsement. Send your verified checklist to: Eco-Healthy Child Care 222 NW Davis Street, Suite 309 Portland, OR 97209

Once endorsed, you will receive materials to display your commitment to maintaining an eco-healthy child care facility, including a placard, informative poster and an official letter of endorsement.

Endorsed providers are listed on their website, which is visited by thousands of parents each year.

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**Blessings in 2012 from me and mine to YOU and YOURS!**

- Sue

*(Baby Lilia just arrived Jan 10!)*