A newsletter for those who nurture the growth & faith of His little ones

Winter 2017

Welcoming the New Year — 2017!

Happy New Year to each one of you! I hope your holiday season was filled with the blessing of being with family and friends and reflecting on JESUS’ love for you! The holidays always go by too fast and here we are again back into our routine of juggling work & family and finding, however brief, a moment to take time to just breathe!

I’m not the type of person that usually sets BIG New Year Resolutions….although I do see the value in reflecting on the past and making the necessary changes to grow mentally, physically and spiritually in the New Year. I want my goals to be attainable and tangible! My personal goals are to: read, exercise and pray more!

My current read: At the ECEC Advisory meetings I attended in New Orleans during early December, I was given a book, Start with Why,” by Simon Sinek. The premise of the book is to always ask yourself “Why” before you do anything.—make what you do more intentional! Sounds good right? It’s been a good read so far and I would recommend it!

My exercise plan: My mantra is similar to ‘Dory’ in Finding Nemo—Just keep moving, just keep moving! With all the lovely snow in the mountains my husband and I are heading out snowshoeing this Sabbath—that’s my start!

My Prayer plan: I am praying for one NPUC ECEC center/preschool per day for the year. If you have special prayer requests, please let me know so I can pray specifically for that. Otherwise, I will be praying that this year will be positive and a blessing, and that hearts will be drawn closer to Jesus because of what you do!

Whatever your goals are for 2017, I pray that you will be blessed with lots of love, joy & laughter! When troubles or sorrows arise trust in the Healer of all—Jesus!

From August to December I was able to visit 19 of our ECE centers/preschool or preK programs. What a delight it was to meet each of you and see where you are. I look forward to visiting the rest of you this year!

I’m excited about our NPUC ECE Workshop, June 25 & 26. The plans are taking shape and the speakers are confirming. I know this workshop will be a blessing to you. Please keep watching for information to come. Since this is FREE to you, I hope you plan to attend!

It is my prayer for you, as you minister to the children in your care each day, that you will be as blessed as they are to have you in their lives. You are a truly valuable member of the NPUC Educational team. Thank you for serving and sharing of yourself each day!

Smiles & blessings to you! Golda

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“Let the little children come to Me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of heaven.”  
Luke 18:16

Happy Winter!
Northwest Adventist Early Childhood Education

2017 Workshop

Teaching from the -letting Jesus be your GUIDE!

Directors and Teachers of ECE Centers and Schools

North Pacific Union Conference
Ridgefield, WA

June 25-26, 2017
Sunday noon - Monday afternoon

You won’t want to miss this exciting workshop. It’s your time for networking, education, team-building, a bit of fun, a change of pace... YOU deserve it!

Sponsored by the NPUC & it’s six conferences. Travel, accommodation expenses & meals are provided!

Watch for more information in the SPRING newsletter
NAD ECE Advisory NEWS & Updates:

- **Voted** to develop and implement an **ECE Accreditation** Module and begin a pilot program at select centers/preschools within each Conference beginning Fall 2017.

  Why do our SDA ECE centers need accreditation? ECE Accreditation is essential to our centers and preschools in maintaining a recognized professional quality standard. Accreditation options are out there and some of our centers have chosen to be NAEYC accredited, which is costly. Because of this most centers have chosen not to be accredited. However, NAD ECE Accreditation, conducted by your Union ECE Coordinator, has minimal cost associated for the schools. It is the view of the NAD ECE Advisory that being part of a professional accreditation entity will aid in our promotion of Excellence in Education within our ECE centers and preschools in the NPUC.

- **Voted** to recommend that the **CREATION Kids** Early Childhood Curriculum, be adopted at level 1, except in those states that have a mandated ECEC curriculum, and in those states it would be a level 2 adoption.

  Previous adopted Curriculum (Items for clarification):

    In States where a specific ECE curriculum is required, the following are previously approved ECEC curriculums:
    - Creative Curriculum
    - High Reach
    - Core Knowledge
    - Learn Everyday
    - High Scope
    - Core Knowledge
    - OWL

  NOTE: In states that do not have curriculum requirements, these curriculums are approved as supplemental to the CREATION Kids Curriculum

- **VOTED: Opening Enrollment** will be DUE to the NPUC ECEC Coordinator’s office no later than September 15. NOTE: Pre-Kindergarten in schools is to be included with the Pre-K—12 Opening Report.
10 Tips for Better Teamwork

Teams That Get These Factors Right Succeed

By Susan M. Heathfield

Keys to Successful Teamwork: These ten tips describe the environment that must occur within the team for successful teamwork to take place. Successful teamwork is the cornerstone for creating functioning, contributing teams.

1. **The team understands the goals** and is committed to attaining them. This clear direction and agreement on mission and purpose is essential for effective teamwork. Team members must have an overall mission that is agreed upon and that provides the umbrella for all that the team tries to do. This team clarity is reinforced when the organization has clear expectations for the team’s work, goals, accountability, and outcomes.

2. The team creates an environment in which people are comfortable taking reasonable risks in communicating, advocating positions, and taking action. Team members trust each other. Team members are not punished for disagreeing.

3. **Communication is open, honest, and respectful.** People feel free to express their thoughts, opinions, and potential solutions to problems. People feel as if they are heard out and listened to by team members who are attempting to understand. Team members ask questions for clarity and spend their thought time listening deeply rather than forming rebuttals while their coworker is speaking.

4. **Team members have a strong sense of belonging to the group.** They experience a deep commitment to the group’s decisions and actions. This sense of belonging is enhanced and reinforced when the team spends the time to develop team norms or relationship guidelines together.

5. **Team members are viewed as unique people** with irreplaceable experiences, points of view, knowledge, and opinions to contribute. After all, the purpose of forming a team is to take advantage of the differences. Otherwise, why would any organization approach projects, products, or goals with a team? In fact, the more that a team can bring out divergent points of view, that are thoughtfully presented and supported with facts as well as opinions, the better.

6. **Creativity, innovation, and different viewpoints are expected** and encouraged. Comments such as, “we already tried that and it didn’t work” and “what a dumb idea” are not allowed or supported.

7. **The team is able to constantly examine itself** and continuously improve its processes, practices, and the interaction of team members. The team openly discusses team norms and what may be hindering its ability to move forward and progress in areas of effort, talent, and strategy.

8. **The team has agreed upon procedures for diagnosing, analyzing, and resolving teamwork problems and conflicts.** The team does not support member personality conflicts and clashes nor do team members pick sides in a disagreement. Rather, members work towards the mutual resolution of problems and disagreements.

9. **Participative leadership is practiced** in leading meetings, assigning tasks, recording decisions and commitments, assessing progress, holding team members accountable, and providing direction for the team.

10. **Members of the team make high quality decisions together** and have the support and commitment of the group to carry out the decisions made.

If a team can get these ten factors right, success and a rewarding sense of teamwork will follow. It’s not always the task at hand that challenges teams in their progress, it’s the relationships and the little things that happen day-to-day. If team members can rise above the trench, they can achieve greatness. How does your team rate in these areas? Is it time to start some team building activities and focus on strengthening your team?
Publication!

Making and Tinkering With STEM

Integrate STEM-rich exploration and learning in your classroom with engineering design challenges inspired by children’s favorite books. Available for pre-order now!

Learn More  www.naeyc.org

From the book: **Together is Better** by Simon Sinek

- Be the Leader You Wish You Had -

“The greatest joy a leader has is to become the one who helps others find the vision they are looking for. To see those in their charge do more than they thought they were capable of. To watch the group take care of each other. To see the team work together to solve unsolvable problems. This is what it means to become a leader. It is not a journey to rise in the ranks, it is the journey to help those around us rise.”

NPUC ECE Workshop 2017—Sharing opportunity!

- Each center will be given the opportunity to share something that they are passionate about, something that happened during the year, or great tips or a craft!
- We are all unique and have wonderful teaching strategies that work for us each day—we need to share these!
- Share pictures of what you have done or even a PowerPoint.
- See you then: Sunday, June 25th & Monday, June 26th!