

Preschool “Dad and Me Night”

-Ruth Baas, Director

From a preschooler’s perspective, one of the most exciting things to do is to bring your dad to preschool at night and enjoy some friendly team competition with him! On Thursday evening, March 16, forty-seven preschool children and their dads came together to enjoy Orland Park Christian Preschool’s annual “Dad & Me Night.”

As they came in, each child and dad were photographed for the special event in our patriotic photo booth! Some of these photos accompany this article. (Check out the preschool bulletin board in the church narthex to see all of the photos on display.) While we waited for all the preschoolers to arrive, the preschool rooms were open and some of the children enjoyed the opportunity to show their dads what their school was like.

After opening with prayer to thank our Father in heaven for our dads and our children, the fun and games began. There were eight teams of players and four different stations with games for two teams at a time. The beanbag toss provided opportunity for some fierce competition between child/adult family pairs. Many of the dads are very accomplished bean-bag players! The balloon game station saw two teams competing against each other to pass a balloon under and over players from the front of the line to the back. The dads and preschoolers also enjoyed playing paddle volleyball with balloons (with

dads being confined to chairs so that the children would have more of a chance to hit the balloons).

The scooter race was lots of fun as first the dads pushed the children across the gym on scooters, and then the children switched places and gave

starting line faster than Dad! Amazingly, each child successfully finished the obstacle course faster than his/her dad. Everyone showed great sportsmanship throughout the evening!

We ended the evening by enjoying make-your-own ice cream sundaes.

While the energy level of the children did not slow down (they always enjoy running free in the gym), the dads seemed happy to sit back and visit, getting reacquainted with old friends and meeting new ones.

The staff at Orland Park Christian Preschool (Ruth Baas, Lisa Cavanaugh, Brenda Harms, Janna Kuyvenhoven, Mary Vos, and Barb Vree) enjoyed sharing such a fun night with the children and their dads. We are grateful to Skip Van Ryn, the church Administrative Elder who serves on the preschool board, for coming out and helping us to run the evening, along with board members Kim Hospes and Beth Solle who did a great job of serving ice cream and all the toppings. We also appreciate our church custodian, Rick Schultz, for all he does to help us with the event. Most of all, we thank God for the opportunity to work with the preschool children and their families.

We pray that the ministry that is provided will be a blessing that helps the children grow in their love for learning and also grow in a faith that loves God.



their dads a ride by pushing them back across the gym on the scooters. Lots of giggles were shared as dads toppled over onto the floor!

The obstacle course was fun too, because each child could race against his or her dad by crawling through a tunnel, hop-scotching over some hula hoops, crawling under a rope, climbing up and down a ladder, and running zig-zag style around cones to the



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