

Preschool News

TRIKE-A-THON 2017 BENEFITS ROSELAND CHRISTIAN SUMMER CAMP

-Ruth Baas, Director



Lined up and ready to ride!

Every year, Orland Park Christian Preschool plans two special days in May (one for each class) when the children bring their own bikes and trikes to school so that they can ride for a special cause. This year the dates were scheduled for May 1 and 2. The MWF class was able to ride on May 1 as planned (even though the children had to avoid some puddles on the parking lot) but the TTh class waited until May 11 for a nice enough day to ride. (We had a lot of rain in early May this year!) The special cause that we raised funds for this year was the Roseland Christian Ministries Summer Camp Program. One of our TTh students is the son of the pastor at Roseland Christian Reformed Church, so we had a good connection to our cause.

When the days for our Trike-a-thons finally arrived, all the preschool children were very excited for the event! Our bikes were decorated with a name plate craft that we made earlier in the day. We lined up our bikes at the starting line on the church parking lot, took some pictures, and then took a walk around the track marked off by orange cones so that we would know the boundaries. When we got back on our bikes, the whistle sounded and we rode around the track for approximately 15 minutes.

Our teachers counted the number of laps that each child rode. Parents, grandparents, other family members, and friends stood around the outside of the track and cheered for us! The children had asked family and friends to support the cause by pledging a certain amount of money per lap or by pledging a flat amount so that a collective donation could be made to Roseland Christian Ministries.

Pastor Joe Huizenga from Roseland was so grateful for the donation of \$2,809 that we were able to raise. He told us that our gift would be such a blessing to many children this summer by giving them the opportunity to spend three days a week in a structured program learning about Jesus, being introduced to hobbies and new skills, and taking day trips to places in the city instead of just hanging out on the streets where violence is such a problem. He talked about our gifts pushing back against that violence. We thank all of our families and friends for helping to do this with their great support!

What fun it was to do something we really enjoy and serve others at the same time. We are so blessed and we are thankful that we can be a blessing too.

More Preschool News...

PRESCHOOL FAMILY PICNIC

Wednesday, May 10, was the day for the annual family picnic at Orland Park Christian Preschool. The day dawned sunny and warm for which we were very thankful! We were excited to welcome extended family members of the preschool children to our church grounds – many grandparents, parents, siblings, and cousins came to enjoy four game stations, a bike-riding area, and our preschool playground. While the children played, the adults enjoyed fellowship with friends and new acquaintances. The teachers also enjoyed interacting with the family members of the children. This is a time when families express interest in the church facility, our church worship services, VBS, and other ministries that are available to preschool families.

Following the games and bike-riding, it was time for a picnic lunch in the gym. Everyone participated by bringing something for lunch – hot dogs, buns, chips,

salads, desserts, and beverages. We had plenty of food! To finish off the day, the children were able to enjoy a large jumpy house that was set up inside the gym. We are grateful to Dave and Jan Kamp for graciously allowing us to use their jumpy house again this year. It was definitely a highlight of the day for the children!



Ducks in the pond was a popular game.



Finding pennies in the sand was fun at the picnic.



The object was to toss a ball in every bucket!

More Preschool News...

PRESCHOOL EMBRYOLOGY STUDY

Do you ever think about the miracle that God performs on a daily basis inside the eggs that chickens lay on the farm? The children at Orland Park Christian Preschool spent a week in April studying about the growth of a baby chick inside an egg. We looked at pictures of the development of the baby chicks from day 1 to day 21 and

we learned what a baby chick has to do to get out of the egg. We even took a field trip to the Children's Farm in Palos Hills to meet real mother hens and see them taking care of the eggs in their nests. After 21 days of counting down and waiting, the preschool children were treated to the hatching of baby chicks in our class incubator. From May 9–12 they were able to observe some live births, freshly-hatched chicks that needed to rest, and the change that occurs in just a few hours from a newborn chick that is wet and wobbly to a fluffy yellow chick that can hop, walk, and jump around



It is so much fun to hold a newborn chick!



"The chicks feet are tickling me!"



Inside the chicken coop at the Children's Farm.



"I got to hold a mother hen!"

inside a brooding box. One of the highlights of the children's observations was being able to hold a baby chick in their own hands. They also enjoyed seeing the chicks eat seeds and drink water from a water dish. On May 12, the chicks were ready to be brought to the farm. We thank Vince Kuyvenhoven for delivering the chicks to a local farm where they could have a good home.