

# Ready, Set, Grow

## Thinking about LOVE

When I sit back and think about love several important things come to mind.

1. **My Grandmother.** She loved to bake. Mema used to bake goodies and give it to anybody. The mailman, doctor's office, grandkids, preacher, neighbors and even the bus driver on a trip she once took. Yum!!

2. **My Children.** How in the world am I able to possibly love my two girls so much and so differently? Even when they make me want to pull my hair out, I can still love them.

3. **Jr. Mints.** Who in the world was brilliant enough to come up with a recipe such as Jr. Mints? And why do I

enjoy them so much? My youngest daughter is convinced they are mommy's medicine. Some things aren't worth the battle. She's right, they are my medicine.

4. **My Husband and My Family.** I honestly think I might have the best family in the world. Now, I know I am biased but they are always here for me. They still love me even with all my quirks and craziness and with NO makeup. Gotta love 'em.

5. **All Children.** I am so thankful for all the children in my life. I love them so much and especially their innocence. God knew what he was doing when He called me to work with His children.

6. **My God.** His love for me is unconditional. He too knows me like no other, even better and stills LOVES me!! WOW!! Now that's amazing. Amazing LOVE!!!

Because of God's love for me, I am able to give to others and share his love with others. There is no recipe for receiving God's love or sharing it with others. But His love is all the more sweeter when I share it with someone else. I hope you know this kind of LOVE.

**God also loves you!!**



**Love is in the air.....**

## Hightouch Hightech

Each month we have a special visit from our new found scientist friends Kate and Betsy. The children have really enjoyed their visits with them and hands on activities. In January, we learned about Bubbles. All the children were so cute with their goggles

on. In February, we will explore Space. I hope your children are coming home talking to you about their experiences in the science labs.

I look forward to the months ahead and watching our little scientists continue to engage

in awesome science programs. Some classes will also make their own paper during February by tearing colorful paper and mixing it with other objects. They will press the paper and let it dry. I am proud of our crafty children.

## Top 10 things kids love.....

1. Visiting animals
2. Listening to music
3. Playing anywhere, anytime
4. Crafts and getting messy
5. Ice cream in the summer
6. Building sand castles
7. Looking for shells
8. Christmas
9. Reading books or being read to
10. Routine

This list was taken from several Google searches online. What are your children's Top 10 things they LOVE????

## Upcoming Activities:

- ◆ Hightouch Hightech
- ◆ Chapel Time
- ◆ Community Service Projects
- ◆ Museum of Life and Science Field Trip
- ◆ Teacher Appreciation
- ◆ Consignment Sale
- ◆ End of the Year Fun Day

## Special Community Projects

If you haven't noticed yet, I enjoy our monthly service projects and giving back to others. Here is what we have lined up for the rest of the school year in regards to our service projects. February is **Support the Troops** month. We are collecting supplies to send to the military. Each class is also making Valentine's Day cards to send to the patients in the VA Hospital.

During March we will begin to prepare for Easter. Some of the children will make **Jelly Bean Bags** for staff and patients in a local nursing home. At the end of April we will begin our **Mother's Day cards** for the elderly. The children love to put stickers on cards. The

cards really turn out to be cute.

May 6th we will work hard as we make 10,000 food bags to **STOP HUNGER NOW!!** The meals are dehydrated and packed full of nutrition and protein. Meals are sent around the world to more than 60 countries. We will send more information to let you know how you and your child can be a part of this life changing event.

What a great way to end the year!! We will take pictures and post them on our school website for you to enjoy. If you have suggestions of ways our children can give back, please let us know.

We will send memos each

month to let you know how you can help. As always please pray for us as we prepare to help others. Also, pray for those who will receive our gifts.



*It is better to give than to receive!!*

## Chapel Time

We pride ourselves on letting the community know that our main focus here at Aldersgate is teaching children about God's love for them. We incorporate this theme daily in our class during circle times and reading Bible stories, saying a blessing at snack time, going to Chapel every Wednesday and through various curriculum activities and holiday celebrations.

**I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me!!  
Philippians 4:13**

Our Chapel times are sacred and we all value our time there as a school. Mrs. Amanda leads us in Chapel songs and we have a special visitor each week from one of the church pastors who tells us our Bible lesson. During the month of February we will discuss the Good Samaritan and being a friend to others.

We hope that this is a very special time for your child as well. We hope they are learning new songs and singing them with you. We hope the children come home and tell you stories learned at Chapel. We invite you to join us for Chapel.

## Museum of Life and Science

Mark your calendar now for our field trip to the Museum of Life and Science. This is family fun day event so a parent will have to accompany their child. We will go as a school group and divide up once we are there to explore the museum in individual classes.

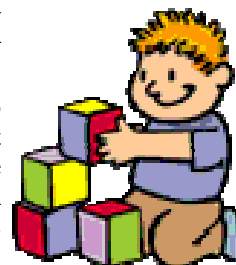
Our plan is to meet at the covered shelter across the street from the museum at 9:15 am and get a head count. Once we are all together, we will enter the museum

as a school. Some families will pack a picnic lunch to eat under the shelter. The museum also has a food court area to purchase a meal, snack or drink (although prices may be high).

Evelyn will continue to work on us getting the most people into the museum. We are still collecting forms from those of you who are members at the Museum. Our goal is to have as many people en-

ter with a membership so we can be cost effective. I look forward to this fun day with all of our children and watching them play and learn together outside of school.

More information will come home in book bags as we get closer to the date. If you have questions or suggestions, please call the office.



*Exploring the world  
with eyes wide open...*

## Teacher Appreciation Week

April 20th—24th

Each year the WDS board picks a week in the Spring for parents to show our appreciation to our teachers and staff. This year we will celebrate Teacher Appreciation during the week of April 20th—24th. This week is also known as National Week of the Young Child. During this week, parents will sign up to provide breakfast with the teachers. We will also need parent coverage during the breakfast



**To show our appreciation.....  
Thank You!!!**

hours. The Board will send home information outlining these activities as we get closer to April.

This is a great time for parents to show our appreciation to the teachers and staff for all of their hard work. Their love and dedication to our children is greatly appreciated and this is such a simple way for us to give our teachers love and support.

Each teacher

and staff completed an All About Me form with a list of their likes and dislikes. These sheets are great for us parents to review in the event we want to get a small token to show our gratitude for the time they spend with our children.

If you have any ideas for events during this week please call the office and we will give you one of the Board Reps contact info as they are planning this week's events. Those members are Holly Fishback, Vanessa Calhoun, and Derek Hampson. Thank you parents for all that you do for the staff!!

## Children's Consignment Sale and Vendor Sale

April 25th

Saturday, April 25th will be our next Children's Consignment Sale and Vendor Sale. We are looking for parents who would like to help organize this event. This year will be a little different where those who want to participate will pay a "table fee" and run your own booth. What ever you sell at your booth is your profit.

Aldersgate Consignment Sales usually turn out a big crowd. Most people are able to sell those clothes our children quickly outgrow and make a little cash. It is

also an excellent time to stock up on new or gently used clothes, toys and equipment at bargain prices. We will advertise for this one day event in the local paper and in area preschools and daycares.

If you are interested in participating in this event please send an email request to Alicia Pepper at [dpepper@nc.rr.com](mailto:dpepper@nc.rr.com) so she can add you to her distribution list for the Spring Aldersgate Children's Consignment Sale. Don't forget to add this to your spring list of things to do. It is definitely a great way to

**Time for some Spring Cleaning!!**

clean out the old, make room for the new and put some cash in your wallet.

We will also have a Vendor Sale at the same time for those who sell Avon, Tupperware, Southern Living and other handmade items.

## End of the Year Fun Day!!!

May 28th

Last year we started a new tradition for our school. After much thought and discussion we moved the location of our End of the Year Fun Day from Aldersgate to the Little River Regional Park on Guess Road. We had a great time, great weather and a great picnic. So, why stop a great thing?

To continue this new tradition, we have already reserved the park again for Thursday, May 28th

from 10:00 am—until you are finished playing or we all need naps. Most families will pack lunches, snacks and/ or drinks and have picnics while they are there. We will have the park reserved all day so we are able to stay as long as we can or want.

We also encour-



**Fun Day at the Park.  
Thursday, May 28th  
10:00 am—until**

age you to bring lawn chairs, beach balls, bikes or any other fun activity equipment so your child can be a kid and play hard.

It is hard to believe that this fun day will be here before we know it. Time is flying!!

## Aldersgate Preschool

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**Building Children's  
Futures....One Child at a Time.**



*We are a Christian community and believe that the total growth of a person involves spiritual as well as emotional and physical growth. We believe that children learn through play and "hands on" activities.*

*The AUMC Children's Weekday Programs is designed to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment for the children and families we serve. We believe that each child will develop to his/ her greatest potential during their time at Aldersgate.*

## Miscellaneous Things You Need to Know

### **After School Hours and Play.**

We are so happy to be able to provide a space for your child to play after school. As a reminder, once the teachers release your child to you, they are your responsibility. If you choose to play on the playground after school hours the doors are still open for you to use the restroom or get water. Please help us remind your child that our staff are still working during this time. Thank you for helping us keep the building and children safe after school hours!!

### **T-shirt Sales.**

Thanks to Mrs. Kim and Mrs. Leigh Anne we have cute new shirts for the preschool and after-school. The shirts are available in brown and navy, short sleeve and long, and child or adult sizes. If you are interested in purchasing a

new shirt for the spring, you can get a t-shirt form in the office. Ask the Office for details.

### **Strawberry Patch Field Trip.**

Spring is just around the corner which means the time for picking fresh strawberries is also drawing closer. Talk about a cute and fun field trip???? Nothing like seeing 2, 3 and 4 year olds picking strawberries and eating them as they go along. This is another family fun day. More details to come in early Spring.

### **Graduation 2009.**

We can't tell you much about this very special event for our current 4 and 5 year old classes other than save the date and tell grandparents and friends to save the date too. Friday, May 29th is our 4/5 year old Graduation 2009. This is such a special

day for not only the children but parents too as your child marks an end to a milestone in their life. Let us help you celebrate this day as we recognize your graduate. Invitations will be sent home in May.

### **Meet the Board.**

January 2009 marked the start of a new mixture of Weekday School Ministries Board representatives. The following people are currently members on the board. Holly Fishback, Judy Alford, Brian Reo, Derek Hampson, Jill Bosecker, Vanessa Calhoun, Leigh Anne Berini, and Alice Osteen. We are excited they have are a part of the board and are serving on this committee.

Thank You.