



Pleasant Valley Playgroup

at St. Matthew's UCC
1427 Pleasant Valley Road, Westminster

April, May, June 2007 Newsletter

Susan's Column

I'm ready for spring and the warmer weather. It's so nice when you're able to let the kids go outside and play and not have to spend 15 minutes per child putting on snow suits, boots, gloves, scarves, and hats. Goodbye snow and ice, see you later!

As I think about Spring which officially began on March 21st, I look forward to having the extended family over for Easter Dinner in April. In May we celebrate Mother's day and several family birthday's including my own mother's. In June, Summer officially begins on the 21st and we have Father's Day on the 17th. In our family this usually means the kids pick out a card.

One thing I don't want to think about is school begin out for the summer. Please keep in mind that elementary aged children can attend playgroup with their preschool siblings.

With the warmer weather here, on nice days we'll be able to utilize the community playground and there are several family field trips planned. Have a happy and safe Spring!

~Susan

Special Event

Playgroup Easter Party & Outdoor Egg Hunt, April 5th - Each family is asked to donate at least 1 dozen plastic filled (candy, stickers, etc.) eggs for the hunt and bring a refreshment to share. Egg hunt will be held on the Pleasant Valley Community Playground (weather permitting). Please bring a basket or bag for each child to place their eggs during the hunt.

Calendar of Events

Playgroup meets each Thursday
from 10 a.m. - Noon.

Thursday, April 5 Easter Party*

Thursday, April 12
Thursday, April 19

Thursday, April 26 McDonald's in Taneytown

Thursday, May 3

Thursday, May 10 Mother's Day Party*

Thursday, May 17

Thursday, May 24 Catoctin Wildlife Preserve

Thursday, May 31

Thursday, June 7

Thursday, June 4 Father's Day Party*

Thursday, June 21 Kid's Kingdom

Thursday, June 28

* Parties are held during regular playgroup (10 a.m. - Noon). Each child is able to make a special party craft. Families are asked to bring a peanut-free refreshment to share with the group. Refreshment sign-up sheets are posted on our bulletin board.

Playgroup Field Trips

Thursday, April 26th - Playgroup at McDonald's in Taneytown. Playgroup will meet at the McDonald's play area from 10 a.m. - Noon. Come to play and also enjoy breakfast and/or lunch. This event is open to all playgroup families, friends, and neighbors.

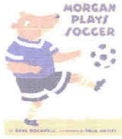
Thursday, May 24 - Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo Trip. (Raindate - May 31) With over 400+ animals on 35+ acres, there's always something new to see or do! Playgroup will meet at the church parking lot and leave at 9:30 a.m. for the zoo. Families should pack a picnic lunch. Coolers are allowed and can be brought in and sat in a picnic area while visiting the park. This event is open to all playgroup families, friends, and neighbors.

Regular Admission: Adults (13 and up) \$13.95, Children (2-12) \$8.95, Seniors (60 and up) and retired military \$11.95, Active Military (Military person and 3 immediate family members, with ID) 50% off, Children under 2 are admitted free.

If you're interested in participating, please contact Susan (410-848-6384) so we know how many people are going. Admission cost is due at the time your family enters the park and will not be collected ahead of time as in prior years.

Thursday, June 21 - Kid's Kingdom Creative Playground located in the Penn Township's community park on Grandview Road, Hanover, PA. (Raindate: June 28) Admission: Free Playgroup will meet at the church parking lot and leave at 9:30 a.m. for the playground. Pack a picnic lunch for your family. Picnic pavilions are on premises that we've used prior years when they were not reserved. You may want to bring a picnic blanket just in case.

The Book Nook



Morgan Plays Soccer

By Anne Rockwell

Published by Harper
Collins

Morgan Brownbear is new to the neighborhood. He receives a gift from his Aunt Lucy, it's a beautiful purple silky shirt with a number on the back. He puts it on and goes outside. His next door neighbor, Nina Jane Monkey is eager to introduce herself and make a new friend. She assumes that since Morgan is wearing a soccer jersey, he enjoys soccer as much as she does. Nina Jane convinces Morgan to play soccer. Morgan's father takes him to the sporting goods store to buy the needed equipment

The coach, Mr. Monkey, demonstrates kicking, dribbling and most important rule of all when Katie Catz passes the ball to him. You cannot touch the ball with your hands unless you are the goalie. He feels humiliated. That is just one of his disappointments. Morgan is devastated when he sees that Nina Jane and him are on different teams. Nina Jane assures him that even if they are on opposite teams they can still be friends.

Morgan is ready to give up soccer. Nina Jane offers to help him practice. Morgan is convinced soccer is too hard and he will never be any good at it. On the day of the scrimmage, Morgan discovers what position he would excel at. He is very excited and even blocks on of Nina Jane's attempts to score.

Aspiring athletes will love this book and learn with a little practice the frustration of trying a new sport can turn out to be a rewarding experience!

Kid's Kitchen

Octopus Dogs Ingredients:

- 6 hot dogs
- 6 hot dog buns
- 1 can chili

Instructions:

- About 1" from one end of a hot dog, start a slit in the hot dog that goes vertically to the other end. Turn a quarter turn and make another slit.
- Keep making slits until you have eight "legs" for the hot dog.
- Boil and the hot dog will look lie and octopus.
- Serve with head up and legs spread out over an opened hot dog bun that has chili on it.

Option: Serve over a macaroni and cheese "ocean".

The Craft Corner

Supplies:

- yellow poster paint
- Scraps of orange paper or felt (or an orange pen)
- a black pen

The chicks can be used to decorate Easter cards, gifts tags for friends, or you could even make wrapping paper.



Pour a little yellow paint onto a pad of folded newspaper or a paper plate and gently dip the child's thumb into it. Usually, the second thumb print is the best. Practice and you'll get the hang of it.

When the thumb prints are dry, add details with a black or orange pen (or cut snips of orange paper or felt for the beaks).

Older children may enjoy adding speech bubbles with "cheep cheep" or other chick-chick noises inside.

The Craft Corner Continued

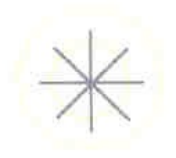
Make a pretty flowery crown from a paper plate and paper flowers for Spring or Easter.

Supplies:

- a paper plate
- Colored construction paper or tissue paper
- Paint, markers, or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue
- Optional - glitter, crepe paper or other ribbons

Cut a slit through the center of the paper plate, leaving about an inch at the edges of the plate.

Cut three more slits. Bend the triangles formed by the cuts upwards, forming leaf-like shapes.



Paint the crown light green (or use markers or crayons to color it) Let the paint dry.

Cut out some construction paper or tissue paper flowers for your hat.

Glue flowers to the crown.

Optional step is to decorate with glitter and/or staple long ribbons of crepe paper to your hat.



New Members Welcome

Come join us at Pleasant Valley Playgroup! Playgroup is open to all families with children from infants up to age 5. There are no fees or dues to participate in weekly playgroup. Playgroup is sponsored by St. Matthew's UCC which graciously allows us to meet in their downstairs classroom area.