

# Mid April Update!

Good Afternoon! I hope this finds you enjoying your Wednesday tasks today, and I hope the weather gurus predicting rain are **Oh So Correct!** I'll take a few rain days with 110 children indoors over a drought! We're pretty tough over here ☺. I have some info to share so.....here goes!

*Middle Earth's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday is this year! There is a committee of folks beginning to plan a celebration for later this year. Co-Chairs of the Committee are: Nyky Wilson (Ava, Tot I and Mia, Dreamers) and Linda Goeringer (newly elected Board member, alumni parent, grandmother to Boomer in Dreamers). Committee members are: Bryhonna Meyer (Matthew, Explorers, and alumni herself); Jarrod Tahsequah (father of Boomer, Dreamers, and alumni himself); Alva Brockus (Sarah, Discoverers, Henry and Charlie, Big Kids, and alumni herself); Brendan Agnew (Discoverers co-teacher and alumni himself); and Mabry Slemmons (Dreamers co-teacher and alumni herself). **ISN'T THAT AWESOME!!!????!!!***

89er Day Parade: Well, it's that time of year in Oklahoma where celebrations for our land run occur. Middle Earth once again has access to a trailer, a truck (with a driver, too ☺) AND some creative dedicated volunteers to make a float! In 2008 and 2009, Middle Earth won FIRST PLACE in the parade! The effort is currently being undertaken to make it happen, again!

## **Here's the scoop:**

- Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>, the parade gathers in the east parking lot of Norman High School. If you want to ride/walk the parade route, be there around 9:30 and look for the Middle Earth float. There is an information tent that can point you in the correct direction.
- Parade starts @ 10am and usually lasts about 1.25 hours.
- Wear Middle Earth t-shirts or western attire! Really, anything goes. It's children and that's what matters! Walk with younger siblings in strollers or wagons!
- We use the bathroom benches for the children to sit on, so it's really easy and fun for the kids.
- The theme this year is: Sooners and Schooners. Since it is also Middle Earth's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday year so that will hopefully be represented, too!
- My husband and I are the parade announcers, so I don't get to ride on the float ☺. But, I have a microphone and get to say hi to all the kids!
- As plans develop, we'll keep you posted. But, please plan to join us for the parade! It is so memorable for the children, and it's fantastic community outreach for Middle Earth. I hope you can join us!

**Lost your door key? We would appreciate your participation in our AMNESTY program by purchasing a replacement card for \$10 ( a reduction from \$25). It is so comforting to hear the 'click' of the magnetic lock as opposed to the buzzer; we know if the door 'clicks' that you are supposed to be here! Thank you for your help with this.**

Have you noticed the Integrated Business Core (IBC) volunteers here this semester? We have so enjoyed their help, their laughter, their muscles, their bonds with the children.....and their semester is coming to a close! They have adopted Middle Earth for their service hours, BUT they had the opportunity to 'donate' \$1000 worth of their product to Middle Earth – and the committee planning our 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash was the beneficiary. Speaking of their product: **they are selling wrist bands with “BOOMER DON”T TEXT AND DRIVE” imprinted on the band. They are hoping to increase education re: the dangers of texting and driving. I bought one for my teenage driving daughter! The cost is \$5** and, if you'd like one, just stop by the front desk and let us know. The IBC group will bring it here post haste! Please leave the money at the desk; they have strict inventory controls and cannot hand over a bracelet without the cash! They'd appreciate the sale, and we appreciate their volunteerism.

*Did you know that Middle Earth has a Facebook page? Most of you are probably Facebook professionals (unlike yours truly). Just search for Middle Earth and **LIKE** our page! We hope to increase our social contacts and alumni outreach through this effort. If you know Middle Earth alumni, please tell them about it, too! Thanks.*

DHS PARENT SURVEY: Every two years, Oklahoma submits a State Child Care Plan as part of the application for the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant. They are asking for parent participation as a component of the information received. If you would like to help, go to <http://www.okdhs.org/programsandservices/cc/> and click on the “Child Care State Plan Parent Survey 2011” link. Wanted you to know about this need!

We had such a wonderful experience with our Arts Outreach Program (thank you Family Leadership Committee and all of you who supported the Kansas Maid Braid and Flower Power fundraisers!), that we offered to share some info with you.

- Miss Lauren, of Sonder Music, Dance & Art, invites you to check out **Music Together Family Classes** for ages birth-kindergarten, offered at her school. Classes are offered on Wednesdays, 5:30pm and Saturdays, 10:30am and enrollment is open for a few more weeks. For more information or to enroll, please visit <http://sondermusic.com/music/musictogether.php>. Miss Lauren will be here again in May supporting music and movement in our classrooms!
- And, you may have heard rave reviews from your child about the TUMBLEVILLE EXPRESS! The TUMBLEVILLE EXPRESS is a full sized school bus that has been outfitted with fun, exciting equipment, making it the ultimate *gym on wheels*. **They are available for birthday parties, family reunions, corporate events, neighborhood parties or other special events.** Check it out at <http://www.tumblevilleexpress.com> !

I need to visit with each of you about **Back Door Common Sense** during pick-up time! If you arrive to pick up your child and their classroom is outside on the playground, please help us keep the door closed! Leaving it open provides an unsecure access to the building. Please close it, pick up your child, and ask the staff to use their key to let you back in! Please do not leave the back door open at any time. Sometimes, we can 'assign' a person to monitor the door. But, not often! So, use common sense during this time of pick-up, and help us keep the building safe. The other option is truly tell the classrooms they cannot go outside in the afternoon. That would be no fun! But, I'll take safe over fun any day. Thank you for your help with this issue!

TTFN, for all of us, *Miss Elizabeth*