



January 2010

Dear Berry Patch Family

Happy New Year to all of you! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas with your family. It's great to be back together and see the friendships renewed.

Exciting news---Berry Patch is expanding to the South Metro Area in September 2010 at Glendale Church in Savage! This allows more children in the city to experience the Love of Learning we foster in our program. Introducing the Berry Patch to a new area has been a dream of mine and I'm excited to offer the opportunity to more children so they may begin on the path to becoming a lifelong learner.

Thank you for participating in our canned food drive in December and our ongoing partnership with Calvary Kidstuff. Our C.S.O. projects continue to serve the needs of others which become important life lessons for our young students! This month we will collect warm hats & mittens.

Our theme in January is **Dinosaurs**. This is a favorite theme for many of the children! If you are looking for a warm, fun activity to do with your children, visit the library and discover fun and factual books on Dinosaurs.

Our monthly virtue is **Courage**. Let's encourage our young children to try new things this month. As parents I want to encourage you to also try something new as we all grow from new experiences.

Winter is a great time to visit one of the **Three Rivers Parks** for outdoor winter fun---sledding, snow shoeing, cross country skiing or a walk on a groomed trail. Enjoy hot chocolate at the chalet when finished with your outdoor activity. For an indoor family activity visit the **Minnesota Transportation Museum: MTMuseum.org**. This is a fun place particularly if your child loves vehicles! There are interactive exhibits and you can take a ride on a train or bus.

The **Raptor Center** will visit the Berry Patch January 20 & 21 for an in house field trip. The children will be introduced to Eagles & other birds. This will be a hands-on experience for all!

I want to introduce you to a great children's book, **Have You Filled a Bucket Today**. Through simple words and wonderful illustrations, this heartwarming book encourages positive behavior as children see how very easy and rewarding it is to express kindness, appreciation and love on a daily basis. We plan to introduce this book to each class. The book has won seven different awards and is written by Carol McCloud, an early childhood specialist and educator.

We thank you parents for sending your children to school healthy! During the winter months there are many colds, flu bugs, etc. and children need to be home resting when they are sick. Also, please make sure your child's outerwear (jackets, snow pants, boots, hats and mittens) is marked with his/hers name.

Registration begins now for existing families. New families may register January 21 at Colonial Church.

My Love and Blessings to your Family in the New Year,

Bernie