



November 2009

Dear Berry Patch Family

November finds us all spending more time indoors and we need to put on our creative hats! Family dinner with candle light is a great idea to try! Candles become magical for all ages – it slows us down and creates a warm, inviting atmosphere. Studies have proven that a key family ingredient is dinner together. Family dinners provide conversation which is an important building block for intelligence and literacy. It offers an opportunity to connect with the whole family. Sharing highs and lows is a great way to learn about each person's day. Reading together daily is another important element in family life which promotes literacy as well.

Thank you for chaperoning our visits to Walker Methodist and Friendship Village. The residents and staff love our visits! The costumes were darling! Also, we thank you for the personal care items you donated for the Walker residents to be added to individual Christmas gifts. This month our **Children Serving Others (C.S.O.)** project will be **Operation Christmas Child**. More than 7.7 million hurting children experienced the joy of Christmas in 2008 as Samaritan's Purse distributed gift-filled shoe boxes in 100 countries. We have 100 available shoe boxes. Let's fill them all!

Keeping your child healthy is important to the school environment. Hand washing with soap and water is key in eliminating germs. Children are never too young to begin this procedure! Thank you for assisting your child with hand washing upon arrival at the Berry Patch! Early bed time is another ingredient for keeping your child healthy. Plus it gives more time in the evening to you, the parents!

Our November theme is **Thanksgiving Harvest**. The children will have a history lesson on the first Thanksgiving in America and what it means to be thankful for all we have. Also, we will share the importance of reaching out to others.

**Cooperation** is our value this month. Just as the first Thanksgiving was a lesson in cooperation with the Indians and Pilgrims our young children are learning this in the classroom through their play and clean-up. Most often there are classroom jobs or chores which assist the teachers in having a smooth classroom experience for all! This holds true in families-if everyone cooperates, helping each other and following rules, family life is smooth. Young minds are eager to learn and feel important when helping!

**Dads & Donuts** provides a special time for the fathers and their children. Tom Jensen, Edina Fire Marshall, will visit and share about Fire Safety for all!

**Kinder Konzert** offers the 4 year olds an opportunity to participate in a young person's concert at Orchestra Hall. It is a wonderful introduction to the orchestra.

Here are a few ideas for you to check out for family activities: **Bell Museum of Natural History** ([www.BellMuseum.org](http://www.BellMuseum.org)). The halls are filled with all the habitats of Minnesota. You will see the woods, prairies and many great lakes. Children will enjoy the touch and see room. **Minnesota Children's Museum** ([www.MCM.org](http://www.MCM.org)) is filled with great hands-on exhibits for young children. Also, **Three Rivers Park** ([www.ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org](http://www.ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org)) offers terrific indoor/outdoor adventures. Have fun exploring!

It is a great blessing to have your family at the Berry Patch this year! May your Thanksgiving be filled with lots of love and joy.

Lovingly,

*Berrie*