

RE Happenings

With school just around the corner, most children are very interested in making purchases. They want to have nice, new clothes to wear to school and nice, new things to use while they are there. Some children might even be concerned with whether or not they have cell phones, mp3 players, etc. This is of course because they worry about fitting in with their peers, and children believe that if they have what their friends have all will be well.

So, what happens when a family can't even afford a new pair of shoes? This is where programs like *Shoes-That-Fit* and the *Emergency Food Fund* for the migrant families comes in quite handy. **By collecting loose change and small donations together we can supply many children with a new pair of comfortable shoes, and some school supplies.** Just drop off your contributions and we'll make the purchases. There are small collection boxes and banks labeled in both rooms 2 & 3 for your convenience. Thanks in advance for your participation. Children who head back to school feeling loved & cared for and prepared with supplies are sure to be off to a great start!

Moving on to the challenge of this electronic era... Beyond the purchasing of new clothing and school supplies, children often ask parents to purchase them electronic equipment. Their friends have it and they want it too. But what if the parents cannot afford, do not think is necessary at their child's age, or simply choose not to make the purchase?

On Sunday, August 16 RE will host a discussion related to technology, the media, advertising, and cultural pressures. This is a means for conversational exploration, so that parents may feel supported while making decisions that incorporate their family's values and particular needs. If you share this concern, join us for a friendly discussion based on several chapters in *Healthy Children, Healthy Planet*. Please RSVP to Debbie Johnson at dbeckjohnson@earthlink.net, so that you may receive the discussion guide, and then plan to attend on August 16th from 12-1 pm in room #2. We welcome all points of view and hope to learn from each other as we share our unique experiences ☺

Thanks to all the volunteers and RE families who participated in Camp Eco-Action. Please look for REflections and pictures of our Campers in the September Jotter.

UU Coffee House (aka PotLuck) on Friday, August 7th, 6:00 pm

Our second summer camp session is *Camp Creative UU* and it will take place from 9am-1pm on August 4-7. During camp, some of our RE children will spend the week planning for a "kids-led" UU Coffee House to be held during the August PotLuck. The campers will develop their own creative artwork and dramatic or musical pieces for the event, as well as preparing for their role as hosts. ***Please plan to join us with a dish to pass... and if you like, be prepared something to share afterwards (i.e. a favorite poem, song, or joke). Everyone is welcome to participate during the unique Open Mic opportunity led by Dan Gribbin!***

Soup 'n Sandwich

On Sunday, July 12th the RE children served soup 'n sandwiches and collected Pennies for Peace during hospitality hour. Over \$80 was collected. This time your contributions went to the *Emergency Food Fund* for migrant families. Pictured here: Lani Van Petten & Ruth Achterhof assembling 20 bags of grocery items!! These bags will then be delivered to Pierson as school starts. This will allow families who are struggling financially to have more funds for school supplies for their children. **Thanks to those who supported this worthy cause ☺**

