

MILK AND HONEY

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The Craddock Center
(Enriching Lives through Service)

September 2009

HEAD START/PRE-K BELLS ARE RINGING AGAIN



Nearly a month has passed since the new three-year-olds arrived at Head Start. Their teachers like to get them acclimated to the classroom and the rhythm of the school day before the Children's Enrichment Program rolls in. So next week the big four-year-olds in Pre-K and the little tykes in Head Start are in for a wonderful surprise as The Craddock Center's Arts Specialists arrive with bells, books and other fun props for music, story and creative movement. This program of bringing the arts to 15 schools in nine counties would not be possible without your generous support. As we begin the 2009-2010 school year we are hoping to hear from those of you who have not yet responded to the Scholarship Program to sustain the Children's Enrichment Program. The program costs \$140 per child.

Research shows that being emotionally connected with adults and people in communities is significant in helping nearly 70% of young people in even the worst conditions thrive. "We know that a song is the most personal, powerful, pleasurable and permanent agent for putting across many educational concepts," according to Dr. Al Balkin of the Tune Up to Literacy Program. We hear repeatedly from classroom teachers that on the days the CEP Arts Specialists visit, the class is much more attentive and alert the rest of the day. Storytelling goes hand in hand with music increasing language and vocabulary while developing strong listening skills, imagination and conceptual skills. Many of the children we serve enter the Head Start program without ever having been read a story or having access to books in their homes. Our goal is to not only to fill that gap, but to make sure they have effective skills for reading by the time they go to kindergarten. Please help these children coming from difficult circumstances grow into resilient children full of hope and all the skills they need to thrive, not only in kindergarten, but throughout their years of education.—
TLS

SEVERAL OF YOU HAVE ASKED

For directions to the Preaching Workshop on October 5. It will be held right in the middle of downtown Cherry Log at Cherry Log Christian Church. From the south, go north on Hwy. 515 to mile marker 20, about 9 miles north of Ellijay. Turn right at that mile marker onto Cherry Log Street, just pass one field and

one house, then you will see the church on the right. From the north, go south on Hwy. 515 about 6 miles south of Blue Ridge and at mile marker 20 turn left onto Cherry Log Street. A good landmark is Club 515 on the right just before you turn left onto Cherry Log Street. If you are coming from the east or west just get to Hwy 515 as fast as you can and follow the directions above.

We are grateful to Cherry Log Christian Church for hosting the Preaching Workshop and also for allowing The Craddock Center to have our offices rent-free in a building the church owns. Because the Cherry Log Christian Church is a generous supporter of The Craddock Center, sometimes folks think we are a part of the church. We are not. The Craddock Center is a totally separate 501(c)3 organization with the mission of "Enriching Lives Through Service." Grants and gifts fund the Children's Enrichment Program in nine counties of North Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina (1350 Head Start and Pre-K children), the Preaching Workshops, the Helen Lewis Lecture, a storage facility for receiving and giving furniture, the Rainbows grief program for children and families, as well as supporting programs by social services agencies in the area.--TLS

MEET JOSE ILLINGWORTH

Our newest Arts Specialist on the Children's Enrichment Program staff. Jose was born and educated in Mexico, receiving his B.S. in Music Education from the University of Montemorelos. Jose and his wife have a four-year-old son and a four-month-old daughter and live in Cumming.



The Head Start/Pre-K students are going to love being introduced to many instruments they have never seen or heard. Jose plays and teaches cello, violin, guitar, clarinet, recorder, piano and harmonica. In addition to teaching music, Jose will be able to translate parent handouts into Spanish, which will be a great help for communicating with the Hispanic parents. Jose will be bringing music to the Head Start/Pre-K classes in Dahlonega and Dawsonville. Welcome, "Mr. Jose"!!!!—TLS

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THERE'S NO BETTER TIME



To spend a little R & R in the mountains than while you are here for the October 5 Preaching Workshop. There are signs of Fall all around with the sweet smell of apples in the air, the animals busily getting their stashes in for the winter, the propane trucks are out in force, and the days are getting shorter and shorter. Just imagine what it would do for your soul to hike in the woods where no one was calling your name and no one could reach you by cell phone even if you couldn't bring yourself to turn it

off. (No cell towers in the National Forest) Or if you aren't up for a hike, the apple houses are loaded with goodies: muscadine slushies, apple cider, fried apple pies. If it's made with apples, you name it, they've got it.

Many of you have already asked about renting cabins or nearby motels. So Tammy has put together the following list of great possibilities:

- Blue Ridge Lodge & Spa by Comfort Inn Suites
www.ComfortInnofBlueRidge.com 1-888-223-7776
- Serenity in the Mountains Luxury Suites
www.serenityluxurysuites.com 706-258-2244
- Black Bear Cabin Rentals
www.blackbearcabinrentals.com 1-888-902-2246
- Best Western Mountain View Inn—Ellijay
www.bestwestern.com 706-635-7545
- Camp Cherry Log (RV Park and Campground) 983 Little Rock Creek Rd., Cherry Log 706-635-5006

If you would like more information about the area, you may contact the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce in Blue Ridge: 706-632-5680; www.blueridgemountains.com or the Gilmer County Chamber of Commerce in Ellijay: 706-635-7400; www.gilmerchamber.com. If you would like more information about Cherry Log, due to no Chamber of Commerce, I guess you'll just have to come see for yourself! — TLS

ONLY A FEW SEATS LEFT



For the October 5th Preaching Workshop in Cherry Log. Remember only an email to craddockcenter@tds.net or phone

call to 706-632-1772 reserves your seat. Even if you have been to all 25 of the last Preaching Workshops, you still need to email or call. Tammy's memory is great but her computer's memory is not that long. — TLS

"EMPTY YOUR POCKETS"

When I remembered those words I shuddered as though a possum had run over my grave. The security guard probably thought he was the cause of my apparent anxiety, but he was not. Airport security is child's play compared to the drill of Miss Fannie Harris, principal of the grammar school where I was a second grader.

Someone had shot off a firecracker on the playground at recess. Miss Harris went on alert. Who brought firecrackers to school? Boys were summoned to her office. Not all boys; only the usual suspects. Why I was among them remains a mystery to me.

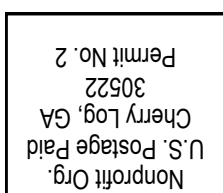
"Empty your pockets," she said, and we did. I began by rather selectively placing on her desk the objects which constituted my identity as a human being. First a yellow pencil; I thought to impress her with my scholarship. She was not impressed. Next a pocket knife, proof of my manhood, but my trembling gave me away. Then my magnifying glass. She had no clue what a powerful weapon it was. Held one way, the glass magnified; held another, it intensified, drawing the rays of the sun to a hot point, burning paper, or someone's arm. Poor Miss Harris, she never even suspected. Next, my marbles, three of them, and beautiful, the color of butter and molasses. She didn't even touch them, out of respect, I guess. Marbles were as good as money. "I would throw that away," she said, looking at my rabbit's foot. "There's no such thing as luck, good or bad." I did not respond, but I figured if it will get me out of this mess I will carry it forever. "And that, too" she said, referring to my half-eaten cookie. True, it was soiled and had gathered a bit of lint, but you have to leave it unwrapped for easy access during class. "Well, I never" was all she said about my chicken foot. Obviously she had never heard the girls go screaming when I sneaked up on them and pulled the tendon that made the toes move. That foot was the envy of the town boys. As of my ball of string, no comment. Everybody carries string; that is, everybody with any religion at all. Miss Harris knew what I know and you know, that string was the first thing God created. How else could God hang the sun and moon and stars? "Is that all?" "Yes, ma'm." "You may go." I did.

No firecrackers.

I learned later that one of the older students (a third grader) confessed to shooting the firecracker, but the confession was not accepted. You see, the one confessing was a girl, and in those days there was a lot of prejudice against girls. They never got credit for a lot of the fun stuff that happened at school. — FBC



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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