

## **Alleluia! Preschool 2009 Annual Report**

Second semester of the 2008-2009 school year found 68 preschoolers busy learning about music and attending the Omaha Symphony's preschool program in January. We also enjoyed watching caterpillars turn into butterflies and then going to the butterfly exhibit at the zoo. In May we had 120 grandparents at our Grandparents' celebration, which was a fun time for the grandparents and the children. On the last day of preschool we had an end-of-year program, which included the graduation of 32 children who would be going to kindergarten in the fall of 2009.

In February the annual talent show and dessert auction was a big hit. We had a vast array of talent and our auction was a huge success. In June we held our annual book sale. Because we received matching funds from Thrivent for our dessert auction, we were able to bring in around \$3,000 through fundraisers this year.

The Preschool Board made up of parents from the preschool, along with the director, meet the first Monday of the month from 6 - 7 p.m. This board works hard to make a positive impact on our preschool program. We sold T-shirts, had the talent show and dessert auction, the Christmas program and spring program and graduation social gatherings that are so important.

During the spring, several parents came to me begging for a kindergarten. That desire brought me to the point of finding out what having a kindergarten program entails. Over the summer, I met with members of the Nebraska State Education Office. They helped in approving a kindergarten program at our school.

The fall of 2009 brought fewer preschoolers to Alleluia! The numbers were not only fewer for us, but for all of the surrounding preschools. Many children went ahead and started kindergarten instead of doing another year of preschool because it was a cheaper option for their families. We also had several families move or decide to keep their children out of preschool because it was the cheaper way to go during an unsettling economy.

We started the 2009 school year with 50 children. We have a three-day program at the East Campus. The West Campus has a two-day class, a three-day class and a combination class of three-day and five-day children at the West Campus. The kindergarten did not get off the ground this school year because the approval came too late. Those parents had already committed their children to other kindergartens and had spent a lot of time getting their children prepared for the kindergarten that they had chosen when they didn't think we would have one.

As 2010 begins, so do the registrations for our next school year. Registrations already have started coming in for the 2010-2011 school year.

Faithfully submitted,  
Patty Pecoraro, director  
Alleluia! Preschool