



EARLY LEARNING CENTER

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Eleventh Annual COSTUME CRUSADE!

On October 28, 2011, The Village ELC will hold its 11th annual Costume Crusade! © Many of our children (and parents) have participated for years but for some of you, it will be your first experience with our preschool carnival. I have attached a copy of an earlier “Director’s Letter” which explains that the Costume Crusade is actually a charity fundraiser and why it is so important to us. The following information will explain what will happen during our week-long event!

Starting Oct. 24th, classroom baskets will be displayed in the halls and you can purchase tickets to win. The items in the baskets are donated by Village families and community members. This is called our “Basket Raffle and Silent Auction” and the winners are announced during our Parking Lot Sale on Nov. 5th.

October 29th is Crusade Day! About 9:15 AM, the teachers and parent volunteers will start helping the children get dressed into their costumes (no scary costumes, please!). Children should come to school in their regular clothing. About 10AM the children will go outside for the BIG WHEELCHAIR RACE! (We wonder..... Will Mr. Joe or Thomas win this year?!?!?!?) When the race is completed, the children will parade once around our school’s parking lot. The parking lot will be closed and barriers are erected for safety. After their march, they will play the carnival games, assisted by their teachers and parent volunteers. Each classroom sponsors a “booth” that will allow the children to play a game and win a prize. They will collect their prizes in paper bags that they had decorated for this purpose. No candy will be distributed.

Our newest component to our Costume Crusade week is “Halloween in the Halls.” This will be an evening event to allow working parents to participate. On Saturday, Oct. 30th, we will open the school from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM. We will continue with our preschool carnival games for the younger children, have a bouncy house, treats, and a few “tricks” designed by our Adventure Club for the older children.

Lastly, the Community Fair and Parking Lot Sale will occur on Saturday, November 5th. We advertise this in The Flyer and several other newspapers. We have several large well-placed signs also. We’d love to have you donate your “stuff” to us to sell that day! If you prefer, you can set up your own booth in our parking lot for a \$25 donation.

Importantly, the media will be invited. A large part of our goal is to **increase awareness of SMA**, a neuromuscular disease. In the past, two newspapers carried photos of our children and a story about our carnival. We hope to improve the coverage this year!

Please call us with questions or speak to your child’s teacher. Remember, we LOVE volunteers! If you’re not running off to work right after the crusade, we’d love you in COSTUME also! I know parents who participated last year were glad they did!

Sincerely,
Joe & Susan Miller, Owners