

January 2, 2011

Dear Sunday School Parents,

The new year is here and the Devon Park children's classes are now ready to begin the new memorizations for 2011!

Last year the classes were split into two age groups with Emma McLean teaching the younger ages 3-6. The older class, ages 7-13, is now being held in the Zion's Light Fellowship Hall and taught by Holly McLean. The younger children are continuing through the stories of the New Testament. The older class learned about the story of Joseph Smith, Jr., the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, and the beginnings of the restoration of His church and establishment of His priesthood.

We have a total of 14 children regularly attending these classes and our goal is to teach them as much as possible about their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and his church in the time we have each Sunday morning. In order for them to really engrave these concepts and teachings into their hearts and lives, it is important that they also spend some time during the week going over the memorizations. If they do, they will not only receive the blessings that come from wisdom and knowledge in the Lord, but will also receive recognition and encouragement during our awards ceremony in the fall.

Another important part of learning is review. Here are the things they learned last year:

The Ten Commandments

The Godhead

John 3:16-17

The eight major ordinances of the church

The six fundamental principles

Please take at least a few minutes every week or so to go over these again, or let them listen to the CD that they received for 2010. This will help them retain the knowledge they have gained. Next week, you will receive a new CD with the new memorizations and a review of the old ones.

The older class worked on a model of the church with abbreviations for many of the things a member should know. One of the 2011 memorizations will be for the children to be able to name all the things on their church model. It will be very helpful for you to have the model easily accessible at home so they can review throughout the year. They also brought home a notebook that told the answers to all the abbreviations. Another list will be provided in case you have lost this in the meantime.

FIELD TRIP! On Sunday morning, January 16, the classes will meet at the Mormon Visitor's Center on Walnut Street in Independence at 9:00 AM. We will be viewing the bronze statues of the life of Christ and the vision of Joseph Smith that are on display as well as visiting the different interactive exhibits about the Book of Mormon and the life of Joseph Smith. Please have your children there promptly. Rides will be provided to return them to Devon Park that morning in time for the 11:00 service.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. We are hopeful that your children will look forward to their time in Sunday school and learn those concepts that will stay with them throughout their lives as they grow in His Spirit.

In Christ,

Sister Holly McLean