



KIDSTUFF

BISHOP'S LENTEN PROJECT BLP 2004

This year the BLP will focus on the Settlement Fund for Residential Schools to which our Diocese, along with all others across Canada, has made a commitment.

We, at Kidstuff, felt it was important for our children to feel included in this larger covenant and to understand at their own learning level, something of the history behind the Residential Schools.

Without expecting children to "take the blame" for past wrongs we do see that learning about First Nations culture, respecting our aboriginal brothers and

sisters, sympathizing with those who were hurt as children, and finally, working for a better future in which such situations will not arise again, are all constructive ways in which to engage children in this Project.

You should have received a separate package including a poster and activity sheet which we encourage you to reproduce and distribute to the children of your parish and anyone else who is interested in contributing to the BLP 2004.

Please contact Valerie Taylor if you have not received your BLP 2004 package.

Thank you from Estera in Romania

NOTE: Last year the BLP was to raise money for Estera and her ministry with the children in Romania.

From: Estera

Sent: Nov 29, 2003

Subject: to kidstuff!!

Hello to you all dear friends! Some of you might know me since last summer, but some of you do not know me. The interesting fact, is that either you know me and you [know me] just a little bit or do not know me, your choice was to help me out and we are very thankful to you here.

Last year while in Canada I had the opportunity to learn so many (and as I was to find out there is more to learn, but duty called me back in my country—Romania). From my understanding you were part of that and just couple of weeks ago, I

learned that you work according the Bible in other ways too and whatever you start you continue. Why am I saying that??? You helped me to make it in Canada, and be trained very well, but then you raised the amazing amount we just got so that we could do in Romania, what was learned in Canada.

For a while I struggle with what Bishop's Lenten Project might be, but from what I know about Kidstuff in our word it means, "my good [gifts] to others so that they will understand I love them and care about them".

Thank you all from Kidstuff for caring for the nation of Romania and helping us and organizing the raising support so that we [could] do children programs in the summer. When we will do the program we want
..continued on next page..

Anglican Diocese of
Montreal
Committee for
Children's Ministry

LENT 2004
Volume 6 Issue 1
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PLEASE PASS ME ON:

- Sunday school teachers
- Minister
- Youth workers
- Interested parents

Estera from Romania, continued

to assure you we will make pictures with the children and some impression from them and send them to you. It will be quite a challenge for us, for it is a beginning in a way and we pray that in the future, children's programs will work very fine, even though our government does not support such projects.

In fact, let me share with you another effect of your generosity. We shared our vision (which in fact it is yours and after all is from God) with a couple of our helpers and are determined to fast and pray as much as possible so that God will have mercy on us and help us have a camp center where we could have the children for programs. It will be hard to have the kids just for few hours a day, in many areas it is impossible, plus the children we work with will not be able to have snacks or so with them during the day and we do not want them to faint during the programs, but talking to many of them and some parents, it would be no problem if we gather them in a place and hold the programs. *[Editor's note: see next page for how to help out with this project]*

Can you see what fire you have started?? Thank you so very much for passing to me the passion of loving children and being willing to sacrifice for them.

We will let you inform how our camp center project goes and any success in that process you should feel it as part of Kidstuff, because that is the origin of it.

May the Lord you trust, bless you richly for all you are and do!

In His service,

Estera, your friend and co-worker in Romania.

... then some later news from Dec, 2003:

... We planned to have a Christmas club for non-Christian children in our town. Arrangements were made in another church to hold the program due to the fact that our church is not open to such things and not supportive at all for any kind of reaching out project. About 4 days before the rally was to be held we got a phone call from one of the leaders in our church that they kindly request that we hold the program in their church, And that was only the beginning ... God worked in the heart of many people in our church and they took invitations to give out to children and parents, ladies were calling us to ask how they can assist with cleaning and decorating... A night before the rally we got a phone call that there is no microphone and there is no way to make ourselves heard in such a big building, and we knew it was true that many times there were problems with the microphone (it is only one and a very old one) ... Got up in the morning a little bit afraid, no microphone, no people to help (some of them are busy with Christmas preparations for themselves, others getting married, and we found ourselves and the Lord in all this), no time ahead to give out invitations (only a day before invitations were given away and usually this process takes 4-5 days) ...

... continued on next page...

Editorial Note:

KIDSTUFF is published quarterly by The Committee for Children's Ministry, Anglican Diocese of Montreal. Its purpose is to inform and encourage parents and teachers working in children's ministry in this Diocese.

KIDSTUFF is sent to all Children's Ministry Reps in the Anglican Diocese of Montreal, and anyone else who requests it. The newsletter is free of charge.

KIDSTUFF is printed at the Synod Office. It is edited by Valerie Taylor and Nancy Greene-Gregoire. We encourage you to send submissions of ideas and articles to:

KIDSTUFF

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***Eastern Townships and South Shore
reps needed!*** If you are involved with your Sunday school children and want to be part of this team, please let Valerie Taylor know!

Estera from Romania, continued

We went to the church early in the morning and soon people started to show up. 3 girls from another denomination came up—a brethren type of denomination (you need to remember that churches here do not ever work together or visit one each other). They asked to have tasks given to them. Soon the church was all decorated... Then 2 young people came and a few young ladies and a man from our church. We thank God for this setup He made. Thank you dear Lord for the gift of friendship with this people of yours. No problems with the microphone... and during the program you would find two of our workers kneeling in the other room and praying for His mercy for all the listeners. There were about 250 kids and teens coming and somewhere around 20 parents for the first time into a Christian church. Unity among members really touched our hearts and we consider this as another gift from the Lord. All the credit to Him alone... every one was involved. ... Once again we used some of your donation to buy some cakes and coca cola to have a short fellowship with everyone helping. Thank for supporting this in prayer, without your help, we would not be able to continue this ministry efficiently... Be blessed as you are a blessing, being part of the same team with you

Estera & Viorel

This group is helping Estera raise money for the camp centre she mentioned:

El Shaddai is a children's Christian ministry, specializing in a tri-seasonal camp program. We are located in the county of Arges, south central Romania. Since 1997, we have been sponsoring camps for children and youth from neighbouring communities:

- Roma (Gypsy) villages
- Orphanages
- Homes for children with physical and mental disabilities

Our primary purpose is to minister spiritually to children and youth 7-16 years old, meeting the personal needs of these youngsters in the fourfold manner in which Jesus was nurtured as a child: Luke 2:42—intellectually, physically, spiritually, and socially.

Contact in Canada:

Miss Judith Dancer, Global Outreach Mission Inc.
418 Bronson Ave. Ottawa, Ontario K1R 6J6
email: judith.dancer@sympatico.ca

Your opportunity to invest
in the lives of
Romanian children
EL SHADDAI MINISTRIES
Câmpulung-Muscel, Romania

New Resource Library Videos

Kidstuff has recently purchased new videos for our Regional Resource Libraries. One deals with Children and Death, and one deals with Children and Divorce. Both are valuable resources to show to parents and interested adults and both include discussion questions. Also available are some new Easter videos for children. **Call your Regional Rep to borrow one for use in your Parish.**

TWO UPCOMING WORKSHOPS at FULFORD HALL

KIDSTUFF

Sunday School Workshop

Come and Learn more about
Gospel Light
Sunday School Curriculum

Bible Basics for
Pre-Schoolers,

Preparing to Change

Lives in Sunday School,

How to Grow and
Nurture a Quality
Nursery,

Putting God's Live into Action!

Saturday February 21, 2004

10am to 2pm

Gospel Light curriculum Information Workshop with Brian Barr. An ecumenical event open to children's educational leaders of all denominations.

At Fulford Hall, 1444 Union Ave—McGill Metro FREE, but **please register in advance.** Forms available at www.montreal.anglican.org/kidstuff Please bring a bag lunch.

KIDSTUFF

Sunday School Workshop

Light and Peace Workshop
with Gretchen Pritchard

Learn about an inner city after school programme that runs in 3 1/2 hour segments: worship, activity time and supper.

God's love and power flows into creative art, in which the children are invited to respond to the story.

The table fellowship feeds both body and souls.

Saturday March 6, 2004

10am to 2pm

At Fulford Hall, 1444 Union Ave—McGill Metro
Cost \$5—includes a light lunch, **please register in advance.** Forms available at www.montreal.anglican.org/kidstuff

Kidstuff will also have a table with a variety of curriculum samples available at this workshop.

Connect with your Kids

taken from an article by Kathi Hunter, Christian Parenting Today, Fall 2003 Issue

8 great ways to build a better bond.

Kathi Hunter writes: "Recent studies show that children who spend time talking to their parents, taking part in family activities and meals and building family traditions with their parents are less likely to engage in harmful activities. During these times of simply hanging out with their parents, kids tend to open up more easily about sensitive topics and explore issues in greater depth. Those same conversations about school, God, friends, and science projects rarely take place in a 10-minute chunk of "quality time" at the end of a long day."

Here are the ideas she gives us:

1. Take a One-on-One Vacation

Promise each of your children one of you will go on a vacation one-on-one with them when they turn 16 (or at any age you decide on) and get them to help plan it. Or take turns—one year the kids go with Dad, then the next, with Mom. It's a chance to see the uniqueness of each child, and the time alone with a parent reminds a teenager he or she will always have a safe haven as they move out into the world.

2. Plan a Family Night

Once a week, have a "family fun night" with one family member in charge of the planning. For example, you could set a budget of \$15 to feed and entertain everyone. Not only does it give the family time together, it forces the kids to plan, budget, and take other people's likes and dislikes into account.

3. Eat Dinner Together

It sounds so simple, but when a family is balancing work, kids' hockey practice, the dog's trip to the vet, it takes an effort to find the time to sit together for dinner. Try to do so at least 5 times a week—at home, but restaurant meals count too.

As Kathi says "Not only is this a time to nourish our bodies with food, we nourish our family with good conversation and food."

4. Have a Date Night

About once a month, choose a night to go out on the town, just the two of you. It can be hamburgers downtown, or a trip to the book store, or skating at the outdoor rink. As Kathi says, "whatever the activity, it gives [you] the time to talk without the distraction of the

phone, siblings, or the Cartoon Network". Ask your child what type of activity he would enjoy. Maybe you both love Italian food, or sushi, or you are stargazers and can visit the Montreal planetarium.

5. Pray Together

It takes time for praying together to become routine. One idea is to have everyone write down prayer requests on an index card and put them in a basket on the kitchen table. Then each morning or evening you can divide up the cards and have each family member read one.

This could be a good Lenten project for the family. Of course prayer time can also be at bedtime—it can make bedtime last longer, but the time together gives you and your child a special time of closeness.

6. Write a Love Note

In Kathi's kitchen is a small basket with a lid, better known as the "family mailbox". It is a great way to encourage each other and brighten everyone's day. She finds "I love you" notes from her 9-year old daughter, and her son, who is much too old to appreciate love notes in his lunch box, never minds finding a note or small treat for him in the family mailbox.

To start your own mailbox, all you need is a basket, pad of paper and a pen. You can start it off by writing notes of encouragement or a Bible verse to each member of your family (even the cat!) Or write a question, for example, "if you could be invisible for the day, what would you be?" You will certainly get an interesting answer!

7. Break for Coffee



After a long day of school, kids need a break before diving into school.

Snack ideas can be popcorn, hot chocolate, cookies and milk, fresh muffins or even some cut-up veggies.

It's a time to find out what's happening at school, how much homework there is. Look at your kids and listen,

and tell them something about your day too. This coffee break won't work in all families. Sometimes it's not till dinner time that everyone is home, and ready for the "20 questions". The point is to make some time to listen to your children.

8. Start a Parent-Child Journal

Kathi tells us that when her daughter was 8, they started sharing a mother-daughter journal. One night her daughter would leave it on her nightstand for Kathi to write in and the next night, Kathi would put it under her daughter's pillow. It's a way to share secrets, settle arguments, and discuss life. It's also a way to share Bible verses, advice and love notes in a non-threatening way. You don't need a fancy journal. A blank notebook with a pen is all you need, and you can start it off with a question, like "Tell me the best book you've read in grade 4." And you may find out that exchanging email with your daughter or son works just as well. Some things are easier to talk about through notes, than face-to-face.

As Kathi says, "All these ideas take planning and time, but the effort helps create a deep, lasting bond that will keep your family connected for years to come."

Lent—The Giving Cross

Adapted from <http://www.geocities.com/~saintlukes/givingcross.htm>

The Giving Cross is a great way to focus your family or Sunday School children on the ways in which God calls us to love one another. It makes a particularly good family Lenten tradition, and is a wonderful way to involve your children in this special season.

Here's how it's done. We hope you'll find this to be a useful way to enrich your family's prayer and scriptural life while teaching your children how to "walk in love as Christ has told us to do."

YOU WILL NEED

1 large rectangle of felt (any colour will do, though purple would be especially appropriate during Lent)

2 long, narrow (about 3" wide) rectangles of felt in a contrasting color, which you will use to form the cross

Smaller pieces of fabric, fabric paint, glitter and/or colored markers for decoration

Fabric glue or school glue

47 small index cards or slips of paper

Safety pins

A large bowl or other container

...continued above...

MAKE A CROSS BANNER

Lay the large rectangle of felt out flat (you might want to put some newspapers under it to catch glue leaks). Glue the narrow rectangles onto the larger piece in the shape of a cross. Use the smaller pieces of fabric, fabric paint, glitter and glue or colored markers to decorate the space around the cross. Allow to dry thoroughly before hanging.

While the banner is drying you can work on the index cards. On each one, write something you would like your family to focus on during Lent. It can be

- ☺ a passage from scripture,
- ☺ a special prayer,
- ☺ an act of service (doing the dishes, making dinner, helping a friend with homework or a neighbour with shoveling snow...)
- ☺ a quote you ran across

... whatever seems suitable (duplication is OK). When the banner is dry, use the safety pins to fasten the cards to the cross (depending on the size of your banner, you may need to overlap them, or put some on the background fabric).

HOW TO USE YOUR GIVING CROSS

Hang your banner in a prominent location. Choose a time when it is convenient for your family to gather for a few minutes each day. When the family is assembled, choose someone to take a card down from the cross and read it aloud. Spend some time talking about what's written on the card...if it's a prayer, say it together and talk about how it relates to your family; if it's a quote, spend some time talking about what it means to you as a family; if it's an act of service, discuss how you can go about accomplishing it, either individually or as a group, and why it is important. You might want to open and close your gathering with a special prayer or hymn that you use for each meeting (Hymn # 490, "Child of the Light", is an especially good one for children to learn).

After you have done whatever it says on the card, place the card in the bowl or other container, or if you are at church, have the children put them in the collection plate. You might want to put the bowl in the middle of your dining room table as a special offering and reminder to ask Christ into your home when you are gathered as a family.

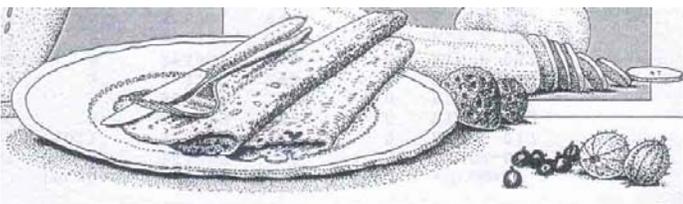
Cooking Ideas!

PANCAKES & PARTY TIME!

Have you ever heard people say "I'm giving it up for Lent'?"

Lent is the name give to the forty days before Easter. It reminds us of the forty days Jesus spent in the desert before he began his work of teaching and healing.

In the middle ages, Lent was a time of fasting. This meant that people went without such food as meat, eggs and cream. On the day before Lent began, they used up all the fats in the house by making pancakes or crepes, and enjoying all kinds of food they would go without until Easter. All kinds of games were played in the streets to celebrate before the fast began. In some countries, the day before Lent is called *Mardi Gras*—Fat Tuesday—and in other countries, Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday. Why Shrove Tuesday? On the day before Lent began, people went to church to ask God to forgive them for all the things they had done wrong. The word for this was "shriving" and the word "Shrove" comes from that.



GIVING UP AND GIVING TO

Many people still give up eating something they enjoy during Lent—perhaps sweet things—and give the money they would have spent to help feed the hungry of the world.

Why not ask others in your family or your class at school to do this with you? You could send the money to an organization that works in the poorer countries of the world.

SWEET FILLINGS

Other fillings; stewed apples, strawberries, blueberries, slice banyans with lemon juice and sugar, gooseberries, blackberries, mincemeat...

MAKE A CREPE

You will need:

- ☺ 1 cup plain flour
 - ☺ Pinch of salt
 - ☺ 1 egg
 - ☺ 1 cup milk
- 1) Sift the flour and salt into a large bowl
 - 2) Break the egg into the mixture.
 - 3) With a wooden spoon stir the egg into the flour and salt
 - 4) Stir in a little milk and smooth out the lumps
 - 5) Gradually stir in the rest of the milk until the mixture is smooth
 - 6) Let the batter set in a cold place for at least 30 minutes
 - 7) Ask for help to cook the crepes. They need a very hot frying pan and are difficult to cool properly.

SAVOURY FILLING

This simple filling uses already prepared frozen foods. You could prepare it while an adult is cooking the crepes.

You will need:

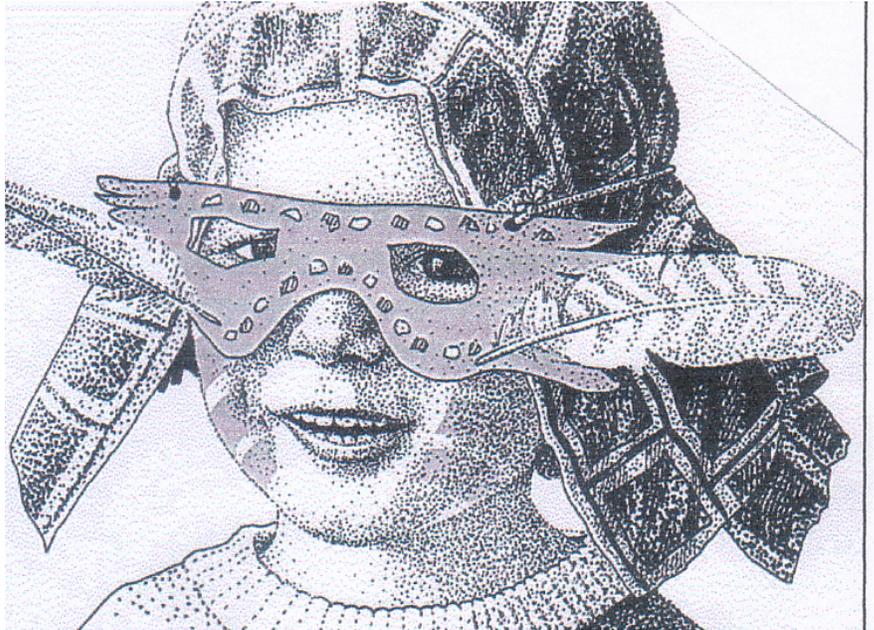
- ☺ 1 bag of frozen fish in sauce for 4 people
 - ☺ 1/2 cup frozen peas
 - ☺ 1/2 cup frozen corn
- 1) cook the frozen foods following the instructions on the packages.
 - 2) Flake the fish while it is still warm
 - 3) Mix the fish with the cooked vegetables
 - 4) When a crepe is ready, put a large spoonful of

Mardi Gras Mask

Mardi Gras is a time for fun and dressing up. If you can join in with the celebrations near you, make a colourful mask to add to the excitement.

You will need:

- ☺ A paper plate
- ☺ Glue
- ☺ Coloured pens or paint
- ☺ A doily
- ☺ Feathers
- ☺ Sequins
- ☺ A can of spray paint (optional)
- ☺ An old scarf or kitchen towel
- ☺ Some elastic



- 1) Draw the shape of your mask onto the paper plate. Both sides of the shape can be the same, or you could make them different from each other
- 2) Cut two fairly large eyeholes, one on either side of the centre line. Cut larger holes than you think you need. You can always paint your face under the mask!
- 3) Make a small hole near the edge of the mask on either side and thread elastic or ribbon through each hole, knotting them when the mask is complete.
- 4) Begin to decorate the mask with paint, feathers, beads, patterns from a doily, anything that will stick/
- 5) If you have spray paint, you can spray the whole mask a bright colour. Be sure to do this in the open air and do not wear the mask until the paint vapour has worked off!
- 6) Spray the scarf or towel (or any old piece of fabric) with silver paint.
- 7) Ask if you can borrow some makeup to make your face look dramatic, and then put on your head covering, securing it with elastic and your mask.

Did you know? The first day of Lent is called Ash Wednesday. It gets its name from a custom which began in the 6th century when Gregory was pope. He suggested that as a sign that someone was really sorry for doing, saying or thinking something wrong, they should not wear fine clothes on that day. Instead, they should sprinkle ashes on their head and wear clothes made of sackcloth.

GREAT IDEAS FOR EASTER



NON-TOXIC PAINT

Gather: 2 or 3 different colours of jello, or unflavoured gelatin with food colouring

1/4 cup cold water

1/2 cup corn starch

3/4 cup cold water

2 cups boiling water

Go: 1. Add 1/4 cup cold water to the jello or gelatin and set aside.

2. Mix 3/4 cup cold water with cornstarch into a smooth paste.

3. Add paste to boiling water and stir until mixture boils and is clear.

4. Remove from heat and add gelatin.

5. Repeat for each colour of paint desired.

Eggshell collage

Use food coloring to color crushed eggshells. Use a few different colors. (You can use eggshells from eggs you have used. There is no need to hard boil these egg shells.) Let your child glue the eggshells to a piece a paper, after the dye has dried.

Egg decorating is a wonderful way to prepare for Easter: children can gather after school or on a Saturday in Lent and try their hand at everything from simple tie-dyeing to sponge marbling. Here are some ideas....

TIE-DYED EGGS

Tye-dyed eggs are a mystery, even to their creator, until the moment they are unwrapped. They can be made by young children, and the suspense and bright colours make them fun for older kids as well. By using food colouring, you can tie-dye cooked eggs to be eaten.

Gather: clean, white eggs, raw or hard-boiled; Food colouring; a 6-inch square of lightweight cotton cloth; 2 rubber bands for each egg to secure the cloth

Go: 1. Wrap the egg in cloth and fasten against each end of the egg with a rubber band.

2. Immerse the wrapped egg in the dye, being certain to thoroughly wet the cloth.

3. Let dry overnight, then unwrap and enjoy.

RAINBOW EGGS

Like tie-dyed eggs, the results are a mystery until they are unveiled. These eggs are easy enough for small children, yet have the mysterious appeal that even adults enjoy. Food colouring makes them safe to eat.

Gather: clean, white hard-boiled eggs; Eye dropper (to apply colouring); Food colouring in 2-3 bright contrasting colours; a 6-inch square of lightweight cotton cloth; white vinegar

Go: 1. Dilute food colouring in 1 tablespoon of water. Add a few drops of vinegar.

2. Wet the cloth and wring out until it is only slightly damp. Wrap it around the egg.

3. Fill the eye dropper with one colour and release drops onto the cloth, all around the egg. Rinse the dropper and repeat with the other 2 colours.

4. Holding the cloth at each end, give a twist to run the colours together. This creates the rainbow effect.

5. Let dry a few minutes, then remove the cloth and behold.

FINGERPAINTED EGGS

There is something about this hands-on or fingers-on approach that is irresistible. Combine paints, eggs and kids, and watch the fun. Kids love the feel, the freedom and the splashy bright colours—and face it, they love a good mess.

Gather: make the non-toxic paint, so the eggs can be eaten (see left side-bar); clean, white hard-boiled eggs; plastic garbage bags (to protect work area); an old t-shirt per child (to protect clothes); egg stand (an egg carton will do); warm soapy water, and towels for clean-up.

Go: Dip fingers in paints and touch, dab and swirl onto the eggs. When finished, allow the eggs to dry on the egg stand (in the refrigerator for cooked eggs).

GREAT IDEAS FOR EASTER, continued

SPONGE MARBLING

Marble-like eggs that look as though they were carved of solid stone and polished to a brilliant luster can be faked. Though these eggs look as solid as the real thing, they are actually lightweight, hollow eggshells, cleverly disguised with a bit of paint and lacquer to impersonate stone. Spong marbling is easy enough for kids to do.

Gather:

Clean, white eggs, raw or blown

Acrylic paint in three shades of the same colour: dark, medium, & light, & white

Masking tape

Small point brush

Soft bristled point, or make-up brush

Sponge

Finish (varnish or clear nail polish)

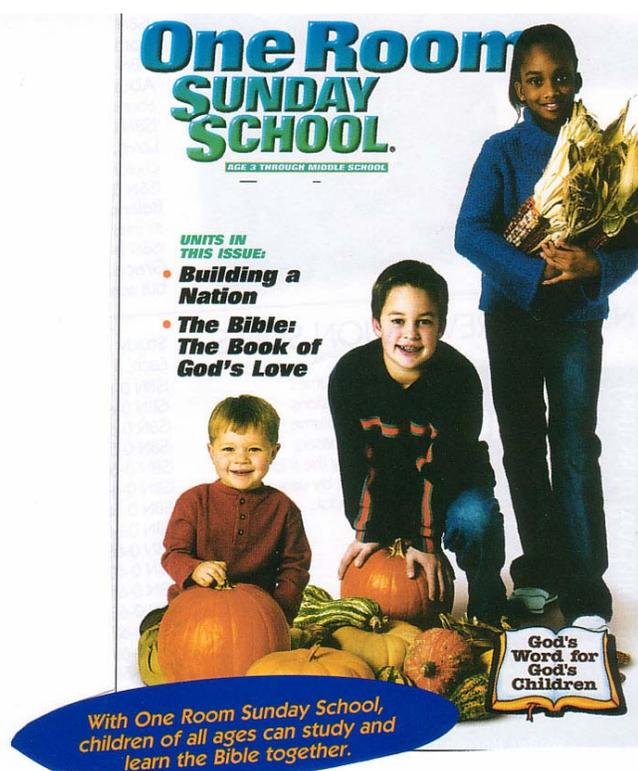
Go:

1. Paint egg with the darkest shade. Let dry.
2. Cut or tear masking tape into irregularly shaped pieces. Arrange on the egg in a random pattern.
3. Thin a medium shade of paint with water until about the consistency of cream.
4. Dip sponge in thinned paint, blot on paper towel, then sponge over entire egg.
5. While the first coat is still damp, repeat steps 3 and 4 with lighter shade, but sponge on more sparingly than the medium shade. Follow this with a very lightly sponged-on coat of white before the paints dry. Between coats dab with a large, soft-bristled paint brush or old make-up brush to blend and blur the edges of the wet paint.
6. As soon as all three coats of paint have been applied and paint is still somewhat wet, peel off the bits of tape. With a detail-artist paint brush, draw erratic lines of the medium-color paint across the face of the egg to mimic the natural veins found in genuine marble. Swirl thick and thin lines of white paint to create more veins.
7. While paint is still damp, tap around the edges with soft-bristled paintbrush, held vertical to the egg, to soften the edges and veins into a more nature look.
8. When the paint has dried, finish with a coat of clear varnish or fingernail polish. This final step, like polishing of real stone, is what brings out the beauty, and surprising realism of the piece.

Hints: Place the bits of tape so that you can use them as finger contact point while holding onto the egg. This avoids smudging and painted fingers. Also, save money by purchasing only two shades of your chosen colour and mixing the third, or lightest shade, by adding a little white paint to the medium shade. Colours that suggest realistic marble or quartz effect are black/grey, rose/coral, brown/beige and emerald/green.



One Room Sunday School



The One Room Sunday School programme provides everything you need to teach children of all ages (3—high school) in the same class. The One Room Sunday School Resource Kit includes the reproducible activities book, teacher book, class pak and cassette. Each **\$85.99** (CDN)

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Other Curriculum Ideas can be found in the Regional Resource Boxes—contact your Regional Rep!

Find a Friendly Family Flick

an article by Mitali Perkins, *Christian Parenting Today*, Winter 2003



Not sure if that new blockbuster is a good choice for the kids? Before a family movie & pizza night, check out one of these websites to learn more about what you are watching. Not all these sites come from a Christian perspective, but all of them offer a "family-friendly" look at movies and media:

Plugged In (family.org/pplace./pi) from Focus on the Family, helps you and your children make wise choices not only about movies but about music and TV too.

Rotten Tomatoes Family Values (rottentomatoes.com/source-175) features reviews for parents from H. Arthur Taussig. (Also check out his ad-free site, filmvalues.com.)

Movie Mom (moviemom.com) gives detailed reviews from Nell Minnow, a mom who has appeared on numerous radio and TV shows to discuss children and media.

Michael Elliot's Christian Critic (christiancritic.com) provides discussion questions about popular movies for you to use during family devotions.

The Christian Spotlight on Entertainment (ChristianAnswers.Net) takes a wide look at pop culture, discussing everything from computer games to music to videos.

Grading the Movies (gradingthemovies.com) reviews movies, videos, games, and music for parents.

Screenit! Family Movie Reviews (screenit.com) lists specific details about violence, sex, profanity, and other objectionable material.

The reviewers sometimes disagree, so we usually read at least two reviews to get a fuller picture. But even a quick look on one site helps us discern how a movie measures up to the standards of truth, nobility, purity, loveliness, and excellence set out in Philippians 4:8-9.

2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS JAN—JUNE



FEBRUARY 2004

- ☺ Feb 5 7:30 pm Kidstuff Meeting
- ☺ Feb 21 10 am-2 pm Fulford Hall — Gospel Light curriculum Information Workshop with Kimberly Parker. At Fulford Hall, Cathedral Place, 1444 Union Ave. McGill Metro—Free, but Register in advance (bring a bag lunch)



APRIL 2004

- ☺ April 1 7:30 pm Kidstuff Committee Meeting—Core Group—3491 Hingston Ave.



JUNE 2004

- ☺ June 3 6 pm Kidstuff Dinner Meeting—3491 Hingston Ave.
- ☺ June 28 Crosstalk Ministries Day Camp Programme begins—call 514-484-1414 for a camp location near you.



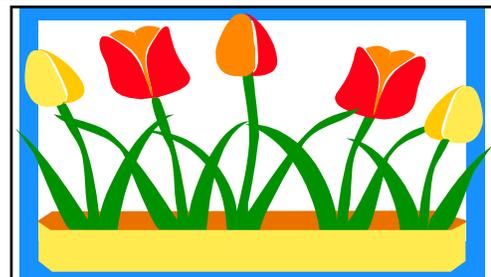
MARCH 2004

- ☺ March 4 7:30 pm Kidstuff Committee Meeting— Core Group— 3491 Hingston Ave.
- ☺ March 6th 10 am-2 pm Fulford Hall, Cathedral Place, 1444 Union Ave—McGill Metro —Light and Peace Workshop with Gretchen Pritchard— Register in advance (Cost of \$5 includes a light lunch)



MAY 2004

- ☺ May 6 7:30 pm Kidstuff Meeting—Eastern Township Region—to be confirmed



Thanks

We thank Nancy Greene-Gregoire, our City Regional Rep, for agreeing to edit this issue of Kidstuff and hope she will feel empowered to continue!! Robert Camara, who edited issues in 2003 from his desk at the Synod Office has returned to Toronto to take up a new position in civic administration.