



St. Luke Child Development Center

11810 Burke Street • Omaha, NE 68154

"On the road again (and again)"

Taking the kids on a trip isn't exactly peaceful—so why do we keep doing it?.

By Fred Leebron

Traveling with kids is the most unnatural thing in the world. After any vacation with our three kids—a toddler, a 9-year-old, and a 13-year-old—I am half dead and half severely aggravated. Never again, I always mutter, when we straggle in from France, California, Florida, or the grandparents' in Philadelphia, Washington, DC, or Princeton, New Jersey. Yet the next thing I know, we're out the door with the urban mountain buggy and the travel crib and each kid's personal bag and each kid's piece of luggage and our own stuff crammed into a shared suitcase.

"Why do you keep doing this to yourself?" a friend asked me.

Well, my wife and I have always traveled. One year, before children, we sold all of our belongings and spent three months each in Thailand, France, Mexico, and Guatemala. Several summers we lived in vineyards and on both coasts of Portugal. Without kids, these trips were so serene I could focus on little things like the working of a parasite within the lining of my stomach or how my seven-hundredth game of solitaire was progressing.

With children, there's none of that useless introspection or awful idle time. On planes, in cars, at resorts, in rental houses, or rushing through museums, we attend to the range of their culinary appetites and the schedules of their varying digestive tracts and the intransigence of their capacity to take in more than one new thing—any new thing—per day.

"There's no good food in France!" my son screamed one day last summer. And I thought, I am spending how much money for this? Thanks to Jacob, I now know all the chicken-tender-serving restaurants between Nice and Cannes, between Palm Beach and Miami. For Jacob, when we travel, it's chicken tenders or famine.

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Child Care hours:
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6:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

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For Benjamin, the toddler, lately it's "I like a present." So wherever we are when he wants one—the gloomy rest stop by the side of I-95 outside of Wilmington, Delaware, or the ridiculously over-priced resort of St. Tropez—he gets a present. And Cade, our 13-year-old, only wants to know when the "free" hours on her cell phone are so that she can call home and complain to all of her friends how bored she is. "I am *sooo* bored," she whined from the Riviera. "I am really beyond bored," she opined from Mendocino, California. I wanted to grab the phone from her and throw it into the Pacific, but I didn't dare. It was the only thing that pacified her. After all it wasn't so long ago that Air France held up a flight while a steward took her blood pressure and determined whether she really could fly in such a hostile, upset state.

We have raced through L.A.'s Getty and Paris's Orsay with these children. We have paddled the canals of Amsterdam and the Russian River in California with them. We know the best brand of disposable diapers in France, England, Holland, Italy, Germany and Spain. Our children have dined on Dunkin' Donuts off the Ramblas in Barcelona, and they've lunched at Baskin-Robbins in London. If we stray into anything resembling real cuisine, we doom ourselves to humiliation, ostracization, and worse.

For years Jacob inflicted the most pain, but lately the toddler has begun to carry his weight. At A posh, crowded Italian restaurant on Union Street in San Francisco this past summer, he snatched up a salt shaker, chucked it at the plate holding the olive oil for the dipping of the gourmet bread, broke the plate in two, and thus sent olive oil all over the pristine white tablecloth. My wife turned to me and through gritted teeth said, "Get him out of here." The toddler and I passed the rest of the meal at a lovely convenience store attached to the Shell gas station down the street.

Of traveling, our children have this to say: They hate the food, they hate the traffic, they hate any mode of transport, and they hate everything but the gift shops at most museums.

People keep telling me that when the kids get to their 20s they'll be thanking us, but what if I don't live that long?

"Well, heck," our neighbor says, "you're really not doing it for them anyway, are you?"

You're telling me I'm selfish, I want to say, but I can only glare at him. For it's true that we're so afraid to tell the children about our next vacation that we have a code name for the whole enterprise and we only speak of it in whispers late at night. Because once word leaks out, Cade will talk about her "constitutional right" to remain at home, Jacob will work himself into a teary rage, and the toddler, bewildered but already in on the mutiny, will skip around the house, trolling, "I like a present. I like a present."

So why do we keep doing this? To get away from the mail and the phone and the obligations of ordinary life. To get beyond the daily ease of our small-town existence. To visit favorite places and places we've never been before. To see how far the kids can push us before we turn on each other (for it's a given we'll turn on them). To challenge all of us, not only in the art of placation or accommodation but also in the art of simple endurance.

So, we won't get any rest on this upcoming trip, and we won't get any relaxation, either. But when we recall those years of traveling before children, those nights of reading long novels and staring into space or out to sea or at our own indulged selves, we know one simple, essential fact: We won't be indulged or bored now. Our kids will make sure of that. And our life together, boiled down to the essential struggle to get along and keep moving until we arrive again safely at home, will make us feel—oddly enough—even more alive.

Upcoming Center Closings

Just a reminder that St. Luke Child Development Center will change operation for the holiday week:

*Monday, Dec. 31, 2007 — Regular operating hours

*Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008 — closed for New Year's Day

Tuition for this week is the same, as stated in the Parent Handbook. New 2008 tuition rates are in effect.

New Tuition Rates & Fees

Please remember that new tuition rates go into effect on January 1, 2008. The new fees were included in information which you received early in December; however, if you need another copy of the new rates and fees, please ask at the Office.

Kids' January Birthdays

Jakob Asche.....	27th.....	Age 4
Spencer Carson.....	25th.....	Age 2
Cameron Churchill-Dowd.....	20th.....	Age 3
Jacob Czapl.....	16th.....	Age 4
Sydney Dinsmore.....	6th.....	Age 3
Grace Ellis.....	3rd.....	Age 5
John Graeve.....	4th.....	Age 1
Riley Hill.....	6th.....	Age 4
Anthony Lind.....	12th.....	Age 5
Kat Liska.....	29th.....	Age 2
Colin Pike.....	31st.....	Age 2
Dylan Riley.....	13th.....	Age 5
Lucas Riley.....	16th.....	Age 2
Peyton Sanmann.....	5th.....	Age 2
Merrick Sapone.....	24th.....	Age 5
Olivia Schmidt.....	9th.....	Age 1
Eric Wu.....	14th.....	Age 5

Year-End Tax Statements

Year-end tax statements of tuition paid to St. Luke for 2007 are provided for all families for use when filing your taxes. These year-end statements will be put in your parent mailbox by January 31, 2008.

Bad Weather Days

Where do you check to see if St. Luke is open on bad weather days? The St. Luke web site: www.stlukeumc.com Check the yellow box on the home page. Any delay in opening or closing will be posted by 6:15 a.m. It is the intent of St. Luke to remain open every day. Due to the weather, St. Luke has been closed less than five days in the last ten years! However it is always a good idea to check the web site on any questionable bad weather day.

Medication Forms

When completing a form for the administration of medicine to your child, please designate by name the staff who have your permission to give the medicine. Be sure to list more than one person in case someone is unavailable at the dosing time. Thank you!

Staff Birthday This Month

Lois Brodin.....	12th.....	Toddlers
Amanda Demers.....	31st.....	Floater
Megan Harper.....	19th.....	Infant C
Wendy Snyder.....	30th.....	Frogs

Staff News & Notes

- ◆ Care and concern is expressed to Georgia Sage, Infant B teacher, who is undergoing radiation for breast cancer.
- ◆ Sympathy is extended to Stephanie Cox, Penguins teacher, whose grandmother passed away.
- ◆ Care and concern is expressed to Deb Zagurski, Ducks teacher, whose mother is hospitalized.
- ◆ Care and concern is expressed to Laura Breitenfeld, floater, whose mother is hospitalized.
- ◆ Sympathy is extended to Melonie Kleinberg, Toucans teacher, whose great-uncle passed away.

THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS

The St. Luke staff expresses **thanks**
 for the gift certificates given to each of us,
 made possible with contributions by
 child care parents and church members.

Your generosity was overwhelming
 and we truly feel appreciated and
 supported in our work.

Your gifts brightened our holiday!

Bev Nihsen

Erin Ommen

Megan McCreath Emily DeWitt

Brittany Peters

Prawda Hshang

Kara A. Kahnk

Carolyn Changgeist

Debbie Zagurski
 Shelby Steffen

Del Ann Mart

Lucy Hauer

Dauer Sutter

Stephanie Cox Alden

Teresa Haskie

Amanda Nickerson
 Kris Bladen

Mary Stoup

Shoahind

Sandy Blevington

Jesse Nozinski
 Karen L Moore

Kim Walker

Ronnie Eddy

Havaja Suleta

Natasha Odde

Christen Sabershausen

Myelle Sabershausen

Kristin Cormick

TEG Karr

Ernstina Warner

Kemi Gbetan

Meloni Kleinberg
 Christine Holland

Audrey Faeder

Classroom Notes

INFANT A (Room 121)

We had so much fun getting ready for the holidays. Now it's time to start 2008—a brand new year!

Some of the babies are getting so big they will be "moving" to the Honey Bears (Infant B classroom). We are always sad to see them go. Then excitement grows as we start new babies in the room. It's never a dull moment in Infant A!

Please remember to label all items belonging to your child.

INFANT B (Room 120)

We hope everyone had a good holiday! We had fun the whole holiday season. The children enjoyed looking at the decorations on the walls, the pretty lights and snowflakes hanging from the ceiling.

The theme on Wednesday, January 16th is Mix-'n-Match Day. Please dress your child in mismatched clothes. Please remember to label all supplies and blankets.

INFANT C & D (Rooms 110-111)

Bumblebees: We can't believe that the holidays are over and 2008 is here! The presents we got from "Santa" were wonderful! We love to watch the snow falling outside our window. (Maybe January will bring us more?) We hope everyone has a great 2008!

Parents please remember to bring hats and gloves during the cold Winter months.

Butterflies: Can you believe it is 2008? Thank you so much for the presents. We hope you enjoyed the gifts from your child. We had a blast making them! We hope the holidays were fun and relaxing too. We're excited to see what the new year brings. Please remember to keep a change of clothes here for your child. Also, make sure they are labeled with your child's name. The kids are on the move constantly—they are exploring new things everyday!

TODDLERS (Room 123)

5, 4, 3, 2, 1 — Happy New Year! We can't believe the new year is here! December kept the toddlers very busy. We made all kinds of projects to decorate the room. Be sure to check them out. We had an awesome holiday party! Thank you parents for your help and goodies.

In January we will be learning about the Circus, Sesame Street and Farm Animals. We will do many arts and crafts with these fun themes. We look forward to the new year and the adventures ahead!

2's (Rooms 116, 117, 118/119)

Toucans: Well 2008 is just around the corner! We had so much fun in December. We made stockings, candles, reindeer, mittens and candy canes. For a special activity we brought in some snow and let the children feel that it was cold and wet. We made a small snowman too! When we were done we watched the snow melt and saw what happened if you put snow under running water. It was a great experiment!

In January we have a lot to look forward to. The themes are Winter, Hibernation, Friends & Family, Hawaii & Our 5 Senses. Keep your eyes peeled for many kinds of artwork. Be sure to check your child's art folder daily.

Giraffes: We are slippin' and slidin' right into 2008! Be sure to come and see our "winter wonderland" and all the projects your children have done. They had sooo much fun with the Transportation unit, a class favorite. We have worked very hard on our Christmas presents for Mom and Dad and talked about Santa and how holidays are celebrated around the world.

In January we will have a yummy Gingerbread Week and celebrate the new year with a big bang! Be sure to have a warm set of extra clothes in your child's cubby.

Classroom Notes (continued)

2's continued:

Monkeys: Happy New Year to everyone! We hope your holidays were wonderful. All of us want to thank our parents for the gifts: books, items for our room and personal presents for the teachers. We appreciate all of you very much.

We will be reading our new books and singing songs. We love music time! We will make new decorations for our room and for you to put on the refrigerator at home! Potty training has been going well. Don't forget supplies: diapers, wipes, extra set of clothes and a blanket. Have a great month!

3's (Rooms 112-115)

The holidays came and went by so quickly. We made the most of the time, however, the 3's were very busy talking about the different holidays and making neat art projects. We talked about Chanukah, Kwanza, and Christmas. The kids also brought toys and food to share/donate to other children who don't have much to play with or eat over the holidays.

Next month the themes are: Winter, Hibernation, Martin Luther King, Jr., Family & Friends, Hawaii, Our 5 Senses and Ground Hog's Day.

Have a safe and happy new year!

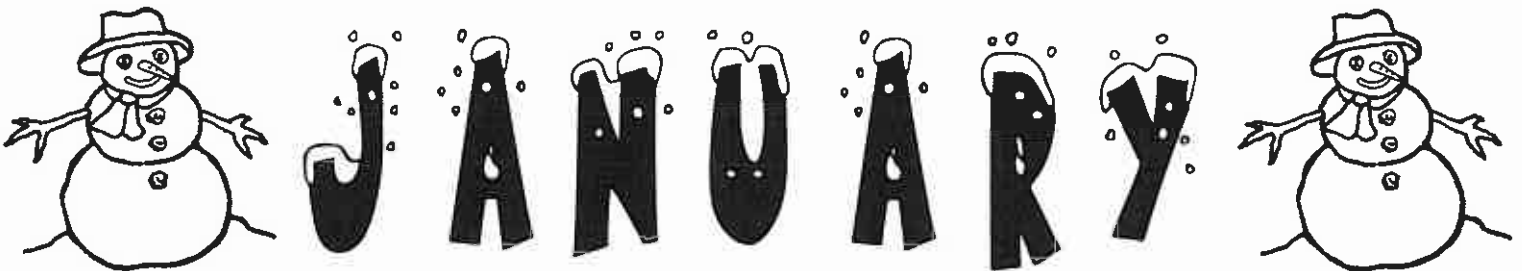
4's (Rooms 125-127)

Wow, December flew by so quickly. We had lots of fun learning about Transportation. It was the perfect lead into the theme Holidays Around the World. We learned about Hannakuh, Kwanzaa, the Festival of Tihar (celebrated in Nepal), and different names for Santa such as Sinter Claus and Father Christmas. The month ended with us making Gingerbread People and "ringing in the new year!"

Thank you for all your participation in the Food Drive and Toys For Tots. We think the children demonstrated a good understanding of holiday giving. We appreciate the donations from many families for our Center too. It's always nice to get new games, crafts and supplies or to "renew" old favorite toys.

We look forward to studying themes on Winter, Hibernation, Martin Luther King Jr., Friendships and Hawaii.

Now that winter is in full swing, please remember to send shoes if your child arrives wearing boots. The classrooms' temperature does fluctuate with the weather so be sure to have your child dress in layers or keep extra clothing in their cubby.



Classroom Notes (continued)

Activity Calendar for 3's, 4's and Pre-K 5's

During the month of January the themes for ages 3-5 will be:

1/2–1/4	Winter
1/7–1/11	Hibernation
1/14–1/18	Hawaii
1/21–1/25	Martin Luther King, Jr. Friends & Family
1/28–2/1	5 Senses Groundhog's Day

Foreign Language Development—Spanish words:

El Invierno	Winter
Amigo/Amiga	Friend
Madre/Padre	Mother/Father

Sign Language: classroom letter of the week

Cultural Speakers:

Wednesday, Jan. 9th — Henry Doorly Zoo (3-yr-olds)

* 3.50 charge to tuition account for this activity

Wednesday, Jan 16th — Henry Doorly Zoo (4-yr-olds)

* 3.50 charge to tuition account for this activity

Wednesday, Jan. 23rd — Jon Hruska & John Thomas with Complete Hockey of Omaha

Wednesday, Jan. 30th — Hawaiian Luau

* .50 charge to tuition account for this activity

**A note on "Field Trip Charges" - If you notice this phrase on your tuition statement, it is a charge pertaining to a Cultural Speaker amount as noted above. There occasionally is a small charge if the speaker has a fee or the craft project requires outside supplies.*

PRE-K 5's (Parlor)

Polar Bears: December was a very busy month for the Polar Bears. We talked about things that "go" and why transportation is very important to us. The kids made their own railroad tracks and used toy trains to run on it. That was so fun! In the Math Area we matched cabs of semi-trucks with numbers to the trailer with dots. In the Cooking Lab we made train engines with Ho-Ho's and Fruit Loop Cereal for the smoke stack.

"Holidays Around The World" is always a favorite theme. We talk about different countries and cultures and how they celebrate Christmas. The children enjoyed counting down till Christmas on the wall where they colored in the numbers each day. We had a wrapping station in the Motor Center and dressed up like Santa and his elves. The kids surprised Miss Mary one day by putting wrapping bows in her hair! We made Christmas cookies for our party and magic reindeer food to put on the front yard Christmas Eve. We talked about Gingerbread People and matched buttons and patterns. Finally we rang in 2008 with a New Year's Bash!

January will find us learning about Winter, Hibernation and so much more! Happy New Year!

Lions: This new group of friends had a fun first month together. Each Lion took home a stocking to decorate with their parents that would tell us about their interests. We hung the stockings on our fireplace. We learned a lot about each other! It was a good ice breaker for the kids to get to know each other. We continued learning together with themes on Transportation and Holidays Around the World. The children really enjoyed seeing the big semi-truck from Werner. We made several ornaments from different countries. We had fun at our Holiday Party. We played Bingo, decorated cookies and made an art project. Thank you parents for helping make our party a success!

Classroom Notes (continued)

LATCHKEY PROGRAM

St. Luke's Latchkey Program is designed as a bridge between school and home. It provides a healthy balance of structure and individual freedom to make choices, as well as a place to build friendships with peers and a variety of adults.

The Latchkey program offers different types of care for school-age children during the year:

*Occasional Care Latchkey is a popular program during the school year when your elementary-age child is out for conferences, holiday breaks or snow days. This drop-in service is for registered children only.

*Full-Time Summer Latchkey offers many activities such as swimming lessons at the YMCA, tae-kwondo lessons, field trips around the Omaha area, water play days, arts and crafts, and cooking projects to name a few. All transportation to and from these activities is provided.

Eagles (Great Room—East)

We were so busy the first week together. We made Snowmen-On-A-Stick, Spritz cookies, a snowman sweatshirt using fabric and fusible backing. This project took two days to complete but it was worth it! During the second week, we played a game called "Omaha Plum Stone." We used stones that we painted a moon on one side and a star on the other. The game becomes a fun math game that any school-ager can play. We also made a hot plate of marbles and popsicle sticks. The children enjoyed other cooking projects and of course, our annual piñata project! We have made one for 5 years in a row.

Thank you for sharing your children with us!

Ms. Teg

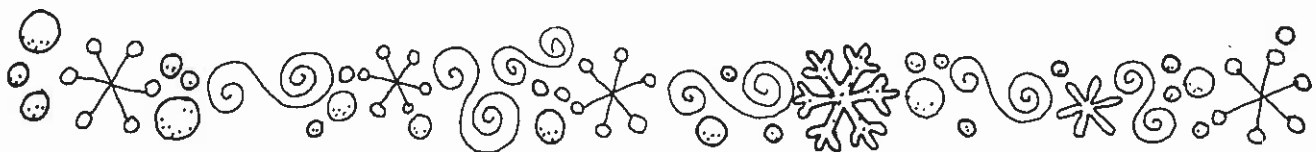
SPECIALTY CLASSES

Body Movement, Music, and Computers are offered for 3's, 4's, Pre-K, and Latchkey.

Music: We have had so much fun this holiday season singing songs about Christmas and Holidays Around the World! Some of our favorites have been songs from Bob Humbug the Christmas Grump (a fun play written for children), Little Greenie, Must Be Santa, The Dreidel Song, Kwanzaa and of course, all of the popular Christmas songs. We had fun playing jingle bells and Christmas caroling all over the Center. We wore Santa hats, reindeer antlers and elf hats for a dramatic effect! We also enjoyed singing Christmas karaoke and playing instruments to The Nutcracker Suite. Happy holidays to everyone!

Body Movement: We had fun pulling each other and playing Santa and Rudolf, using our flat scooters with jump ropes tied to them. We even went through a little Christmas obstacle course on them. We played in the tunnels and play huts decorated for the holidays. Other activities were reindeer games, ball activities, trampolines, obstacle course activities and fun holiday games! We liked playing jingle bells on our giant parachute too!

Computers: We have been learning on holiday software such as Rudolf The Red-nosed Reindeer, Fisher Price Christmas Time, Fun In Toyland, Candyland Adventure, 3-D Dinosaurs, Big Action Construction, Sesame Street Toddler Games, Charlie Brown—Where's My Blanket?, and Polar Express!



St. Luke Staff

Director

Valorie Buis

Enrollment Director

Kimberly Walker

Secretary

Phyllis Gabelhouse

Office Assistant

Kristin McCormick

Curriculum Coordinator

Teg Karr

Music, Body Movement & Computers

Lisa Lind

Kitchen

Karen Moore

Subs/Seasonal

Christine Gabelhouse

Kerri Gabelhouse

Kacey Lee

Infant A & B

Donna Eddy

Jodi Geiger

Audrey Haecker

Bev Nihsen

Georgia Sage

Dawn Sutton

Infant C & D

Sandy Bevington

Kayla Boyer

Carolyn Chamquist

Lucy Hack

Megan Harper

Megan McGrath

Toddlers

Lois Brodin

Kara Kahnk

Maggie Neujahr

Brittany Peters

Amy Young

2's

Rawda Al-Sharif

Lissa Glogowski

Melonie Kleinberg

Mai Nguyen

Natasha Oddo

Erin Ommen

Havaja Suleta

Helen Wheeler

3's

Teresa Gaskill

Wendy Snyder

Melissa Winkelmann

Deb Zagurski

Pre-K

Stephanie Cox

Christine Holland

Shelly Steffen

Mary Stoops

Amanda Wilkinson

Tabatha Williamson

Latchkey

Jill Bruckner

Teg Karr

Floater Teachers

Sayna Amoura

Nicole Barnes

Kayla Boyer

Laura Breitenfeld

Jill Bruckner

Kathy Budka

Amanda Demers

Emily DeWitt

Sally Grimes

Chelsea Hill

Dee Ann Martz

Erin Ommen


Brittany Peters

Christopher Peters

Dawn Sutton

Kristina Warner

JANUARY LUNCH & SNACK MENU

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
	Closed	Mini Hamburgers Potato Rounds Cherries AM – Cereal & Toast PM – Tropical Fish Cookies	Pasta Bake Green Beans Orange Wedges Breadstick AM – Breakfast Pastry PM – Tollhouse Bar	Cheese Mozzarella Toast Corn Banana AM – Waffles PM – Jell-O
7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th
Chicken Patty on Bun Green Beans Apple AM – Cereal & Toast PM – Bear Cookie	Hotdog on Bun Baby Carrots Applesauce AM – Egg & Sausage PM – Rice Krispy Treat	Pizza Hut Pizza Lettuce Salad Pears AM – Cereal & Toast PM – Sugar Cookie	Macaroni & Cheese Peas Banana AM – Breakfast Pastry PM – Jell-O Cake	BBQ Pork on Bun Potato Rounds Fresh Seasonal Fruit AM – Pancakes PM – Cheese on Cheese Crackers
14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th
Hamburger on Bun Tiny Triangles Fresh Apple AM – Cereal & Toast PM – Goldfish Crackers	Grilled Chicken Alfredo Lettuce Salad Breadstick AM – French Toast PM – Strawberry Shortcake	Crispy Tacos Cheesy Beanies Banana AM – Cereal & Toast PM – Snicker Doodle Cookie	Grilled Cheese Sandwich & Tomato Soup Celery Sticks Applesauce AM – Breakfast Pastry PM – Chex Mix	Chicken Nuggets Baby Carrots Peach Cup Dinner Roll AM – Waffles PM – Frosted Graham Crackers
21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th
French Toast Tiny Triangle Potatoes Fresh Orange Wedges AM – Cereal & Toast PM – Orange Sherbet	Spaghetti & Meatballs Italian Marinated Vegetables Peaches AM – Eggs & Sausage PM – Blond Brownie	Pizza Hut Pizza Lettuce Salad Applesauce AM – Cereal & Toast PM – Rainbow Sugar Cookie	Cheesy Enchilada Corn Banana AM – Breakfast Pastry PM – Dolphin Crackers	Chicken Teriyaki & Rice w/ Chow Mein Noodles Celery Sticks Mixed Fruit AM – Pancakes PM – Rice Krispy Treat
28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st	
Hotdog on Bun Baked Beans Orange Smiles AM – Cereal & Toast PM – Puppy Chow	Nachos w/ Beef & Cheese Corn Banana AM – French Toast PM – Cinnamon Crumb Cake	Pepperoni & Cheese Calzone Lettuce Salad Applesauce AM – Cereal & Toast PM – Cheese on Cheese Crackers	Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Cherries Dinner Roll AM-Breakfast Pastry PM-Animal Crackers	

Every lunch is served with 2% milk. Snacks are served with milk or juice, dependent upon what snack items are on the menu. Occasionally there will be substitutions as necessary.