



## November/December 2024 Newsletter

### Directors Corner : Aimee Hart



Welcome to the Most Wonderful Time of the Year at Uni Pres Kindercottage!

The magical season is here again—a time to give, to share, and to spread love and joy! At Uni Pres Kindercottage, our hearts are full of gratitude for the joyful moments we've shared with our community and the exciting events yet to come.

Our fall season has been nothing short of amazing. Our children enjoyed a fantastic day at the Pumpkin Patch, embracing the wonders of autumn with a Family Fall Festival, and the Fall Ball Parades that filled the air with color, laughter, and the brightest smiles. We also had a visit from Bright Smiles Dental that did children teeth cleaning and showed us the best ways to care for our teeth.

We all had a "Howdy Good Time" at our Western Showdown, where cowboy hats, boots, and lively games brought our friends and families together for a day of old-fashioned fun. This event wasn't just about fun—it also raised funds to support our UPK families, making a positive impact close to home. Looking ahead, we're thrilled to keep the celebrations going with upcoming gatherings that bring out the spirit of generosity, kindness, and unity.

This season, we're especially grateful for each one of you—your support, your presence, and the love that strengthens us as we care for those who need it most.

Here's to a season brimming with warmth, joy, and countless blessings. Thank you for being a part of our Uni Pres Kindercottage family. Happy holidays!

## Uni-Pres Kindercottage: Community Spirit Shines Through at Our Recent Events

**Uni Pres  
Kindercottage**

**Literacy  
Night with the**

# Western Showdown: A Night to Remember!

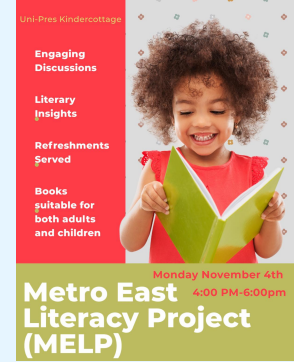
What an incredible time we had at the Western Showdown! **The Big, the Bad, and the Brainy** brought their A-game for a packed-out Trivia Night fundraiser in support of Uni Pres Kindercottage at Grantfork UCC. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this fun-filled evening and helped raise essential funds to support our mission. Your generosity and enthusiasm make all the difference for our children and families! We appreciate each and every one of you for making this event such a success!



# Metro East Literacy Project

On November 4, 2024, Uni-Pres Kindercottage hosted Literacy Night at Uni-Pres Kindercottage.

Families and little ones enjoyed an evening of storytime and engaging discussions that celebrate the magic of reading. With the incredible partnership of the Metro East Literacy Project (MELP), families can immerse themselves in stories and gain resources to enhance their reading experiences at home.







"St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Okawville, Illinois, graciously hosted a memorable day for the Uni-Pres Kindercottage children, supported by their Senior Youth Group. Our children had a wonderful time at the Pumpkin Patch, fully embracing the joys of autumn!"





Our children experienced a truly magical beauty of autumn during the Family Fall Festival, where joy echoed through the air, filling the atmosphere with a sense of wonder and celebration within our East St. Louis community, reminding us of the importance of creating lasting memories that uplift and inspire our children.



## Bright Smiles Dental children teeth cleaning

We were thrilled to welcome Bright Smiles Dental to our community, where they not only provided delightful teeth-cleaning sessions for our little ones but also shared invaluable tips on how to care for those sparkling smiles! The children learned that brushing their teeth is as important as keeping their toys tidy—after all, who wants a cavity to crash the party? With expert guidance from the dental professionals, our kids discovered the joy of



maintaining healthy habits and the importance of dental hygiene, leaving them inspired to show off their bright grins!



A heartfelt thank you goes out to Mr. Pete and St. Paul UCC Belleville for their generous contributors of hats, gloves, pajamas, socks, and underwear from the clothing drive was a resounding success! It was an absolute joy to witness the smiles and warmth shared with families as they joyfully selected essential items that they truly needed. Your kindness and the thoughtful donations you provided have brought not just physical warmth, but also a sense of hope and community to those who are most in need. May God continue to bless you abundantly as you bless others, reminding us all that every act of kindness—no matter how small—has the

power to create ripples of positive change in the lives of children and families at Uni-Pres Kindercottage. Let us keep this spirit of giving alive and encourage each other to continue engaging in this wonderful journey of compassion and support!

We are immensely grateful to Kathi Emery from St. Paul, Waterloo, for her generous donation of books from Monroe County Home and Community Education, which will undoubtedly enrich the minds and imaginations of the children at Uni-Pres Kindercottage. Additionally, we extend our heartfelt thanks to St. Paul UCC Waterloo for their thoughtful contribution of paper products and canned goods, essential items that support our daily operations and enhance the wellbeing of our families.



## Share the Joy of the Season

Dear Church Family,

As we enter this beautiful season of joy and giving, we invite you to remember those who are less fortunate. Our annual Children's Holiday Gift Drive is underway, and we still have many children waiting to be chosen. These little ones are in need of warm coats,

boots, and a special toy to brighten their Christmas.

If you feel called to bless a child this holiday season, please reach out to Ms. Aimee or Mr. Rose to help make a difference. You can purchase items for children or donate gift cards to Walmart, Amazon or Target and we will purchase the items on your behalf. Your kindness will bring warmth and joy to those who need it most.

Contact us at:

[aimee@unipreskindercottage.org](mailto:aimee@unipreskindercottage.org)



antron@unipreskindercottage.org  
Thank you for helping to spread the love and light of the season!

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to making each of these moments special. Together, we're creating unforgettable experiences and brighter futures for the families of Uni-Pres Kindercottage.



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UNI-PRES Kindercottage | 564 Veronica Ave | East St. Louis, IL 62226 US

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