

SCHOOL READINESS BEGINS AT BIRTH

November 2009

**BENZIE CENTRAL
HOME TO SCHOOL ADVOCATE
NEWSLETTER**
By Dale Jeske

TRADITIONS

It's the time of year again that brings us back to our childhood. Our childhood Thanksgivings and Christmases are etched in our memories. This is the time of year that gets us thinking of traditions.

This is a time with family. Some of us travel while others spend the time at home, as relatives travel to us. As a child I remember going next-door to our Grandma's house. Most of our relatives were there. I don't remember specifics, but the feeling of everyone together is very clear.

I have always loved Thanksgiving. In the early 1980's I decided to ask my family to come to my house for Thanksgiving. I live along the Platte River and it was almost like the song, "Over the River and Through the Woods". I was single at this time and really enjoyed having my family (from the Grand Haven area) come stay with me. I cooked the Turkey and stuffing while others made the side dishes. Thanksgiving along the Platte has been a hit ever since.

Through the years it has changed. I married in 1987, my brothers and sister have had more children, and so have I. From that first Thanksgiving of Mom, Dad, 3 nephews, 1 niece, 2 brothers, 1 sister, a brother in law and a sister in law, we have grown to about 25 to 30 of us.

Tradition - Arrival of relatives and special friends, the greetings, the chaos, the fixing of the meal, the serving of the meal, the dishes (men do them), the **Lions** on TV, the football game in the yard, dessert, certain members napping, the good-byes. All etched in children's memories. These mean sooooo much to our children. It's a foundation to carry through life.

I would like to hear from you. **Yes, you.** What are your traditions? Not just for Thanksgiving, but for any time of year. Please take some time to write them down. You can e-mail them to me at djeske@nmcaa.net or give them to me at a home visit or social. I would like to have a column for these in each newsletter I send out. I am looking forward to reading them and sharing them. Depending on the response, it may take a while to put them in a newsletter. If the response is overwhelming I will put them in book form and give them out.

SOCIALS

The Home to School Socials (playgroups) will be taking place in three of our elementary schools. The schools are: Lake Ann (LA), Platte River (PR), and Betsie Valley (BV). These provide a great opportunity for you and your child to be in the school that he or she will be attending. Socials are open to all, not just the school that your child will be attending. Come in and have some fun. Social will be on:

Tuesday, Dec. 8th at LA in the gym 9:30 to 11

Monday, Dec. 14th at BV in the gym 9:30 to 11

Thursday, Dec. 17th at PR in the gym 9:30 to 11

Tuesday, Jan. 9th at LA in the gym 9:30 to 11

Thursday, Jan. 18th at PR in the gym 9:30 to 11

Monday, Jan. 22 at BV in the gym 9:30 to 11

If school is canceled so is the social.