

Neighbors

A Dallas Morning News Publication

RICHARDSON

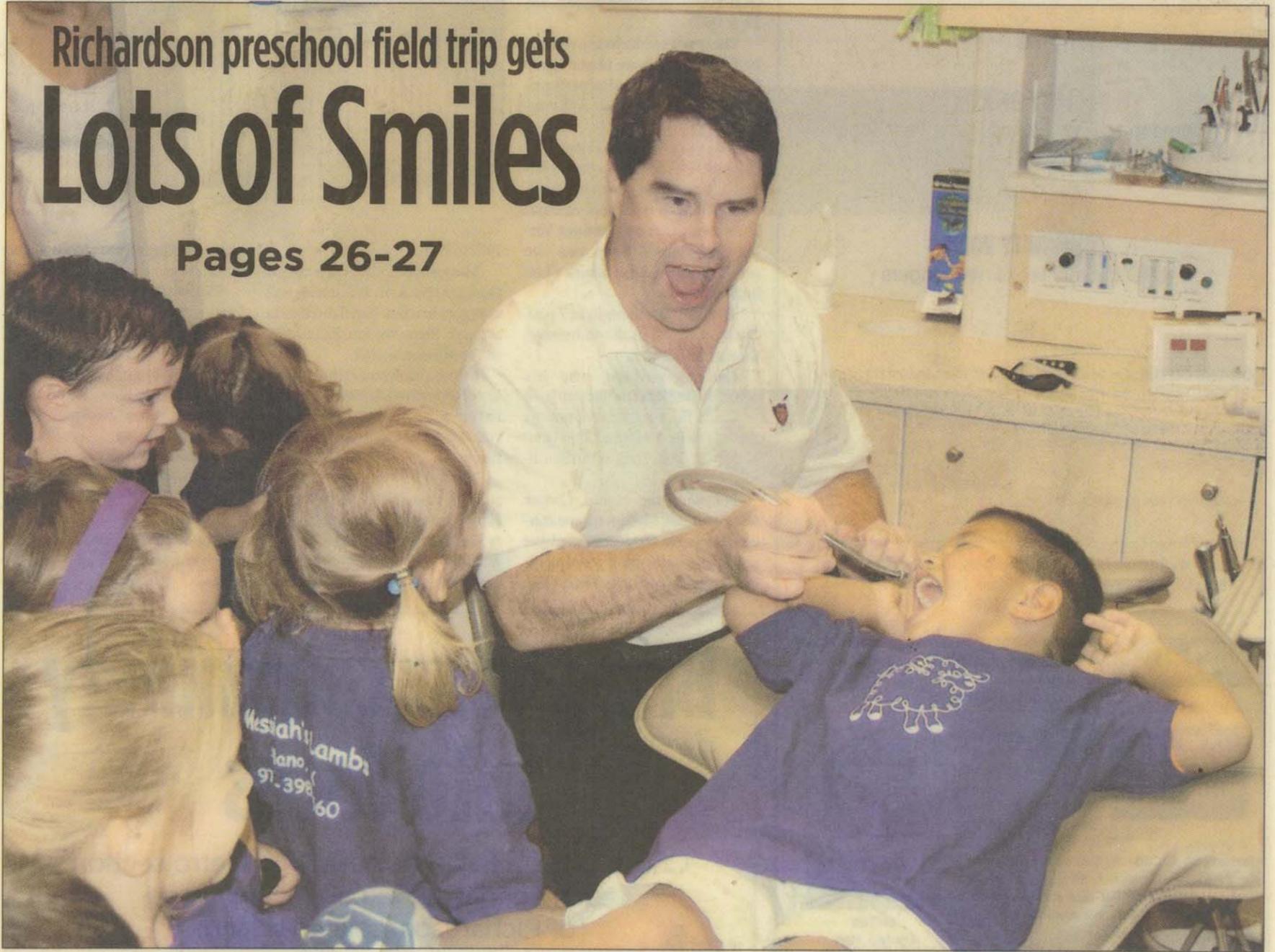
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Saturday, January 20, 2007

Richardson preschool field trip gets **Lots of Smiles**

Pages 26-27



Dental diversion

Richardson's Dr. Max teaches preschoolers not to fear the dentist

By DAVID ALVEY

Gleeful squeals and youthful giggles are not sounds usually associated with a trip to the dentist.

But a group of 3- and 4-year-old students from Messiah Lutheran Church's Early Childhood Development program were delighted on a recent visit to dentist Dr. Max Buchwald of Richardson.

"We had been teaching the kids about good dental health," explained Jeanine Casady, a teacher in the Messiah's Lambs preschool program. "Dr. Max has been practicing for 27 years and has an excellent reputation for working with children. He's also a member of Messiah Lutheran Church, so we asked him if we could visit."

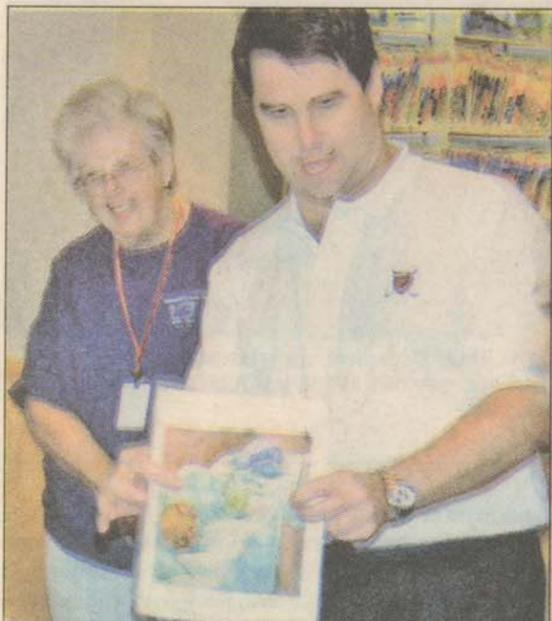
Called Dr. Max by his patients, he knows the importance of putting kids at ease in the dentist's chair. "At this age, kids have no preconceived notions about visiting the dentist. If they are comfortable now, we plant the seed for a lifetime of good dental hygiene."

Dr. Max began by explaining the importance of good dental hygiene. Then he went about making the kids feel comfortable in the exam room.

See COVER Page 27



X-RAY VISION: Dr. Max shows an X-ray unit to Grace Wulffraat, 4, of Richardson while other Messiah's Lambs watch. PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY DAVID ALVEY



BUG ATTACK: Dr. Max shows a graphic of how "bugs" attack teeth if we don't use good dental hygiene. Watching is Barbara Wolkenstein, left, of Richardson, who has been teaching at Messiah's Lambs for 18 years.



BLASTING OFF: Dr. Max leads the kids in a countdown as Julia DePanfilis of Plano prepares to blast off in the dentist's chair, observed by classmates including Grace Wulffraat, fourth from left, and Luke Dreyer, both of Richardson, Nathan Alvey, second from right, of Richardson, and Olivia Baldwin of Dallas, front right, covering her ears.

COVER

Continued from Page 26

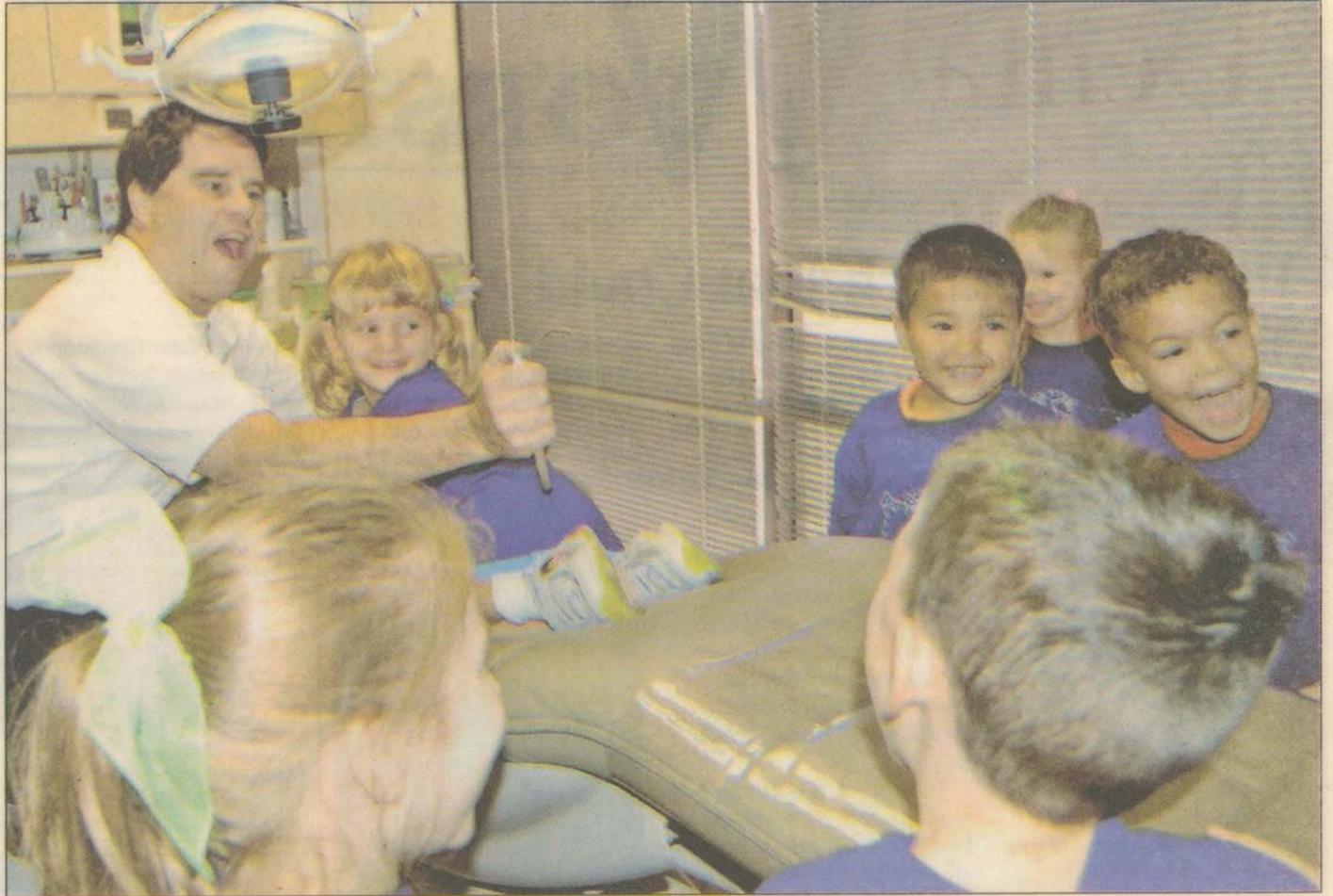
Somehow the bright lamp wasn't scary when Dr. Max was playing with it. When the chair leans back, Dr. Max assured the kids it's just like an astronaut riding in his rocket ship. And that loud sucking noise is nothing to fear; it's Mr. Thirsty slurping up liquids.

Dr. Max had the kids laughing and shrieking with delight.

Messiah Lutheran Church was organized in 1957 on Belt Line Road in Richardson. In 1961, the church started the Messiah's Lambs Early Childhood Development program. In 2004, the church and school moved to a 14-acre campus at Plano Parkway and Custer Road in Plano, though it still draws many church members from the Richardson area. Licensed by the state of Texas and the city of Plano Health Department, Messiah's Lambs serves children from infants through kindergarten.

Buchwald's office is located at 1805 Promenade Center in Richardson.

David Alvey, a Messiah's Lambs parent since 1998, is a regular contributor to Richardson Neighbors.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY DAVID ALVEY

WATER SPORT: Dr. Max squirts water across the exam room, much to the delight of Lambs including Olivia Grace Webb of Richardson, third clockwise from the dentist, and Olivia Baldwin of Dallas, back to photographer.



OPEN WIDE: Grace Wulffraat of Richardson watches a classmate do a self-exam.



MR. THIRSTY: Dr. Max introduces Mr. Thirsty to Lambs including Michael Wilson, 3, alongside chair, and Olivia Grace Webb, 4, back to photographer, both of Richardson.



CAVITY FINDER: Dr. Max demonstrates the magic "cavity finder" blue light on Olivia Baldwin of Dallas, observed by Messiah's Lambs including Nathan Alvey, second clockwise from Baldwin, and Michael Wilson, both of Richardson.



LITTLE LAMBS: Dr. Max's visitors included Richardson residents Michael Wilson, 3, front row, second from left; Luke Dreyer, 4, fourth from left; Nathan Alvey, 4, second from right; and Jeanine Casady. Also, Barbara Wolkenstein of Richardson, left rear, and 4-year-olds Grace Wulffraat and Olivia Grace Webb, both of Richardson, and Olivia Baldwin, third from right, of Dallas.