



# Greenhills

## Co-Op

### Preschool Newsletter

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2013

## Administrator's Notes

Here we are in December now! We just keep looking ahead and it seems that the days keep passing us by. We need to remember to try to stay in the present and enjoy the days that we sometimes struggle with. As I was told by my Mom, and I am sure that you all have heard similar sayings, "Enjoy the years while your children are little, they grow so fast. While they are little, the problems are little. As they grow, so do the problems." Try to slow down during this special time in your family life. December has so many sights to see, activities to experience, and stories to tell. Make the most of it with your children! Tell them the real meaning of Christmas and about the real St. Nicholas, along with the Santa stories, etc. Their lives will be so filled with wonder.

We have a huge THANK YOU to go to Nancy Thomas, Memaw of M.E. Thomas in Mrs. Curry's class. She brought us a huge assortment of items to be used at school and to also give to the children (i.e.: mittens, gloves, band-aids, crayons, glue, tissues, hand sanitizers, etc, etc!). Nancy, thank you so much for thinking of us!

We extend a "Welcome" to our newest family. Alex Woedl is a new student in the threes class. His mom and dad are Andrew and Shelley Woedl. We are glad to have you at the Co-op!

We have a wonderful, wooden play kitchen set that is up for sale to a good family. It is the set that was in Mrs. Curry and Mrs. Johnson's classroom for years. We downsized our kitchen this year. We have a refrigerator, sink, and stove. We are asking \$100.00 for the set. If anyone is interested, please talk with me. They can be looked at while you are at school. We have them in our school office and we could really use the space in that room for some other things. It might make a wonderful Christmas gift!!!

As usual, please make any appointments for physicals as soon as you receive a reminder slip of your child's medical form needing to be updated. We hate to exclude any child due to an expired medical statement, but we have no choice in the matter to stay compliant with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. We generally try to give you a 6-8 week heads up as to when they are due.

We will be having our **2014-2015 school year registration beginning the 13th of January**. Every year I hear that families are not aware of needing to register their child in January for the coming year, but it is the "nature of the beast". So, if you know of any families with young children and they are looking for a WONDERFUL preschool, please send them our way for our **Open House on January 25th**. Our best source of advertising is word of mouth from our families, so please start spreading the word. All of you currently

enrolled will receive new registration forms the week of January 13th. Current families receive priority registration. Returning families are next and then we open it up to outside registration on the 25th.

Please be thinking about and practicing any talents that you might have, (or even think you have! ) so you will be ready for our annual night of fun at **the Family Night-Potluck Dinner and Talent Show on January 23rd**. We always have so much fun. The food is always delicious and the talents that are lurking in all of you and your children are so much fun to watch. Yes, we do need children, parents and grandparents to make the talent show the hit that it is. We have had everything from kids doing ballet and bagpipes to adults doing magic and bird calls. So whatever your talent is, we want to see it! I have heard it rumored that we might have a yodeler this year!

Again, please take time during this very busy time of year to enjoy the season with your children!

Cooperatively yours,

Jan Johnson

## Threes News

We continue to have such a great time at school. I am truly enjoying being with your children. Just today I was informed by Timmy "what really happened to the dinosaurs". He explained his theory so well! You Moms and Dads are doing such a great job with your children. Keep up all of the involvement in their education and you will all reap the benefits down the road as they help bring up all of the "test scores" that any school will throw their way and as they mature into caring, competent adults.

The children enjoyed our November activities so much. I hope that your little ones read their shape books to you. And it is always fun to see the approach to shopping that the kids take during our Grocery week. Some take it so seriously!

If you are looking for a fun Christmas gift for the family, you might want to think about an "air pop" popcorn popper. You would not believe the giggles, etc that we had this year as the popcorn began to pop out of the popper and into the bowl. It was much more fun than listening to the microwave kind and more healthy! We went through 2 big bowls of popcorn this year.

I also saw that the children were truly thinking about things that they are grateful for as we talked about the Native Americans, Pilgrims, and the first Thanksgiving. We all enjoyed our non-traditional feast. Thank you so much for all of your contributions!

We now are into the December activities including our visit from Santa on December 19th. Our guest will arrive at 11:00 that morning. We will be done with our party activities and snack at that time. We will be ready for parents, siblings, grandparents, etc. to come back to school and watch us sing a few songs to Santa and to give him our "wish list". I ask the children if they want to sit on Santa's lap, but I will not force them to. We do have the most amazing Santa though, so we always get some great photo ops. Just a bit of a "heads up" though, we usually do have a mom or 2 that ends up on Santa's lap.

As stated in the administrator's notes, please take time to enjoy this busy time of year with your child/children. It is easy to be so busy that you really don't enjoy the season. Go take a walk in your neighborhood or take a drive to see the lights. Read an extra story about the meaning of Christmas, or bake some extra cookies and share them with an elderly neighbor. Make some traditions that your child will remember every year. Enjoy your children!

Merry Christmas to all of you and many blessings for a happy and healthy new year!

Jan



## Fours News

October certainly zipped by quickly! The children had lots of fun at our Halloween parties, and Pumpkin night was a blast. The kids and dads seemed to have a great time. Check out the pictures in the class albums!

During the month of November, we talked about Community Helpers. We had great fun taking care of each other in our classroom hospital. The children really enjoyed playing doctor, nurse, veterinarian and patient (and boy, did we ever go through band-aids!). The kids made awesome pizzas on restaurant day and had a blast playing grocery store!

November ended with Indian and Pilgrim activities including one day devoted entirely to our Native Americans. We dressed up as Indians with headbands, vests, and necklaces made at school. Then we sat around a pretend fire and had popcorn for a snack. We enjoyed learning about the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving and talking about all of the things we are thankful for. Then we celebrated Thanksgiving with our traditional co-op "Thanksgiving Feast". We made butter and fruit salad and enjoyed a "potluck" of other delicious treats(dressed up as Pilgrims, of course!)

With the holiday season upon us, we will be celebrating with many fun and exciting activities as we are reminded of the true meaning of Christmas. This is a season of sharing and giving. The children will be making many Christmas crafts and gifts. We began the month of December learning about Hanukkah and had lots of fun with our dreidels. On **Friday, December 13th**, we will be walking over to **Greenhills Commons** to visit the nativity scene and decorate a tree - or bush - with edible ornaments for the birds. (We will also be checking out the store windows for Christmas decorations, and then

heading back to school for hot chocolate.) On Rudolph Day the children will make a *Rudolph craft and snack, and do the "reindeer pokey"*. We will be practicing every day for our **Christmas program**, which will take place on **Friday, December 20th at 11:00 am**. Family and friends are invited to come to the program and to take pictures and videos. Following the program, there will be a special visitor - Ho! Ho! Ho! - who will spend some time with our students and their siblings.

During this hectic time of year, please remember to take a few extra minutes out of your busy schedule to enjoy fun activities with your children - things as simple as looking in shop windows and at Christmas lights. Children grow up so quickly. Please grab a few extra memories while you can. Thanks for sharing your little ones with us. Have a wonderful and blessed Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

Kathy Curry

## SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Just a reminder that the preschool follows Winton Woods City Schools for school closure. If Winton Woods has a 1 or 2 hr delay or is closed, we are closed.

## Pre-K News

Dear Parents,

What a great autumn it has been! In November, our Pre-K class has looked into the past and thought about what life would be like as a Pilgrim or Native American. The children enjoyed making their talking sticks, learning to take turns talking, and listening. The story of the Mayflower inspired us to make *boats* that *float* made out of *soap*. I would bet that bath time was just a bit more appealing that evening because a tub is the perfect place to sail an Ivory Soap boat that can *float*!

We have practiced putting objects in order, grouping and categorizing to help build our mathematical skills. We will be reviewing what we have learned and continue to inch our way closer to our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. A true reason to have a pre-k party!

Our holiday program was a pre-k interpretation of Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree*. Thank you to all the parents who donated snacks for a nice reception.



As the weather turns colder, it is appropriated to turn our science experiments to all things icy! The students will be making guesses about what would melt ice the fastest and why. We will also be discussing animals and their winter habitats.

December brings acts of giving. The students will be making gifts and cards in the spirit of the season. We will be continuing learning our letters and their sounds.

Looking ahead to January, we will be starting to work on learning our phone numbers, addresses and birth dates. We will discover the physical properties of common objects, how they move and change with simple physics experiments.

Our Nursery Rhyme unit we will be working on our comprehension skills, phonemic awareness (the sounds letters make when they are together), and storytelling skills.

Each day is a new experience with your students. I look forward to starting 2014 (or as the pre-k kids like to say, 20 - 14). Remember to enjoy the simple things of the

season. It is what your child will remember most!

Peace to all and Happy New Year!

Mary Jo Berlon

Pre-K

## Special Events Report

I would like to send a THANK YOU to the Special Events Committee members and families who helped with Pumpkin Night with Dad. Time spent helping set-up, clean up, and the donations of doughnut holes made both nights successful and memorable.

Santa Claus is coming to town! He will be visiting with all the classes during their Christmas parties. It's always an exciting time for the kids, so don't forget to bring your camera!



Mark your calendars!

### Our Family Potluck

**Dinner has been moved to Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm.** Each family will bring a dish to share and perhaps participate in our talent show that takes place after dinner. Look for sign-up sheets for both dinner & the talent show in early January. If you are on the special events committee, I will be contacting you after the holidays to help with set-up and clean-up.

Remember, these events couldn't happen without the support and volunteers from our Co-op Families. Thank you.

Missy McCauley

Special Events

## Fundraising Report

We're off to a fantastic start to fundraising this year! We have earned over \$1,500 just from the Buddy Card and Butter Braid sales in addition to those families who have chosen to pay their fundraising requirement upfront.

The LaRosa's Buddy Cards have had to be reordered twice as we have already sold over 150 cards. At \$5 profit per card, we have earned more than \$750 so far. We will continue to sell the Buddy Cards throughout the school year, so please contact me or any of the aides if you'd like to purchase one. For just \$10 per card, you get 14 offers for "buy a large pizza, get a large cheese pizza free." These make great holiday gifts!

The Butter Braid sale earned us \$747.25 this year. 47% of our families participated in this sale. Thank you to everyone who sold butter braids this year.

We recently completed our first Usborne Book Fair. It appears to have been a great success! We will host another book fair over parent conferences in March. Make sure you keep your eyes open for that.

Letters detailing your progress towards your mandatory fundraising commitment will be sent home in early January, and a follow-up letter will be sent again in March. This should give everyone a clear understanding of where they stand. Please call me if you have any questions or concerns about your ability to reach your commitment.

After the holidays, our final fundraising campaigns will begin. The Co-op plant sale will start January 6 and run through February 4. This is our biggest fundraiser so keep your eyes open for the start of that sale.

**Always remember that each campaign is purely voluntary and participation is entirely of your choosing. Pick and choose the programs that work for you to reach your fundraising requirement.** If selling merchandise doesn't suit you, please remember that your commitment amount can be paid off (by cash or check) at any time.

Thanks again, and many blessings for a wonderful holiday season.

Erin Maisel

Fundraising Chair

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