



# Greenhills

## Co-Op

### Preschool Newsletter

DECEMBER 2014

#### Administrator's Notes

Here we are in the midst of another holiday season. It truly seems like just a few months ago I was putting all of the Holiday decorations, etc. away!! (Ugh, maybe it was, I sometimes have things sitting around my house for a long while! ☺) I hope that you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that you are somewhat looking forward to Christmas /Hanukkah and the coming of the New Year. It is such a busy time of year when you have little people to shop for, decorate with, hide things from, etc., etc. Please try to remember to have fun with your child/ children along the way. They grow up fast and they remember more of the fun that you have together, than the gifts. Maybe, even try to start some new traditions with your family! (Krohn Conservatory, Festival of Lights, driving or walking around your neighborhood to look at lights or Christmas Eve services to name a few ideas)

At school we are all into the Holiday spirit with your children. There will be baking going on, making surprises for our families, learning fun holiday songs, learning about the true meaning of Christmas and preparing for some fun with Santa on our last day of class in December. Your child's teacher will keep you posted on some of these activities.

In January we have many noteworthy things to mention also. Please remember that we do not have school on Martin Luther King

Day (Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>). That week does begin our "current family" registration for the 2015-2016 school year. You will all be receiving information prior to that time about registration. The following week we open registration to past families and church members and on January 31<sup>st</sup> we have an Open House for "new to the Co-op" families.

Please remember that we take registrations in the order that they are returned to us. We would certainly appreciate any help in spreading the Co-op to your friends and family. Our families are always our best form of advertising! Also, if any of you are so inclined, we would appreciate any "co-op testimonies" to be added to our website. Our "webmaster" is Josie Mandeville's (4 year old class) dad and his email is [geoff@crazyskills.com](mailto:geoff@crazyskills.com) if interested. We have one family already that has added their thoughts. (Thank you to the Geis family)

We also have one of our (I think) most fun family activities planned for Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have our annual all school family potluck dinner followed by a brief time in the classrooms (while Fellowship Hall is being cleaned up from dinner) and then back to Fellowship Hall for the most spectacular talent show! Any child is welcome to get signed up AND any family member may also perform! The sign-up sheet will be up in the hallway about 2 weeks before the event. We have had juggling dad's, singing dads/moms, bagpipe players, flute players, dancers,

soloist children, break dancers, story tellers, poetry reading, etc. Did you know that we have a current dad that can juggle while reciting the states and (if I remember correctly) their capital cities in alphabetical order? It is always an amazing evening!

More medical reminders will be coming home soon. Remember to get your child's appointment made as soon as possible to help us stay in compliance with the Ohio Job and Family Services rule and regulations.

If you happen to see anyone that is connected to the Greenhills Community Church, Presbyterian, please try to tell them thank you for the wonderful new windows! They seem to have made such a difference with the temperature in the classrooms! With the 2 weeks of cold that we have had, we did not feel the need to run any space heaters!! Here is hoping that this will stay true all winter. Even calling up to the church secretary (Janet Steele) on your way in or out of the building would be a nice gesture. And one more reminder, if Winton Woods City Schools is on a weather related delay or they are closed, we are closed. If things get icy during the night and we are not closed, please be extra careful in our parking lot. It can become "a sheet of ice"!

Merry Christmas and I hope that 2015 be a year filled with love, happiness and good health for all of you! I'll see you in the hallway! —Jan Johnson

### Threes News

Now, where did November go?? That snow day caught us all by surprise, but we did get everything done that we needed to do. It was fun getting to hear that at least one child was talking about the big boat that brought the Pilgrims across the ocean to their new country! Thank you to all of you for the "appetizers" that were provided for our Feast. What a great variety we had. The children sure had fun celebrating together! Thank you to all of the families that have brought in supplies for our 2 parties. We will be having a new sign-up sheet up for our Christmas party soon!

With our Christmas party coming so soon, I need to let you know the "routine" for part of that day. We will be singing a few songs for Santa when he arrives. (Plan on 11:05 if you or someone from your family is planning on being there) The children will then be given the opportunity to sit with Santa. I do not "push" them. Sometimes if mom, grandma, etc will go with them they are more inclined to want to, but it is ok with me if they don't. Siblings are welcome to join us for this opportunity. I will be taking pictures and just to let you know, this is the BEST Santa that I have ever worked with! The children will be making a "wish list" to give to Santa and it is always fun to see what they come up with and how Santa responds to them.

In January we will be having a Pajama Day where the little one can just stay in their jammies for school. We will also have a Teddy Bear day. If your child's favorite "lovey" is not a bear, have them bring their favorite stuffed "whatever". We will be exploring the seasons also. Comparing what is different or the same, what type of clothing we wear, what kind of activities we can do, etc. Here's hoping that we have a winter with lots of snow, but not as many snow days as we had last year! If we happen to have a day that is not outrageously cold, and not too wet, but with enough snow, send some boots, snow suits, gloves and hats. I love to play in the snow! I have already told the children that they can throw some snow balls at me! We do have a lot of fun at school! All of this while we are working with social skills, letter recognition and sounds, numbers, counting and ordinal positions, small and large motor skills, math concepts, following directions and so much more! Preschool is so important, but mostly we love your children and encourage them in all areas of their development.

A special thanks to Gayle Chapman (Crosby Tenbosch's grandma) for donating a large bin of craft supplies. We thank you!!



May you all have a very blessed Christmas and a New Year full of love! Thanks for choosing the Co-op! -Jan Johnson

### 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 and vests 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 making wreaths and Christmas trees. On Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, we walked 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.) We will learn about Hanukkah and have lots of fun with our dreidels. 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 19th 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 hour delay or is closed, we are closed.

## Pre-K News

We certainly celebrated the wonders of autumn. The students were able experience the democratic process as they voiced their choice for either bananas or grapes in our pre-k November election. Our tropical fruit friends handled their disappointment well, discovering grapes are pretty yummy, too!

Our social science themes included discussions around the first Thanksgiving, the hardships, the social and physical environment at the time, and the Native Americans who were there when the Mayflower arrived.

Our science focus has been the changes of season. Our Nature Find helped up discern the various autumn changes in our environment and then record them. We talked a great deal about the history and importance of corn in our lives. We examined other fall vegetables and the special basket used especially in the autumn. Ask your pre-k student about the different names for cornucopia and mythological story behind it!

There has been such an increase of social awareness amongst the students in pre-k. Sharing and caring are important behaviors expected in class. The students worked well together baking our bread for our Little Red Hen Day. We discussed how compromise and negotiating helps us achieve our goals as we read the old fable, Stone Soup.

The students are working hard on their interpretation and presentation, The Giving Tree. They will be acting as it is narrated. Hopefully we will have had a good turn out for our program and reception!

Our math unit has us working on numbers, performing simple addition and subtraction and working on grouping and values more and less.

Our phonemic awareness is increasing as the students work on syllables, rhyming, letter recognition and beginning sounds. The second half of the year we will focus more on simple sentences and will continue our weekly poetry.

The weekly Word Wall activities will continue as review/ support work for past lessons.

After the first of the year, we will start to learn our phone numbers and addresses.

As the weather continues to grow colder and less time is spent outside, consider some fun indoor activities to support learning. Reading a book. Make a book. Tell a story. Start a

made up story and have your child finish it. Tell stories from your childhood. I guarantee your child will find it interesting! These activities will help your child's language development and provide extra cuddle time! Cutting, drawing, gluing, baking and building will increase your child's hand strength, build imagination, and help with problem solving. It will be quite worth the mess it makes on your kitchen table!

Sincerely,

Mary jo Berlon

## 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 is on Thursday, January 22nd 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 \$2,700 in profit so far this year. Great job!

The LaRosa's Buddy Cards continue to be on sale at the preschool. At \$5 profit per card, we have earned more than \$540 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!

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 April. 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. Those include the Co-op Plant Sale, a Yankee Candle fundraiser and our second Usborne Book Fair.

**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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## 2014-2015 Fundraising Income

