



# Greenhills

## Co-Op

### Preschool Newsletter

MARCH/APRIL/MAY 2014

#### Administrator's Notes

It doesn't seem that long ago since we sent out a newsletter, but here we are in the middle of April now! We still had several "snow days" ahead of us at the last newsletter deadline!

We had such a wonderful time at the Bunny Brunch. Thank you to all who came! A huge THANK YOU to Missy McCauley, our special events chairperson. She did a wonderful job planning and carrying out all of the details involved with feeding more than 70 people in a short amount of time! On top of moving to a new home on the same day and having a baby in 3 weeks! Thank you also to Charity Drury, (our housekeeping chairperson) and her sister for taking care of all of the Easter Bunny issues! The bunny was WONDERFUL! We will be having the same bunny for our classroom parties this coming week. We could not do all of these fun things without all of you and your great families!

As our school year is winding down, I do want to thank all of our board members publicly. Our board works so hard in so many unseen ways and I just want you all to know how much you are all

appreciated! We have 3 board members that are leaving us this year, due to their youngest child going to kindergarten. We wish you all God's blessings as you leave us and move on with your children. Those leaving are; Amie Murphy, our chairperson, Erika Walker our advertising/publicity chair and also our Scholastic Books head, and Anne England, our registration chair. ALL of your work has been and will continue to be appreciated. We had three persons also express interest in being on the 2014-2015 board. (Isn't it great how that worked out!!?)

Our returning board members are also so appreciated, so a thank you goes out to Kristen Bothe, who will be taking over as our Chairperson, Shelli Hoffmann - treasurer, Erin Maisel - fundraising, Charity Drury - housekeeping chair and Missy McCauley - special events chair.

Now onto our newest board members, we welcome Jen Mandeville as our new registration mom, Kristin Lanham as the new advertising/ publicity chair and Kristen Otto as our new secretary. I know that any of these new or returning folks would love to have any help that you could provide, so if you are interested in something in particular let them know! As stated in our by-laws,

we do not need to put together a ballot/vote when we do not have 2 or more people interested in any particular position, which means that the moms listed are directly appointed to their positions of choice. The last meeting for the outgoing members and the first meeting for the new board is our May meeting. (Third Wednesday of each month of the school year plus June and August) All board meetings are open to the general school, so please feel free to attend anytime if you have an interest.

We are having our Spring Open House on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00- 12:00. Please encourage any friends and family to check us out and let them know how you feel about the co-op. We love getting to know new families!

When we return from our Easter weekend break, I will be sending out a year end evaluation. Please feel free to answer the questions as you feel lead and know that it is through these evaluations that we learn what we are doing right and in what areas we need to improve. Any comments are taken seriously and can help us in our year end reviews.

I am working with our "webmaster" to get a link to our new listing with Angie's List. If anyone knows how to get a

review onto that website, we are trying to spread information about the co-op that way. I will try to get a notice out to all of you once that link is set-up. Also, if anyone is interested in writing a "testimonial" about your co-op experience, we would love to have that on our website also. As "we" have always said, our families are our best source of advertising.

Well, let's finish out this school year with as much fun as we can have, while still learning a lot! Don't forget that we are having an all school outing to the zoo on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Our Mother's Day activities are on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> depending on what class you are in and we have our all school picnic scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> at a shelter in Harper Meadows in Winton Woods. There will be more information coming home about all of these events, so be watching the papers in/on the school bags.

If your child has a summer birthday, please remember to take one of our medical statements with you to their check-up. You can return it with your paper work for next school year and you will be "ahead of the game". I will be sending a form home via the backpack system to any child who is returning for the next school year with a summer birthday. If you have a younger child who will be starting with us in the fall, let me know and I will get a form to you for them.

Thank you for being a part of the Greenhills Cooperative Preschool this year. We hope that you have enjoyed your year with us as much as we have enjoyed working with you and your children!

Blessings to all of you and we'll continue to "see you in the hallway",

Jan Johnson

### Threes News

I cannot begin to tell you how fast this year is going! I am having so much fun with your children; maybe we could just stop the clocks and calendars so the children would just stay 3 a bit longer!!

March and the first half of April have just disappeared in a blink!

We have had such a great time in our class. The children loved our health/safety themes. They are still telling me about signs that they see and talking about "those mean, nasty, dirty, downright disgusting, but invisible germs". I do hope that they did not come home paranoid about germs that day, but they all have been washing their hands really well since then. ☺

We have had fun learning about rainy and windy days and the weather was perfect for both of those days! The kids had so much fun flying their kites up on the back hill! Even though they all thought the kites should go much higher than the string would allow.

We have many more fun activities planned for the rest of the school year, along with continuing to work our way through the alphabet and our journals and work on all of the core areas of development. i.e.; cutting and other small motor skills, large motor skills, preschool social studies, science, math, language arts and social/emotional growth. So much goes on in preschool!!

Please remember to set aside the morning of May 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-11:30. It is our annual Mother's Day Tea/Brunch. The children will have many surprises ready for you! If Mom can't come, please make sure that they will have someone to be their "date". (Grandma, Aunt, Dad... just someone special) More information will be coming home on this.

Thank you to all of you for all of your support this year. You have filled in for each other as parent helper, been willing to clean up many messy days for me, and have fun with your child and their new school friends. Please take these memories with you as you and your child continue on the school path. You will always be your child's best advocate and you know your child better than anyone else. Stay involved in their education and no matter where they go to school they will get a better education with your involvement. **A HUGE THANK YOU** to all of you for sharing your precious

children with me! What a joy it has been to get to know and love them!

Let's enjoy the time we have together!

Love,

Jan Johnson

### Fours News

Hope you all had a fun and relaxing Spring Break! Well, we certainly have been experiencing some very strange weather - lots of sun and clouds and wind and rain and warm weather, and cold weather and snow... I think we've all had enough snow and cold weather for at least six or seven months! Right before break we took a good look at Spring weather - rain and all! (Did you know that we made it rain in our classroom? We counted 45 drops!) Lucky the Leprechaun paid us a surprise visit for St. Patrick's Day, bringing with him some fun activities, songs, dances, and a pot of gold!

After break, we planted marigold seeds. They are growing on the window sill in the Muscle Room, and they are doing very well. Yay! We also made some awesome bird nests - eat your hearts out birdies! We had a great time on Backwards Day, wearing our clothes backwards or inside out, talking lots about opposites, and doing as many things as we could think of backwards. Do you like our rainbow? The kids really had fun helping to paint it with their hands, and then adding clouds.

To get ready for Easter, we have fun making some beautiful Easter eggs, a really cute peek-a-boo chick, and lots more. We had a really good turnout for the Bunny Brunch! (Thanks to all who helped make it a success!) We are looking forward to our Easter party, complete with an egg hunt and a visit from our furry white friend.

After Easter Break we'll be talking about caterpillars and butterflies. Watch the hallway for some really beautiful butterflies, and some lovely pussy willows, too. Can you tell what they're made of? We will end the month with a unit on the zoo. We will enjoy some fun

zoo/animal crafts and activities in preparation for Family Day at the Cincinnati Zoo. We are hoping lots of you will be able to join us!

May will bring preparations for our Mother's Day Brunch, which will take place on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 am. The children will be working on many surprises for their moms. (Please check in the hallway to see what you can send in to help.) This is a really big event for the kids, so if mom cannot attend, then a "special person" is welcome to attend instead. (Please make sure that someone attends!)

During the last two weeks of school, we will be talking about pets. Watch for some interesting and unusual "pets" to come home! For "Fun in the Sun" day, tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, we have many fun activities planned on the patio: chalk, bubbles,

water table, etc. (Please pray for no rain!) Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> is our last day of school and we will be having a "make your own ice cream sundae" event (for the kids only) followed by an end-of-the-year program. We will be performing some of our favorite songs from this year (plus a brand new one). Everyone is welcome to attend. The program will be at 11:00 a.m. Bring family, friends, and cameras!

What can I say? It's been a fun-filled year. Your children are delightful and have provided us with much fun, hugs, and love – not to mention some great stories! They have grown so much and learned so much – it is really amazing! Please spend as much time as you can with them and make some wonderful memories. Let them know every day how special and precious they are – a wonderful gift from God! It has been a blessing and a privilege to be a part of

their lives - and yours. I wish you and your families a safe and happy summer. Enjoy every minute together! God bless you, and please keep in touch.

Love,

Kathy Curry

P.S. – A special "thank you" to our class secretary, Sarah Urbassik, for all her help, and to every one of you who went way beyond the call of duty to make this a really great year. Thanks for all your love and support!

DON'T FORGET OUR ALL SCHOOL TRIP TO THE ZOO APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>!

## Pre-K News

Dear Parents,

School is quickly coming to a close but there is still more fun planned in pre k! Our Animals theme in May is always popular with the students. We will discuss habitats, characteristics and care of animals as we celebrate our world around us. In keeping with our nature theme, we will talk about caring for our earth, make compost as well as discuss how each of us can make a difference for a cleaner, healthier world. We will build upon what we know when we talk about flowers and signs of spring.

We will continue to review the alphabet, introducing the pre k students to letter blends and word families. We are forming simple sentences and can identify punctuation and when to use periods, exclamation points and question marks.

We continue to learn and challenge ourselves. We will be learning how to tell time on the hour and half past as well as start to tie our own shoelaces! We will have fun measuring using standard and non-standard units of measurements.

May 10<sup>th</sup> is our Mother's Day brunch. Please plan on joining us at 10:45 for a bagel brunch.

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the pre k students will be taking a field trip to Winton Center to learn about signs of spring. Our nature guide will discuss plants and organisms that are native to our area, show us small animals and join us on a small hike. Look for more information to be coming home soon.

May 21<sup>st</sup> is our last day of class. Please come back at 10:45 for our family pizza celebration as we say good-bye and look forward to seeing everyone in the hopefully, not too distant future.

It does seem like yesterday we were learning names and the routine of pre k. Over the course of these past few months we have analyzed, made predictions, categorized, counted past 100, identified sight words, written to an author just to name a few accomplishments!

Our highest accomplishment comes from our development of our interpersonal

skills, or our "team" skills. We practiced being kind, every day. We know the importance of listening, being patient, taking turns and saying "I am sorry. It is important to be aware enough and care enough to say "Are you okay?" and "I will be more careful".

These kids are ready to go. They know the academics needed to enter kindergarten, but more importantly, they have what it takes to be a good friend. They will be absolutely fine. Now let's watch them soar!!

With my sincerest thanks,

Mary Jo Berlon

## Special Events Report

I want to thank everyone that came to the Bunny Brunch to make it a fun-filled event. A HUGE thank you to all of my helpers and of course, our Easter Bunny (and the entire Drury family)!!

It's hard to believe that the end of the school year is almost here! Our last event will be the family picnic on Friday,

May 16 from 5:30 PM until dark. It will take place at Harper Meadows (Winton Woods), Oak Opening Shelter. This has been made possible thanks to a donation by a wonderful co-op family! Please look for a flyer to come home soon with more information. There will also be sign-up sheets in the hallway.

A special thank you to all of my special event committee members for making everything go smoothly this year. These events would not be possible without your help. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Missy McCauley  
Special Events

### Fundraising Report

With the exception of the plant sale itself, our fundraising is basically wrapped up for this school year. We have earned a total of \$3,538, thanks to everyone's efforts. Several families have gone beyond their fundraising goal of \$100 this year. I want to extend a special thank you for their hard work. Thank you to the Drury, Hoffmann, Mandeville, Miller, Osmanoglu, Shtawi, Straughn, Urbassik and Wilson families.

Families still owe a combined of nearly \$1,600 in order to complete their fundraising commitment, which will give us a total fundraising income of nearly \$5,100 once that money has been paid. If you still owe money, you should have already received a letter, so please submit your payment by Wednesday, April 23. If you don't pay by April 23, your remaining balance will be added to your smart tuition payment on May 1. You can see the breakdown of fundraising income thus far in the pie chart below. This money is crucial for keeping our tuition costs down, and the teachers and students thank you!

If you haven't already, please mark your calendars to help with the upcoming plant sale, and sign up on

the volunteer sheets in the hallway (or e-mail me with your preferred time). I need a lot of help to keep this sale going, and many hands make light work. Set-up will be on Friday, May 2, from 4:00pm until approximately 7-8pm. On Saturday, I need volunteers from 9:00am-1:30pm. Even if you can't work a full shift, I'd be happy to have you for even an hour. Remember that if you ordered plants, you must pick them up on Saturday, May 3, between 9am-noon. We will also be selling over 250 extra plants on Saturday during pick up. Encourage your friends and family to come check out our extensive assortment of extra plants. Thanks in advance for all your help with this big event!

We have sold 199 LaRosa's Buddy Cards so far this year, and we have plenty more cards available in the office, 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 are a great deal and can be used to fill out your fundraising commitment, if needed, by April 23.

Thanks again for your commitment to our school!

Erin Maisel

Fundraising Chair



### 2013-2014 Fundraising Income



