



Greenhills Co-op Preschool

21 Cromwell Road | Cincinnati, OH 45218 | (513) 825-5300

January/February 2017 Newsletter

Enhancing Education Through Parental Cooperation for over 50 Years!



IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Please remember on your parent helper days that it is a part of your responsibility to arrive 15 minutes early to class. This helps teachers and aide prepare for the day and gives you time to prepare as well. We have other families that need to get other children to school or get to work on time. Please be considerate of the class and families and arrive on time. If for any reason you are unable to make a day a 24hour notice is required, as well as finding a replacement.

Administrators Notes

Well, here we are at the end of January already! Can you believe it!??

If you missed the annual Family Night Potluck Dinner and Talent Show, you missed an incredible evening! The food was outstanding this year and the talents were more than outstanding!! It always amazes me that your children will get up in front of large crowds and do such fun things. (I still get nervous!!) It truly makes me feel so good to see how comfortable your young children are at school! We had 21 families represented at the dinner and at least 12 children preformed!! (and parents along with them for many of the talents) Thank you to all of you for your participation! Thank you also to Stacy Doose (Mrs. Dooses' husband) for all of the new (to us) technology that he provided. (microphone, speakers, etc). That was a great help! And, thank you to the Special events committee! Great job in the set up and tear down.



We are having our Open House this coming Saturday, January 28th. I know that you will receive this after the fact, but please make sure you get your registration in ASAP to guarantee your spot in one of our classes for the 2017-18 school year, if you have not already done it. Also, please remember that you are our best source of advertising. Please tell your friends and family about your experiences at the Co-op.

I received such sad news on Tuesday morning this week. One of our past students passed away suddenly on Monday morning! A young man in his early twenties! It reminds me to try to live in the moment and to always try to let others know that they are loved! I know that parenting is the hardest job that I have ever had, but it is so important to let your little ones (and big ones) know that they are important to you in so many ways! Take the time to enjoy reading, playing, singing, laughing, having fun and even praying with your children!

Well, let's enjoy the rest of Winter (I really do hope that we get some snow to play in and that the daffodils go back to sleep for a few more months) and I will look forward to seeing all of you in the hallway!

Jan Johnson

3's 3's 3's 3's 3's

January has been no different than the last 4 months, it has flown by also!

We sure did have a lot of fun **pretending** to be experiencing snow and cold! We even had an indoor snowball fight! Here's hoping that we will really get to play in the snow at some point this winter! We even have had warm rooms this winter!! (thank you to the Greenhills Community Church, Presbyterian trustees!!)

We also had fun wearing our Jammies to school and taking a nap. (just kidding) Your little one are really beginning to understand fantasy and reality in story books, It is fun being able to see this developing in your children! We do talk about if we would ever really have an alligator under our bed or would bears sleep in a house with tables and chairs, etc. This little group has matured in so many ways in 5 months! We are even able to get through several stories in a day now!

We are using scissors more and more now. I would recommend that every child have access to a pair of "Fiskars" scissors at home, but you do need to be aware of what they are doing. Some will try to cut hair, clothes, etc. This is very normal for this age, but the children really do need to be learning the mechanics of so many skills in these preschool years. (pencil grip, scissors hold, peddling a bike, etc)

February will be a fun month. We will be having fun with shadows on Groundhog Day and making a couple of fun surprises for Valentine's day. We will also be doing many fun activities while we explore our 5 senses. Be prepared, you might have some strange things coming home in the school bags. Try to remember to check your child's bag everyday! :) Remember that advice for about the next 15 years! It is a necessary habit to develop, so you might as well start when they are 3 and 4 years old. Please check your child's bag for left over snacks and to make sure that they have a complete set of clean cloths too. Some of these little ones have really grow a lot since September and they may need to switch out the extra clothes.

Be on the lookout for a Valentine's Day party sign-up sheet and also a sign-up sheet for our March 9th conferences.

I think that this is about all for now, but again I need to say, THANK YOU for sharing your young children with me! It is truly a pleasure to get to work with your child/children and you!

Co-operatively yours,

Jan Johnson



4's 4's 4's 4's 4's

Happy 2017! Can you believe we're actually into a new year? We had lots of fun in December as we prepared for the Holidays and our Christmas parties and programs. Thanks to everyone who helped with the field trips, parties, etc.

We spent the first weeks of January learning about our five senses. Through our many fun activities, such as making shaker eggs, drawing each other, making a touch collage, and experiencing smell and taste tests, the children gained a better understanding of how important our senses are to our everyday life. We spread peanut butter on bread and poured a glass of water blindfolded to find out how difficult many activities are when you are blind. The children felt a menu from McDonalds's written in Braille to see how you can read without seeing, and each one received a copy of their name in Braille. We also talked about deafness, looked at the American Sign Language alphabet, finger-spelled each of their names, and learned how to sign "I love you".

We spent the last two weeks in January talking about winter. It was fun making birdfeeders, snow globes, mittens, snowflakes, and snowmen. And we had a great snowball fight! I think Mrs. W. and I definitely got the worst of it, though! We heated up the end of January with Beach Day. On this very special day, we danced to Beach Boy music, made a sand-and-shell collage, went fishing, and pretended to swim in a pool full of plastic balls. The children really enjoyed taking turns working at the lemonade stand. After all, how often can you have all the lemonade and fish crackers that you want?! Fun was had by all!

Counting and numbers will begin the month of February. The children will be working on number sheets and looking for numbers in our classroom. This will be tied in with preparations for Valentine's Day. We will be making lots of lovely surprises for family and friends – and even using our very own classroom post office. Our Valentine's Day Party will be on Monday, February 13th, and will be complete with a valentine exchange, games, and a pinata. What fun!

Following our Valentine party, we will have a unit on dinosaurs and fossils. We'll make fossils, dinosaurs out of shoe boxes, a dinosaur mural and dinosaur cookies. We'll pretend to be archeologists and dig in the sand for shells, bones, etc. During our "Dinosaur Days", the children will be allowed to bring in any dinosaur items they might have to share with their friends. Following our dinosaur unit, we will spend 2 days talking about colors and shapes. The children will be searching our classroom and their homes for as many shapes as they can find.

Your children are such a delight! They are eager to learn and so proud of their accomplishments. We continue to work on writing our names and cutting – and they are coming along nicely. When we work on our "letter of the week", they love to come up with words that start with that letter (the longer the better!). They are learning to read and spell each other's names, and they love to keep track of who will be next to take home Buddy Bear. (Just a reminder: We want the words in Buddy's book to be their words. Also, please check Buddy's bag when you are ready to bring him back. Make sure that his clothes, crayons, toothbrush, and notebook are in there with him. Thanks!)

The children are working very hard in their journals, practicing their letters and letter sounds, and doing theme and season-related activities. Since the beginning of January, we have two additions to our circle time: 1) the special helper gets to play a child-size guitar on our songs; 2) we are learning to say "hello" in 16 different languages (a new one each week for the rest of the year). We are starting to review their addresses, phone numbers, and birthdays, so please be sure to work on these at home whenever you can.

Soon, I will be working one-on-one with each child in preparation for our Spring conferences on Thursday, March 9th. (We call these testing times "teddy bear games" because they will receive a teddy bear sticker and hand stamp - and a lollipop - when they are finished.) I can't believe how fast the time is going this year! And I am really hoping for some more snow before Spring arrives!

Reminder: No school on Monday, February 20th. (Presidents' Day.)

Co-operatively Yours,

Kathy Curry

PRE – K

The Pre-K Class has enjoyed a very busy January! We've read Jan Brett's The Mitten, learned about snow and ice crystals, and Partied with a capital P at our Pizza Pajama Party! We also welcomed our new classmate, Zoe! February promises to be just as fun with the Family Robot Project. Pre-K families will be showing off their robot creations for the whole school to enjoy next week. Stop by and have a look! Valentine's Day is one of my favorite celebrations and the Pre-K will be adding that to our list of reasons to party! Share the love

Don't forget that February 20th is Presidents Day and there is no school.

She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future. ~ Proverbs 31:25, NLT

Heidi Doose



Thank you to the Stockmeier family (Charlie in Mrs. Curry's class) for a box of children's scissors. They will be put to good use.

THANK YOU!!!

ATTENTION ALL FAMILIES

Due to changes in the State law, we are needing to make some changes in our routine and we need **YOUR** help.

Upon arrival to the classroom (after washing hands for a **minimum of 15 seconds**) we will be having the parent/guardian/transporter of each child sign the child in on the attendance form that will be hanging outside of the classroom. We need you to put in the **hour and minute** (ie: 9:02) in the proper column (A=arrival, D= departure) that will be to the right of your child's name/birthday. It also needs to be in the correct date column. You will also need to "sign out" your child at the end of class. If your child is in Mrs Curry's or Mrs Johnson's class, please make sure that you have the correct clipboard.

F.Y.I. - 15 seconds is about how long it takes to sing the ABC song, if sung slowly. You can't rush the song though...

Thanks for all of your help! If you have any questions please feel free to talk with me.
Jan Johnson

Fundraising Gobble-De-Gook

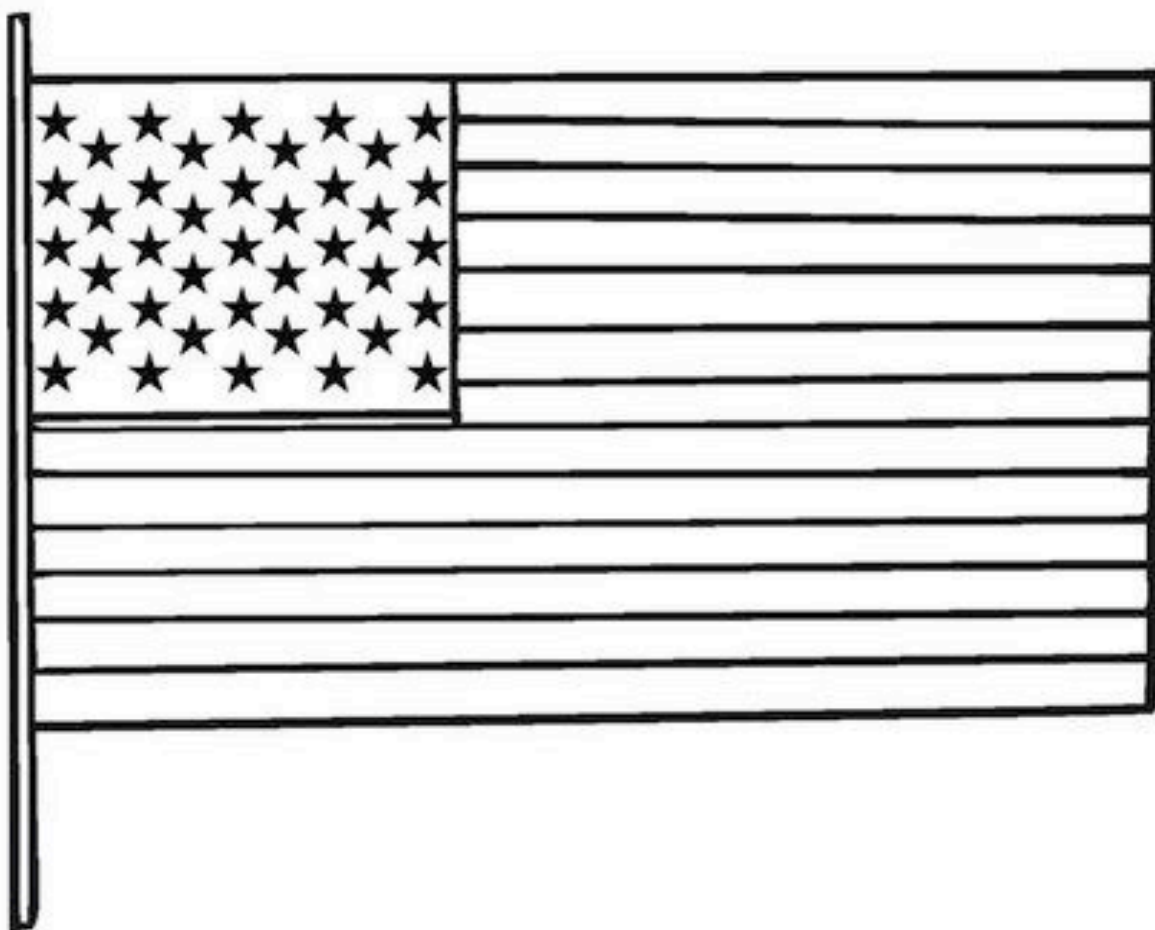
Is your mind full of snow and ice?
We'll help remind you Spring is nice!
It's time to talk about planting seed.
Fundraising knows just what you need.
Flowers blooming and veggies growing.
Soon we'll all have lawns a' mowing.
Mother's Day is coming fast
And we'll all get our plants, at last!
Don't forget and miss your chance
For plants and plants and plants and plants!

The plant sale is underway! By now you've all turned in your forms for beautiful flowers and delicious vegetables. Right? Wait... what did you say? You FORGOT an order!?!? Well, then... let me work my magic. Abra Can Daber - BeZAM!! There, problem solved. Please let Team Fundraising or the teachers know of any mistakenly forgotten plant or vegetable orders. There is a better than decent chance we'll be able to add a bit to our order and you will be a hero to your Aunt Matilda. Thank us later... preferably with fancy root beers!
We're in the fundraising home stretch. After the plant sale, only 2 scheduled fundraisers remain: the 2nd Yankee Candle sale & the 2nd Usborne book sale. Smelly candles sure smell smelly and I does enjoy reeding good! :-)

Enjoy this winter & happy spring!

Your Fundraising Sovereigns,
Mark & Jeanne Stephens





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