



Greenhills Co-Op Preschool Newsletter

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

Administrator's Notes

Here we are into February now! What a fun year this is. It has been a bit chilly at school, but we seem to be surviving the winter of 2014. Hope everyone's furnaces have been able to keep up with the cold, better than the church furnace has! It has been many years since we have had this type of winter weather. I do love winter and I really love snow, but this has been a bit too cold to get much outside time to play! All of the kids are a bit antsy also for some outside adventure time! Hopefully you had some time outside this weekend, when it got a bit warmer!

Thank you to all of the families that attended the potluck dinner/talent show. We had such a nice mixture of foods and the talent was exceptional! I truly am awestruck when I think about how brave your children are. There was no way that I could have done what they did. I STILL get extremely nervous to stand in front of all of you! Give me a class of young children any day, but not a

group of adults!! ☺ If you did not get to the dinner, you missed a great evening!

Please get your registration forms turned in. We need to be making plans for our next year and our number of children that we will be serving is very important to know. Please remember that you are all our best source of advertising, so tell your friends and neighbors what you like about the co-op experience that you are having.



I also want to take a moment to thank the parents that are volunteering this year on the co-op executive board! We have a great group of very hard working moms! I have contacted a few, new to the school, moms about helping on the

board next year. (We have several board member families that are leaving the school due to this being their last child and they will be moving on into kindergarten.) If anyone else is interested in serving on the board for the next school year, please feel free to talk with me about it. By the way, we accept Dads also!

We will be having our next enrichment day on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19th. We will be hosting a past employee who loves to do YOGA and other moving and stretching activities with the children. Sign-up for that class will begin on February 12th. Mary-jo Berlon and I are having fun with these classes and I believe the children are having a great time also! They love having lunch at school.

AND, a HUGE THANKS to all of you for entrusting your precious children to our care for several hours each week! You are all wonderful people and we appreciate each and every one of you!

See you in the hallway!

Jan Johnson

Threes News

It is truly amazing how fast January zipped by! I think it had a lot to do with the snow and too cold of weather closed days that we have had, but the month did certainly sail right by! The days that we have had school, we have had a great time! The children were all so cute in their PJ's! I hope that they have enjoyed using their pillows! It is fun to watch them as they figure out how to get the stuffing into the "pillow case". We also had a great time on our "Winter Day". It was way too cold to go outside that day, but we had a wonderful "snowball fight" in the hallway! Tulle netting and polyester fluff makes for wonderfully safe snowballs!

As I was speaking with a prospective "new Mom" at our Open House last weekend and she was asking me about what we do in the 3 year old class, I was silently thinking about how much your children have grown up already this year! During our first few weeks of school we are always working hard on taking turns, sharing, listening, etc. Now, we know about using our words, our body space, listening to stories as a group, coming when asked to do a project or work on our journals, team work as we help clean up, etc, etc. That is a lot of growth and development that has gone on in a few short months! And all while having fun!

February will bring us to Groundhog Day, when we talk about shadows. Be on the lookout for your child's "shadow" in the classroom! I know that winter will last for 6 more weeks, no matter what "Phil" says, but it is fun to think about a furry

critter determining our weather! We will also be preparing for Valentine's Day. Please send store bought or homemade valentines to school on February 13th. But, please only have your child sign **their** name on the cards. Do not address the cards to any classmates. The way we deliver the cards to each other is very difficult if we are trying to find individual "mail bags".

After Valentine's Day we will be learning about our 5 senses. It is always a fun time at school! We will be making "smelly pictures" and doing many other activities based on using our senses.

As always, thank you for sharing your children with me. I love being a part of their lives.

See you at school.

Co-operatively yours,

Jan Johnson



Fours News

Happy 2014! 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 McDonald'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 mittens, snow pictures, snowflakes, and snowmen. We heated up the end of January with Beach Day. On this very special day, we danced to Beach Boy music, ate popsicles, went fishing, and pretended to swim in a pool full of plastic balls. The children took turns working at the lemonade stand and eating fish crackers. They also enjoyed making a sand and shell collage.

Counting and numbers will begin the month of February. The children will be looking for numbers in our classroom and in the world around them. This will be tied in with preparations for Valentine's Day.

Our Valentine's Day Party will be on Friday, February 14th, and will be complete with a valentine exchange, games, and a pinata. What fun!

We'll spend the last two weeks of February talking about dinosaurs and

fossils. We'll make fossils, dinosaurs out of shoe boxes, dinosaur murals 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 dinosaur items (of any kind). All this will be in preparation for our field trip to the Cincinnati Museum Center on Wednesday, February 26th. On this "all-day" trip, we will participate in a class about dinosaurs, explore the Natural History museum, eat lunch together, and spend time in the Children's Museum. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to come with us! (This is a special fieldtrip for just our students, so be sure to arrange for babysitting for siblings. Thanks!)

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

Pre-K News

Dear Parents,

What a great time we are having in pre-k! Pre k students continue to work on their relationships with classroom friends. Knowing how to build relationships is such an important part of growing up. We often discuss what we did well and what we need to work on as a group. This self reflection /group reflection helps builds ownership of behaviors and supports positive interaction amongst the students.

Thank you parents for helping your children know their addresses, phone numbers and birthdays. The students are working hard learning their numbers and letters. We continue to

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.

(Please remember that we want the words in Buddy's book to be their words. Thanks!) They work 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, learn how to count by twos, fives and tens as we work our way to our 100th Day Party coming up in just a few weeks.

Our math unit continues to focus on number recognition, number relationships and counting. We are doing some simple addition and grouping of objects.

As we progress through the alphabet, the students are starting to put letters together to make letter blends and word chunks. We continue to work on rhyming and opposites. The students practice writing their first and last name every day.

Hawaiian Day turned a typical Wednesday into a tropical one in the pre-k classroom. We discovered our

March 13th. (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 has gone this year!

It will soon be Spring! Enjoy the snow while you can! Hopefully, we will have no more snow days!

Reminder: No school on Monday, February 17th. (Presidents' Day.)

Co-operatively Yours,

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.

own Hawaiian names, learned a bit about the culture, food and geography of this wonderful state. We experienced the taste, smell and texture of a fresh pineapple. What a welcome treat to help chase the winter blues away.

In February we will be making our piñata for the classroom party for our February 13th classroom party. The kids may not want to break it open after all their hard work! Since we have paper products left over from past parties, there will not be a need to post a sign up for supplies. If someone would like to supply small party favors for the class, let me know. The students will be able to pass out their store bought or homemade Valentines. I ask that the individual Valentines *not* be addressed to specific students. This

can add confusion to the process! I do encourage your child to sign each Valentine. It is a good way to practice name writing. (As a parent, I found it easier to have my child sign a few a day instead of sitting down and doing them all at once.)

We will be revisiting the ideals of citizenship as we discover our country's flag and make our own. We will peek into our country's history to discuss a few of our first presidents. We will learn about the flag of the United States and the meaning behind the colors and design. We will introduce the students to probability when we toss our Lincoln pennies to see if we have more heads or tails on our charts.

The end of February will be the start of our dinosaur unit. Look for information to come home soon about our field trip to the Museum Center on Wednesday February 26th.

Parents, I truly appreciate the job you have raising your children. They look up to you as their first teachers and role models. Enjoy this winter with your kids. Make cookies, read books, color with them and just be present to them. The memories you create will last long after the snow melts.

Sincerely,
Mary jo Berlon, Pre k

Special Events Report

Family Night Potluck was a wonderful evening! Thank you to everyone that brought in food, shared a talent (you were amazing), and helped with set-up and clean-up. If you missed it this year, be sure to join us next year, we had a LOT of FUN!

Bunny Brunch will take place on Saturday, April 12th. Brunch will be served at 11:00am. There will also be a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny and an Egg Hunt. This event will require reservations (cost is \$5 per adult, \$3 per child), look for a form to come home with your son/daughter shortly. If you are on the special events committee, I will be contacting you soon for your help.



I am in need of someone to be our Easter Bunny for the brunch and class parties (April 15th & 16th). If you are able and willing to do one event or all, please contact me at (513) 477-6072 or missy.mccauley@yahoo.com.

After Easter, there will be two other fun events to look forward to. The Mother's Day Brunch is a special day for all moms to spend with their child in their classroom. It is a heartwarming experience that you won't want to miss. The brunches take place on the following days: PreK class - May 7th, 3's class - May 8th & 4's class - May 9th. To wrap up the school year, we will have a school picnic on Friday, May 16th.

Missy McCauley

Special Events

Fundraising Report

We're more than halfway through this year's fundraising with our biggest sale currently underway.

In past years, the plant sale has earned us approximately \$3000 in profit, so please help keep that going for this year. Order forms are due on Tuesday, February 4, but I can usually accept late orders, so please turn them in even if you miss the deadline. As long as the greenhouse is able to fill the orders, they will accept them. Plant sale pick-up will be Saturday, May 3, from 9am - noon. Pansy pick up will be on March 12 between 11am - 1pm. I will need a lot of help on May 2 & 3 so please mark your calendars and come ready to lend a helping hand. Sign-up sheets will be in the hallway soon. Thanks in advance for all your help!

We have sold over 180 LaRosa's Buddy Cards so far this year. At \$5 profit per card, we have earned more than \$1000 so far. 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!

The winter Usborne Book Fair earned us over \$190 in profit. We will host another book fair in the spring on March 13-14, so keep your eyes open for that.

I would like to announce that we are adding another fundraiser in February. We will be selling environmentally themed products including t-shirts, jewelry, mugs, bamboo products, soy candles, sports bottles, tote bags, towels, blankets, plants and garden lights. The above products are through Nature's Vision. Our school will earn

a 40% profit on all items sold. In addition, Nature's Vision will also donate a portion of your sale to environmental organizations that are dedicated to Rainforest Preservation, protecting wildlife, preserving nature and ensuring a sustainable future for our planet. The sale will run February 17 through March 4.

By now, everyone should have received a letter detailing your progress towards your mandatory fundraising commitment. If you have any questions at all about this letter, please contact me as soon as possible to resolve any potential issues. A follow-up letter will be sent in March.

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 for your commitment to our school!

Erin Maisel
Fundraising Chair
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