

A P R I L / M A Y 2 0 1 3

Greenhills Co-Op Preschool Newsletter



Administrator's Notes

Can you believe it is almost May?! (It might already be when you read this) The years do truly seem to go by so fast. The busier you get with your family the faster the years go by! Before you know it you will be sitting at your little one's High School/ College graduation! My "baby" graduates from law school on May 19th! We truly hope that we have helped you along in your journey through parenting your Preschooler! For our wonderful families that will be leaving us this year, please know that we have loved getting to know you and your children and we wish you nothing but the best in the years to come! For our returning families, we will be so excited to have you come back through our doorway in September to start another exciting year with your child.

Returning families, parent packets will be coming through your email in a few short weeks (probably in June) with all of your new forms that will need to be gone over/filled in /signed, etc. If your child is in need of a new medical to start the school year, please get your appointment a.s.a.p. The doctors fill up toward mid to late summer with all of the back to school check-ups, sports medicals, etc.

You and your family remain our

best source of advertising, so please let any family, friends, neighbors or folks that you speak with in the grocery know about the co-op. We have room in all classes (actually we have a waiting list for the 4 year old class), but it would be a wonderful problem to need to open up more classes! We have flyers to pass out if you know of any locations that would allow you to hang one up. We also have our tri-fold pamphlet to pass out if you want to keep any advertising with you in the car, etc. Just let me know if I can get you anything.

Thank you to so many families for all of your help this year! We have had an anonymous donation to help us rent the picnic site in the Harper Meadows area of Winton Woods Park where we will hold our annual school picnic on Friday, May 17th. I had a family donate the funds to sponsor Miss Joanie for the whole year in the Combo Class! And you all have been wonderful in helping

us keep up with the use of paper cups, paper towels and napkins! We can always use more of these items, so please try to remember that we go through more than 1 box of 100 5oz paper cups in 2 days! (We have 49 children enrolled plus the adults at snack time) and I can't even imagine how many tissues we go through in a day!! If you are able to help us keep up with the use, we would appreciate it!

Thank you also to our board members and class secretaries! You have all been wonderful to work with! We are "loosing" some great board members this year because this is their last child's last year at the Co-op! Our huge THANKS to Denise Sharma (who has been putting together these newsletters), our Recording Secretary, Tammy Sander, our Special Events chairperson, Shannon

Continued on page 2

Save the Date!

Mother's Day Tea

May 8 – Pre-K
May 9 – 3s & Combo
May 10 – 4s

Plant Sale

May 11
Fellowship Hall

School Picnic

May 17
Winton Woods
Harper Meadows

Administrator's notes continued...

Schouten, our Housekeeping Chairperson, AND Stephanie Haarlammert, who has been our Fundraising Chairperson for years! We are going to miss all of you so much!! All of your work has been FANTASTIC! Thank you to our returning board members, Amie Murphy, Chairperson, Shelli Hoffmann, Treasurer, Erika Walker, Advertising and Publicity and Anne England, Registration.

Thank you also to Anna Berlon (Mrs Berlon's daughter), Tina Wourinen, Shelby and Jessica Metz (Mrs. Metz's daughters) for being our Easter Bunny or the Bunny assistant for all of the classes and the Bunny Brunch. That is a job that I will never volunteer for!!

We are always on the lookout for folks that would like to serve on our board, so if in the future you are interested, please let us know. We do have folks willing to step up to help us and we will be sending out an announcement soon as to who the replacement board members are.

I hope that you have noticed our little sign outside of the church door. We have earned our first star in the Step Up To Quality program! This is a state program that is voluntary for private preschools. It will be mandated for any school that receives any government monies (vouchers, etc.) by 2014. The rating system will go from a 3 star program to 5 stars sometime this summer, but we will then be bumped up to a 2 star program. As I said, this is a voluntary rating system for us, but we felt it would be a benefit to you, our families, to know that we are working with and beyond the state standards for Early Childhood Education programs.

Blessings to all of you as we move into the summer months. May you all stay safe and healthy! Please stay in touch!

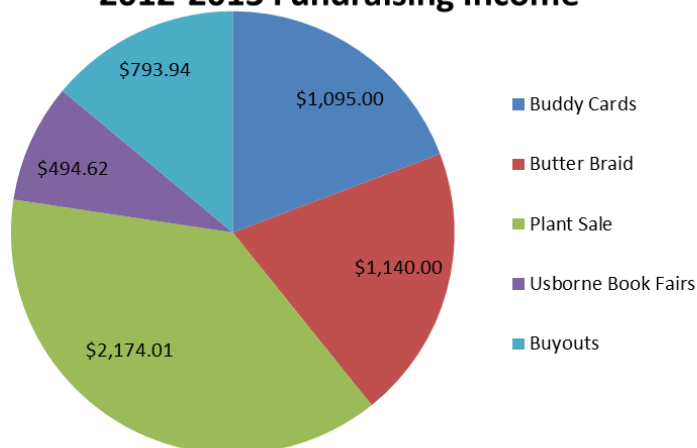
Jan

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 nearly \$5700, thanks to everyone's efforts. Families still owe a combined \$1185 in order to complete their fundraising commitment, which will give us a total fundraising income of nearly \$6900 once that money has been paid. If you still owe money, you should have received a letter, with payment due Tuesday, April 23. 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 lots of help to keep this sale going, and many hands make light work. Set-up will be on Friday, May 10, from 5:45pm until approximately 8-9pm. On Saturday, I need volunteers from 8:30am-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 11, between 9am-noon. You should have received a letter asking you to remind those who ordered plants in your child's name as well. Thanks in advance for all your help

2012-2013 Fundraising Income



with this big event!

We have sold 219 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.

Thanks again for your commitment to our school!

Stephanie Haarlammert, Fundraising Chair
(513) 522-5445 Steph-Haarlammert@zoomtown.com

Fours News

Hope you all had a very blessed Easter and a fun and relaxing Spring Break! Well, we certainly have been experiencing some very "Spring-y" weather - lots of sun and clouds and wind and rain and warm weather, and even some cooler weather. Do you like our rainbow? The kids really had fun helping to paint it with their hands, and then adding clouds. They wrote some really great Spring stories, too. We took a good look at Spring weather - rain and all! (Did you know that we made it rain in the classroom? We counted 38 drops!) Next, we made some awesome bird nests - eat your hearts out birdies! We ended the month with a unit on the zoo. We enjoyed some fun zoo/animal crafts and activities, and experienced our first "Family Day" at the Cincinnati Zoo. Thanks to all those who joined us!

After the zoo outing, we spent a day talking about caterpillars and butterflies. The children made some truly beautiful butterflies. Check them out in the hallway! Also, check out our pussy willows. Can you tell what they are made out of? We will now begin to get ready for our Mother's Day Brunch, which will take place on Friday, May 10th at 10:45 a.m. 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 also have fun

talking about pets. Watch for some interesting and unusual "pets" to come home! For "Fun in the Sun" day, tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 17th, we have many fun activities planned on the patio: chalk, bubbles, water table, etc. (Please pray for no rain!) Wednesday, May 22nd 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, Martha Buckley, 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!

Threes News

We continue to have fun in the 3's! The children have all matured so much this year! They are becoming pros with scissors, using their words with their friends, raising their hand at circle time to let me know they have some "important words" to say, printing their names, etc, etc. It is so amazing to think back to September and to look at where we are now! (Of course, we have some days where all of this is not so true, but the growth and maturity has been remarkable! ☺)

We are sure enjoying the opportunities to get outside again! I hope that we will get some more beautiful days that are not too hot or cold. It seems to be hard to have just nice "spring" weather. April has found us enjoying time talking/learning about the weather, rainbows, caterpillars, butterflies, shapes and the alphabet. We have also begun talking about having a new teacher when they come back to school in September. We have been learning a song or 2 from the 4 year old and Pre-K class.

In early May we will be busy preparing for our annual Mother's Day Tea on Thursday, May 9th. (Come back to school at 10:30 that day. If Mom cannot come, please have Grandma or some other special adult person come.) We will be working on some surprises for Mom while also

having fun with counting and learning to recognize some of our numbers. Later in May we have a fun day each year that we call "fun in the sun". We will have both classrooms open and the patio. The children will be able to play outside or travel back and forth between our room and Mrs. Berlon's. The "big" kids have fun coming back into the "3 year olds" room and the 3 year olds LOVE to go see the "big" kid's room! This all happens during choice time. On our last day of class we are inviting you to come back about 20 minutes early to help us sing some songs, watch us act out a story and to see us get our "certificate of completion" of the 3's program at the Co-op.

It has been a pleasure getting to know all of you better! I have loved working with your children and will miss each one of you. Please be safe this summer and come back to visit me in the fall! I always look forward to seeing the children in the 4 year old class on Wednesdays. I get to reconnect with "my" 3 year olds that way. The children going on to the Pre-K I get to see a bit more often, but it is always amazing to watch your children grow up! As I have said before, Thank you so much for choosing the Co-op, it has been a fun and fast year!

Love, Jan

Special Events

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: Carrie Morlan, Erin Biedenbach, Susan Sunderman, Becky and David Hoffman, Denise Sharma, Charity Drury and Anna Berlon (Mary Jo Berlon's daughter). I also want to thank Shelby (Terry Metz's daughter) and Tina Wuorinen for being our bunny for the class Easter parties.

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 17th from 5:30pm to dark. It will take place at a new location this year, Harper Meadows (Winton Woods), Oak Opening Shelter. This has been made

possible thanks to a donation from 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!

Tammy Sander,
Special Events



Pre-K News

Though our snowy winter kept us indoors much of the time, the pre-k students were busy learning and doing. This winter the students were introduced to tying shoes and telling time, on the hour and half past the hour. The students worked hard learning their numbers and letters.

We enjoyed visits from Ms. Joanie Whitaker, a local recording artist who performs and teaches at various preschools in the Cincinnati area. She taught the students how to warm up their voices, use pitch, and rhythm to make "ear candy" instead of "ear garbage." She taught them "to be a good musician you must listen, listen, listen!" Ms. Joanie introduced them to different types of musical instruments and explained the different parts of a guitar.

Early May we will be taking a field trip to Winton Center as the rangers present a program on Signs of Spring especially geared to our pre-k students.

Our 100-Day celebration was a success! We worked in small groups creating a 100 inch caterpillar as we

worked on cooperation, negotiation and collaboration skills. Ask a pre-k student if he or she was able to lick the lollipop 100 times before biting into it.

In April we are making our own dirt by creating a mini compost in the classroom in conjunction with our Random Acts of Kindness Week. We talk about caring for our planet, recycling and using resources wisely. Words are powerful things. We talk about choosing our words wisely, to be helpful and not hurtful. We will also be collecting cans, organizing, counting and categorizing them, eventually to be dropped off at the Freestore Food Bank.

In our language arts units, we will be working with word families and letter blends as the students are making that leap into reading for themselves. They are becoming familiar with parts of a sentence and becoming comfortable writing a few themselves. It is so exciting to see them put words and ideas together. Please keep on reading to your kids. It is truly one of the most important things you can do

with and for your children.

We will also be reviewing our five senses and incorporating cooking, different types of music and art into the themes.

As I gather my lesson plans for the few remaining weeks, I cannot believe the time has gone by so quickly. We still have some time for fun and learning and I think the students will enjoy our units on Nature and Animals, including our planned trip to the Zoo.

This pre-k class of 2013 will be missed. I will cherish my time I had with these young people, knowing that I was fortunate to be part of a very magical time in their lives. The parent support I have received made my job easier. I am sure they will be outstanding high school graduates in their graduating class of 2026! The time will go by faster than you can imagine.

Sincerely,

Mary jo Berlon

Combo News

Can you believe that the school year is almost over? This has been an amazing class! We have had our share of struggles, but what a loving group of children (and parents!). Each one of your children has touched my heart in so many ways! I actually have tears in my eyes as I think back on our year together.

We are having so much fun with the letter of the week. I think the children are finally "getting" the letter sounds and how they relate to our theme of the day. Making our class volcano was probably the all time hit for the letter activities, I believe. It was very exciting to hear the children let out a cheer as the volcano started to "erupt" and the "lava" flowed over the edge of our "mountain". Go ahead and try it at home, you just need to make a mountain out of play dough with a plastic water bottle inside the center. Put several tablespoons of water in the bottle, a few drops of dish soap and some red food coloring. Next add a couple tablespoons of baking soda and then slowly pour in some vinegar a little at a time. It truly impresses the children and really does not make too big of a mess. I would recommend that you do it in the sink or a dish pan type of location though. ☺

I think that the children also enjoyed our giant chocolate chip cookie for our W week. (Maybe not eating it for Adira-who does not like chocolate!- but she loved rolling out the dough!) We talked about the "question" words of who, what, where, when and why as we read the story of "Who stole the cookies from the cookie jar?" It was also fun to hear that the children are picking up on rhyming words. It is hard to believe that

we are almost done with the alphabet!

As soon as the calendar changes to May we will be gearing up for our Mother's Day Tea on May 9th. Moms, please come back to school at 2:00 that day. We will have some surprises made for you and some great food also. If Mom cannot make it that day, please send Grandma or some other adult to sit with your child. They all look forward to having someone come!

We will have a "fun in the sun" day later in May. We move much of the classroom activities out onto the patio and spend our choice time outside. If the weather does not cooperate on the planned day, we will switch things around on the calendar. The children love that day. On our last day of class we are asking for you to come back about 20 minutes early so we can do a small program for you and watch as the children get their "certificate of completion" from our 3-4 Combo class.

Please remember to keep reading to your children and to keep the T.V. time to a minimum. This includes video games, etc. Children learn so much from unstructured playtime and being outside, you really don't want to waste a summer with electronics! If you are going to be a returning family, I look forward to seeing you in September. If you have other plans for next year; please check back occasionally, I love to know how you and your family are doing!

Thank you for being a special part of my life this year!
Love, Jan

Last Day of School
May 21 – Threes Class
May 22 – Combo, Fours and Pre-K Classes

