



P.O. BOX 97, HARTLAND, VERMONT 05048

## HARTLAND COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

April 2016

*"Too much love never spoils children. Children become spoiled when we substitute presents for presence."* Dr. Anthony Witham – Pinterest

### PARENT SURVEY

We have only had 11 responses to our parent survey; it is strongly suggested that we have 20 responses. Please let Mrs. Harriet know if you would like to have the link to the survey resent. We value your input!

### PARENT CONFERENCES

Parent conference time is approaching. There will be no school for the children on Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>. A sign up sheet will be posted for 20- minute conference times either on May 6<sup>th</sup> or during the week of May 9 -13. As in the past, conference times will be offered after school, in the late afternoon or in the early evening on a schedule that will be posted by next week. Please see Mrs. Harriet to arrange another time if none of the offered times work for you.

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Tuesday April 26<sup>th</sup> 2:00** – Magician Show sponsored by Hartland Recreation Department at the gazebo (Our afternoon class will attend this Open to the Public event.)

**Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>** – No School – Parent Conference Day

**Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup> - 2:30** – Afternoon Class Spring Concert downstairs under our classroom

**Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup> – 10:15** – Morning Class Spring Concert in the classroom

**Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup>** – Afternoon Class Mt. Tom hike; **school day ends at 4:30** (Inclement weather date: Friday May 27<sup>th</sup>)

**Tuesday May 31<sup>st</sup>** – School at Mrs. Bonnie's house morning and afternoon; drop off and pick up at Mrs. Bonnie's house (Directions to be provided)

**Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Last day of school

*More information about these events where applicable, and directions where appropriate will be provided as the dates get closer.*

### NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS

Everyone has been observing the arrival and retreat of spring during the last month as we've gone from shedding clothing and brook play, back to snow and full winter clothing! It has certainly given us plenty of opportunity to observe signs of the change in seasons. The morning class has studied weather recently with songs, stories, science experiments and art activities dealing with clouds, the sun, wind and rain (VELS: Science). They took another trip to the goat farm and enjoyed "socializing" with the seven new babies that had been born so far during this kidding season. The afternoon class continued their study of fairy tales (with variations of Goldilocks, The Three Little Pigs and The Three Billy Goats Gruff). We have been enjoying child initiated dramatizations of the tales (VELS: Literacy). The afternoon class has also been learning how to identify and solve problems as part of the Second Step program (VELS: Social & Emotional Learning & Development). During the next few weeks as we approach the end of yet another school year we'll start preparing for our spring concerts by choosing and rehearsing songs and finger plays. The morning class will visit Cedar Mountain Farm this week and will go on another visit to Bly Acres goat farm. The morning class will explore farm and dinosaur themes; the afternoon class will have a study of the senses. The afternoon class will hike Mt. Tom near the end of May. The afternoon class will have some special Outside Friday events with school days off site at the Meacham Farm and Paradise Park, a visit from an artist to learn about painting in the outdoors and a visit from an outdoor educator who will lead us on a bird walk and exploration of brook creatures. Both classes will recognize Mother's Day and help to prepare and plant our raised

bed gardens. Both classes look forward to spending a school day at Mrs. Bonnie's house during the last week of school.

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

### April 4th Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Nikki Raney, Karen Cote, Harriet, Dumas, Val Raney, Meggan Wehmeyer

#### 1. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

- a. This was approved
- b. It was discussed at this time the importance of Board Members attending meetings regularly. When decisions are needed to be made, it can only be done if there is a quorum of members. Attendance has been scarce by some board members this year, making it hard on the other board members.
- c. It was suggested for future boards, to add a requirement in the by-laws for all board members which states when agreeing to being on the Parent-Board, one must attend monthly meetings.
  - i. It was noted that all parents are indeed parents first, and when sick child or extenuating circumstances come up, being absent is understood.

#### 2. Treasurer's Report/ Admission's Report

- a. Current budget profit and loss statement was reviewed
- b. The current budget reflected the \$20,000 VCPC Grant
- c. May tuition is to be paid by families by the 15th of this month
  - i. There is still \$4000 to come
  - ii. Expenses for the remainder of the year are \$12,000. This is more than our expected income.
- d. Reviewed proposed budget for next year
  - i. With state funding guaranteed, and possible VCPC grant funding, it was decided to remove the Fundraising item line from the budget
  - ii. Fundraising will still be a part of the Co-op, but we will not base our budget around projected income from those fundraisers
  - iii. When looking at the proposed budget, even without grant funding, there was enough of a profit to consider opening another morning classroom with the need to hire another teacher and aide for that classroom.
    1. This was proposed and approved by the board.
  - iv. After deciding to open another a.m. classroom, Val was asked to revise the proposed budget to reflect another teacher and aide's salaries as well as anticipated increase of costs that go with having another classroom. This budget will be reviewed at the next board meeting.
- e. Current enrollment for 2016-17
  - i. 30 children= 17 for the a.m. and 13 for the p.m. class
  - ii. At this time, we will cap the p.m. enrollment and only offer a.m. space
- f. Unforeseen Challenges with State Funded Act 166: Public Preschool
  - i. It was brought to the board's attention, that school districts have the right to withdraw funding from a child who does not attend a preschool regularly. If a child has missed enough days, the sending district can and will remove their funding. This leaving the family to pay for preschool.
  - ii. It was suggested to make this known to incoming families, as they may not know this piece.

#### 3. Director's Report

- a. VCPC Grant budget modifications have been made to meet all requirements (*Update: \$17,600 of our grant request has been recommended for funding by the VCPC grant readers! We are awaiting confirmation of funding from the Vermont Community Foundation.*)
- b. We need more families to fill out our parent survey
  - i. Harriet will get a poll of families that have yet to complete the survey and Nikki will resend the survey out to those families

4. Fundraising Report
  - a. We had the cork and canvas fundraiser. We had 13 people and the cap was 24. Although attendance was less than anticipated, we had a great time.
  - b. Bethany will let everyone know how much was brought in once she talks with Amy Robb from Tip Top.
  - c. Looking forward, Bethany needs to speak with John Leonard about the Fun Run and possibly having a cookout: buy a plate of food fundraiser there instead of a bake sale.
5. Other Items for Discussion
  - a. New Board Members: It's time to start looking for Board Members for the 2016-17 school year. Val will review parent interest on the admission survey and notify them of the next meeting. A few families have already shared their interest.
  - b. A discussion was had about the requirement of parent aiding at HCNS. Should this stay, be modified or removed from the program? The board felt this was a decision that could not be made by a small group of co-op members, but rather a discussion for the school community at large. We would like to see and hear from many families before deciding the future of aiding within HCNS.
  - c. Our next board meeting will be, Monday, May 9th beginning at 5:40.

Board Meetings to come:

May 9<sup>th</sup>

June 6<sup>th</sup>

## SONGS AND FINGER PLAYS

### Tick Check Song

*(Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes tune)*

Hair, head, around my ears, all around.

Hair, head, around my ears, all around.

Neck and armpits and back and belly,

Hair, head, around my ears, all around!

Hair, head, around my ears, all around.

Hair, head, around my ears, all around.

Ankles, feet and clothes and shoes.

Hair, head, around my ears, all around.