



P.O. BOX 97, HARTLAND, VERMONT 05048

## HARTLAND COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

April 2017

*"Bringing up children is not a real occupation, because children come up just the same, brought or not." -Germaine Greer in ExchangeEveryDay*

### THANK YOU

**Miss Tiffany** – For steam cleaning the carpets in both classrooms

**Matt White** – for researching vacuum cleaners, making a recommendation for new ones to purchase, and then assembling the new ones after they were purchased.  
*(The new ones are well-loved already!)*

**White's Dairy Supply** – For donating funds for the Fun Run tee shirts

### HCNS PROGRAM SURVEY

If you haven't already filled out our program survey, please do so as soon as possible. STARS suggests that we have an 80% participation rate. So far we have only had just over 40% of families participate. We value your input! We'd like to have the survey completed before the last week in April so that our parent volunteer can summarize the results and present them at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting. If you'd like the link to the survey resent, please contact Catharine Engwall at [catharine.engwall@gmail.com](mailto:catharine.engwall@gmail.com) or Mrs. Harriet at [hcnsteacher3@gmail.com](mailto:hcnsteacher3@gmail.com). A paper version of the survey is available upon request.

### FAMILY CONFERENCES

Family conference time is quickly approaching. You are strongly encouraged to sign up for a conference time slot through the Sign-up Genius link that one of your child's teachers has emailed to you. We look forward to talking with you about your child's growth this year and next steps in learning. Conferences are scheduled to take place from May 3<sup>rd</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup>, including numerous time slots on Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup> when there will be no school for the children.

### SUNSCREEN

Now that the weather has warmed and skin will be more exposed we'd like to remind you that you should **apply sunscreen to your child before dropping him or her off** on school days.

## WEEKEND CLEANERS

If you took home towels from HCNS to launder during a cleaning weekend, please return them to HCNS. Many of the towels we started the year with are "missing in action."

## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

*(Scheduled so far)*

**April 18 – 21** – Spring Break – no school

**April 27** – Mrs. Harriet & Mrs. Bonnie's Morning Class field trip to Lemax Farm

**May 3** – Board meeting

**May 4** - No school – Family Conferences

**May 11** – Morning theater performance for all classes at Lebanon Opera House, + Lunch time at HCNS and Regular session for afternoon classes; Morning class end time at 11:30

**May 23** – Morning class concerts in each classroom

**May 24** – Mrs. Harriet & Mrs. Bonnie's Afternoon Class concert downstairs on the stage

**May 24** – Miss Tiffany & Miss Michelle's Afternoon Class Mt. Tom hike with school day extended to 4:30 end time

**May 25** – Miss Tiffany & Miss Michelle's Afternoon Class concert downstairs on the stage

**May 25** – Mrs. Harriet & Mrs. Bonnie's Morning & Afternoon Classes – school at Mrs. Bonnie's house (drop off and pick up there)

**May 26<sup>th</sup>** – Mrs. Harriet & Mrs. Bonnie's Afternoon Class Mt. Tom hike with school day extended to 4:30 end time

**May 31<sup>st</sup>** – Trout release day!

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Final day of school!

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

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 5:30**

**Present:** Britt Metivier, Bethany LaHaye, Val Raney, Tiffany, Michelle, Deb Richardson, Liz Frederick, Meggan Wehmeyer, Heather White

## **Agenda:**

### **1) Approval of Minutes** - approved

### **2) Treasurer's Report**

- checking = \$28,654; savings = \$38,103
- expenses from past month included: \$1,550 bonus from STARS program; 2 payrolls, rent, telephone, advertising, paid for QuickBooks, Val purchased Dyson vacuums
- Val plans to buy rugs and blinds/shades in future. Blinds should have no strings hanging. Specially made?
- Net income currently \$33,000
- Val made up a draft budget for next year - to be discussed in detail at an executive session
- Val researched some possible benefits for staff:
  - Retirement plans - simple IRA; coop matches up to 3% of salary. ~\$2,700.
  - Health benefits - since we're a small business, these would be purchased via Vermont Healthcare; Val to find a Navigator to talk to staff to gauge interest, estimate cost; enrollment is in the fall. She's been in touch with the Rockwood Agency.
  - Employee Assistance Program from Invest EAP - mental health support, legal help, etc.; 3-5 phone calls for counseling. Would include board members. Fixed price for small business - \$750 for a year.
  - Dental - \$54.50 per month. Per Meggan, not a good deal unless a lot of work needs to be done.
  - Short-term disability?
  - Life insurance?
  - Insurance agent to come talk to us?
  - Memberships in NAEYC/VAEYC, VCCICC (local professional organizations for staff)?

### **3) Admissions Report -**

- enrollment at 46; still too many students requesting AM class. Teachers are working on asking parents of older students if they're willing to do the PM class.
  - Discussed Tiffany's daughter enrolling next year. The Board agrees that decisions regarding which classroom she'll be in can be left up to Tiffany. Boundaries will be important if she's in Tiffany's class.
  - Tiffany would like to have a mix of 3- and 4-year olds in each class if possible - seems to work well for classroom dynamics.
- 1 new student has started school this past week.

### **4) Director's Report**

- Lebanon Opera House trip - all set with parents (3) staying with afternoon students through lunch.
  - look into bus for field trips, including upcoming LOH trip? Val will discuss with Harriet.
- Family satisfaction surveys: not many are done, we're hoping to get more of a response.

- Thank you Tiffany for using personal carpet cleaner.
  - A reminder that there's no school Thursday, May 4th
  - May 31st - trout release; rain or shine
  - More goat farm field trips planned for this spring.
  - Discussed August Open House(s?) - tentatively Wednesday the 23rd and Thursday the 24th; 2 separate open houses - one for AM classes and one for PM classes.
- (Update: Use of the room downstairs on these dates has been scheduled with the Recreation Department)***

### **5) Fundraising-Fun Run**

- John okayed the use of the Rec Center grill; John has put Fun Run info in the Rec Center flyer.
- Val will talk to BG's about meat - went fast last year.
- Potluck - suggested donation: \$1?; good signage letting people know that the money is going to the Food Shelf
  - Use Signup genius or blog to have parents sign up to bring certain items: salads; bags of chips; desserts; fruit salad
- Buy disposable trays to give to parents
- The Board voted to not do Original Works again next year. Our fundraisers will be the Bake Sale and the Fun Run next year.

### **6) Operations**

- Some parents still have only 0-5 points. Co-presidents will send these parents an email stressing the importance of participation in the school; should points be discussed with specific parents at parent-teacher conferences?
- Discussed consequence if not enough points
  - no fine - parents will tend to just pay the fine and not worry about actual participation
  - to put in handbook - not allowed to come back if points not met? Should anything be done half-way through the year if parents don't have any points?
  - to be further discussed at May's meeting.

### **7) Other business**

- none.

**Upcoming Board Meeting Dates  
(1st Wednesday of each month at 5:30)  
May 3, 2017  
June 7, 2017**

**Revisit penalties at next meeting**

### **SONGS & FINGER PLAYS**

#### **Mud Song**

Mud, mud, I love mud  
I'm absolutely positively wild about mud.

I can't go around it  
I've got to go through it.  
Beautiful, fabulous, super duper mud!

**Bunny Finger Play**

Here is a bunny with ears so funny.  
And, here is its hole in the ground.  
When a noise it hears, it pricks up its ears,  
And jumps in its hole in the ground.