



P.O. BOX 97, HARTLAND, VERMONT 05048

HARTLAND COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 2018

“Kindness to children, love for children, goodness to children – these are the only investments that never fail.”
Henry David Thoreau (in ExchangeEveryDay)

FAMILY FEEDBACK TO HCNS BOARD MEMBERS

The HCNS Board would like to remind families that they should be contacted if there are concerns that they feel have not been adequately addressed by the HCNS staff and director. Beginning with the March 14 board meeting parent feedback will be the first agenda item at all board meetings. The board consists of parents or grandparents of HCNS children and they volunteer their time to run our school as smoothly as possible. They want to hear from other families to help make informed decisions that affect everyone in the school. Here are the board member names and email contacts:

Co-President	Meggan Wehmeyer	Meggan.wehmeyer@gmail.com
Co-President	Heather White	hcnsboardpresident@gmail.com
Treasurer/Admissions	Val Raney	hcnsadmissions@gmail.com
Secretary	Britt Metivier	hcnssecretary@gmail.com
Personnel	Nikki Raney	hcnspersonnel@gmail.com
Operations	Liz Frederick	hcnsoperations@gmail.com

MT. ASCUTNEY PROMISE COMMUNITY

Mt. Ascutney Hospital is the fiscal agent for a Promise Community grant from the state of Vermont. The purpose of the grant is to promote kindergarten readiness for all children in the 4 towns of the Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union (Hartland, Windsor, Weathersfield and West Windsor). They will be conducting activities such as renovating a room at the Windsor Connection Resource Center to create a family friendly activity space, distributing free books (including setting up Little Free Libraries in each town), and providing support for professional development for early childhood educators and care providers. You are asked to complete a short survey so that they can establish a baseline to learn more about what families are currently doing related to reading to and playing with their children. They are seeking responses from parents, step-parents, foster parents, guardians, and grandparents or other relatives taking care of children. If young children live with you, they want to hear from you! Please consider taking 5-7 minutes to fill out the survey at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AMPC11> There will be a few paper copies available in the classrooms if you prefer that option.

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION REMINDER

Please do not have medication – prescription (including emergency), over the counter or herbal in your child’s backpack. This could be a hazard to your child and the other children. In the rare event that your child does need to have medication administered at HCNS, a number of requirements must be met and it can only be administered by staff members who have completed medication administration CDD training (All staff have received this training.). Upon request we will gladly inform you of the guidelines that must be followed.

EXTRA CLOTHING REMINDER

Please remember to have an extra set of seasonally appropriate clothing (including socks and underwear) in your child’s backpack daily. Besides infrequent toileting incidents, accidents like spilled water or sensory table splashes can and do happen occasionally so it is really helpful to have a replacement set of the child’s own clothing readily

available. Thank you to children and families who have allowed us to borrow clothing when others have not had what they needed!

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2018

Present: Amanda James, Barbara Johnson, Meggan Wehmeyer, Tiffany Tucker, Michelle Perry, Harriet Dumas, Nikki Raney, Heather White, Val Raney, Britt Metivier

Parent Feedback:

Amanda brought concerns regarding Outside Friday, which is summed up by the following letter she had presented to fellow caretakers in her child's classroom. All but one family signed the letter in agreement:

“Dear Fellow River Classroom Parents,

I wanted to share some concerns my husband and I have about Outside Fridays and give other parents an opportunity to let the board know if they share our concerns.

Sky's father and I are very supportive of outdoor classroom time and children having plenty of time involved in physical activities outdoors, but we also try to limit Sky's exposure when temperatures are below freezing or when it's raining since being too cold is not that much fun for her, and it usually leads to more cold viruses.

There are Friday's when I bring her in late to limit her exposure or when I don't bring her in at all because it is just too cold. It seems unfair for students and parents to have to choose to be cold or uncomfortable during school or miss valuable class time because of the weather.

There are several other parents in the class who agree that 3 hours in rainy or below freezing weather conditions is not appropriate for their children, so I have listed below some suggested changes to the HCNS weather policies/guidelines for outdoor play and Outside Fridays:

1. If the “Real Feel” temperature reported for the morning is below 30 degrees Fahrenheit, then school starts indoors, and outdoor time is limited to 1 hour.
2. If the “Real Feel” temperature reported for the morning is below 15 degrees Fahrenheit, school is held indoors and there is no outdoor time.
3. If it is raining school starts indoors and there is no outdoor time.

If you would like the board to implement the changes listed above, please add your name to the list below. This list will be presented to the board by me at the meeting this Wednesday 2/14/18.

Thank you!

Amanda James

The board expressed their surprise that this was an issue with so many caretakers in that classroom. Harriet had been presented with some issues that she felt had been resolved, such as no playing in the brook during Outside Friday, as students' walking around with wet feet during Outside Friday is unsafe and not fun for them.

Tiffany had adapted that class's outdoor time (not starting outdoors if weather - especially in the morning - is not ideal)

There were some concerns that addressed the iciness of this winter, as well.

The Board voted to treat Fridays just like any other school day in regards to time outdoors (ie can spend up to an hour outdoors if it's a nice day) until the March board meeting so that research could be done and they could make an informed decision.

Approve January minutes: approved

Treasurer's Report:

Val paid to have an ad in the Valley News last weekend and next for Open Enrollment.

February 22nd: she paid for an ad in the Sports Section of Vermont Standard

Bus companies haven't responded re: transportation between 4C's (11:00 & 12:30 most needed)

Per the Board, Val cut herself a paycheck for June-December

She withdrew \$50,000 into American Funds

Last month's minutes were dropped off to Mascoma Savings Bank > Meggan and Heather can get an HCNS card now

Liz has some quotes - (Jaq's Cleaning Service) \$50/hour vs. another cleaning service for a \$600 flat fee.

Board decides to have Liz contact Jaq's to see what their availability is during the February break.

(Update: Jaq's is scheduled to do the cleaning on Thursday 2/21)

Checking: \$3,808.89; savings: \$23,120.84; American Funds \$50,000

Admissions:

32 registered online; 40 last year (less returning)

Val will post ads for enrollment on...

The Hartland list-serv

All supervisory union Elementary Schools

Hartland Library

Facebook

Director's Report:

Harriet sent in a renewal for Stars on January 13th. (3/3 years; next year, full Stars report will be needed)

(Update: Our STARS renewal acceptance letter arrived the day after the board meeting. We will receive a \$1250 Quality Maintenance Payment in 6-8 weeks.)

Pre-K qualification renewal for 3 years submitted

Substitutes have to have fingerprinting done (we will pay fees); are technically employees. If their fingerprinting isn't done, Pre-K qualification might not be renewed. One substitute has been fingerprinted and the other is scheduled to have fingerprinting done this week.

HD required to be present all 10 hours of State of Vermont Pre-K contracted time (as the only licensed teacher with an early childhood endorsement on the staff)

Hartland Wellness Center outings: keeping classes separate worked well in morning; HD will schedule more sessions, great feedback so far

Survey: Nikki will tack Outside Fridays onto survey and send out ASAP

Buses: HD unsure if buses are really needed for smaller field trips.

Tiffany sugaring trip (one class); Tiffany will ask if HD's class can come, too

Cobb Hill trip

Meacham's

Mt. Tom trips

Val will talk to Butler about smaller buses and vans – board felt that buses or vans should be used for all field trips when children are transported from HCNS

Making up snow days: we might not have to worry about it for Act 166, since we already have more than 10 hours a week. HD will check with Jan Crow. Nikki noted that the school calendar end date was dependent on snow days and that extra snow days would be made up at the end of the year.

Next VINS second week of March

Operations Report: Liz not present, but participation going well, in general

Input from teachers is requested before next board meeting re: their commitment to stay or not next year

Other Business:

Hatchery in Bethel - Tiffany will have on a Saturday. Logistics won't work during a school day since it's as far away as it is.

Outside Fridays: the Board will research length of time outdoors in winter months and when raining.

Switching Michelle and Bonnie discussion:

The Board opted to suspend the switch per all staff's request then discuss at this board meeting.

HD thinks that continuity is important for this age group and created anxiety for some students.

Staff thinks there are other ways for teachers to learn from each other's teaching styles.

TT wants to learn more from HD; it was decided she will go over to HD's class for observations rather than switching

TT in afternoon to go over for an hour a week since there are only seven students in TT's PM class

504 plan discussed. What guidelines does HCNS have to follow as a state-funded preschool?

Harriet will include email addresses of all board members in next newsletter as a reminder that we all would love any feedback from caretakers.

HD will email parents to let them know the status of Outside Fridays.

March 14, 2018

April 11, 2018
May 9, 2018
June 13, 2018
October, 2018
Discuss Christmas gift options

SONGS AND FINGER PLAYS

Five Little Snowmen

(Mrs. Harriet's classes have been enjoying acting this out with laminated snowmen and a sun, and numeral cards)

Five little snowmen all in a row,
Five little snowmen made out of snow.
Out came the sun and it shone all day,
And one little snowman melted away.
(Continue for 4, 3, 2 and 1 snowman)