



P.O. BOX 97, HARTLAND, VERMONT 05048

## **HARTLAND COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

February 2016

*“There are no perfect parents; there are no perfect children, but there are plenty of perfect moments along the way.” Dave Willis - Pinterest*

### **ECERS IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

One area we received low scores on our ECERS assessment was in the way we serve snack. Snacks should be served with utensils instead of with hands. Our improvement plan states that we will begin doing this. We ask families to help us with this by bringing serving utensils. We also have disposable gloves available. Thanks for helping us to follow through on this improvement.

### **STARS RENEWAL**

After our ECERS improvement plan was submitted and accepted our STARS 3-year renewal was complete and we received our certificate for continuation at the 4 star level at the end of last week. For the next two years we'll have to submit annual reports which involve considerably less work!

### **SAVE THE DATE**

The dates for our spring concerts have been set. The **afternoon class** concert will be held downstairs under our classroom on **Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup>** during the latter part of the school day. The **morning class** concert will be held in the classroom on **Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup>** during the latter part of the school day. More details will be provided as the dates get closer.

### **ACT 166 INFORMATION NIGHT**

There will be a parent information night from 6:00 – 7:00 on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Windsor Schools Auditorium to inform families how Act 166, the universal pre-kindergarten law works. For more details, please refer to the flyer that has been sent to you or can be accessed on the HCNS website.

### **HCNS OPEN ENROLLMENT**

Word of mouth has always been the best advertisement for HCNS. Please share with your acquaintances that we have openings for 3-5 year old children for the 2016-2017 school year. It is really helpful if children are registered early so that we can plan for staffing needs. Feel free to share the flyer about Act 166 as well.

### **COMING SOON – PARENT SURVEY**

In March we will ask families to complete an online (paper forms provided upon request) survey where you will be given a chance to anonymously give feedback on our program. We need to have at least 80% of school families complete the survey to meet STARS requirements. Thank you in advance for taking a few minutes of your time to complete the survey and give us some suggestions of ways to improve our program. We value your opinions and suggestions!

### **NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS**

*New VELS standards were adopted in the fall of 2015 so you may notice that references to VELS have slightly different terminology.* The morning class began Show and Tell this month. The children did an outstanding job of practicing speaking and listening skills (VELS: Communication & Expression – Language Development). Both classes participated in some projects to prepare for Valentine's Day, including decorating Valentine mail bags, creating and writing on Valentine cards for parents and secret Valentines – afternoon class (VELS: Communication

& Expression – Literacy Development, Creative Arts & Expression). We've been very impressed at the growing ability of the children to write – depending on developmental level that means making controlled intentional marks, tracing dotted letters, writing the first or more letters of one's name, copying letters or words, knowing how to write some familiar words from memory or using invented spelling to write words. Both classes enjoyed the trip to Lebanon Opera House to see the musical theater performance of *The Monster Who Ate My Peas*. The afternoon class was very attentive on their tour of the Hartland Post Office (VELS: Social Studies – Economics). Drummers from Hartland Elementary School gave the afternoon class an impressive performance! It was great to see the children choose to play musical instruments immediately upon returning to the classroom that day (VELS: Creative Arts & Expression – Music). Our extended outside time on Fridays for the morning class and Outside Fridays for the afternoon class continue to be engaging. The children have had a lot of fun on the sliding hill we discovered in January behind the library. There have been lots of chances to practice problem solving, exploration and initiative skills as well as engage in various movement activities. The afternoon class continues to discover new areas to explore on their Outside Friday adventures!

After the winter break we'll be discussing dental health. The morning class has initiated a dramatic play experience of making a classroom "airplane" and traveling by air. We'll follow their lead with some transportation activities. Plans for the afternoon class include continuation with writing lower case letters in the Foundations program and a study of several common fairy tales.. We'll prepare for St. Patrick's Day and spring with some planting activities. During the long month of March, we'll schedule a pajama day and a beach day. We'll explore maple sugaring when we tap the big maple tree adjacent to the playground and if weather is favorable plan a sugarhouse visit for the morning class.

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

February 8, 2016

### **Board Meeting Agenda**

1. Approval of last meeting minutes- approved.
2. Admissions report-
  - a. 18 enrolled so far (10- 3 year olds, 8-4 year olds. 7 current students) 14 morning, 4 afternoon
  - b. all forms for registration are on the website
  - c. needs correcting: each family aide volunteer needs 3 reference forms, not 1.
  - d. Update form will be generated for returning families instead of filling out all new paperwork
3. Treasurer's report-
  - a. checking \$694.96, savings \$27583.55. Overall loss of \$2500 at this time.
  - b. Family tuition amounts are available if anyone needs it for tax purposes. Federal ID number can be shared if needed.
  - c. 2nd half of VCPC grant expected soon.
  - d. Ad in newspaper has run (\$400 - paid for with grant \$)
4. Directors report
  - a. ECCRS visit overall score 5.11 (copies of report available). Great score!
    - i. Stars score=4. We will receive a bonus for maintaining our star rating.
    - ii. Our info will be on the BFIS website
  - b. sinks will be put in bathrooms next week!!
  - c. Act 166 info meeting March 3 at Windsor High School Auditorium. 6-7:00 for families, 7-8:30 for providers
    - i. more info is available on the supervisory union website
    - ii. need to be sure Act 166 info and what it means is on our website
  - d. Parent survey will be sent out in March. Need 80% return rate.
5. Fundraising report
  - a. talked to Amy Robb for cork and canvas fundraiser at Tip Top pottery- will be April 2. 6:30-9:30
    - i. will be a birthday party package for the raffle and a bowl
    - ii. 6 bottles of wine donated
    - iii. will get in touch with Michele about 8th graders babysitting
    - iv. need to choose picture asap, 8x10 size works well
    - v. payment will be through Tip Top and we will receive a check at the end
    - vi. 24 person cap, open to public

- b. Fun run will be the next fundraiser - May 14th
- 6. Other items for discussion
  - a. Hiring committee
    - i. 5-6 person committee
    - ii. need job description for Bonnie's replacement (desire a person qualified to be a teaching associate according to the new guidelines)
    - iii. new early childhood licensure training and grants available
      - 1. 27 slots open through agency of education
    - iv. would like to start interviews by April
  - b. Bylaw committee
    - i. will be open to all parents
    - ii. items to consider and potentially update:
      - 1. board member attendance requirements
      - 2. which board member positions are needed
  - c. New VCPC grant possibility
    - i. opportunity for grant to cover staff hiring
      - 1. due March 4

Board Meetings to come:  
 March 14<sup>th</sup>  
 April 4<sup>th</sup>  
 May 9<sup>th</sup>  
 June 6<sup>th</sup>

### **SPRING SONGS & FINGERPLAYS**

#### **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!

#### **Mr. Sun**

Oh Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden Sun, please shine down on me.  
 Oh Mr. Sun, Sun Mr. Golden sun, hiding behind a tree.  
 These little children are asking you,  
 To please come out so they can play with you.  
 Oh Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden Sun, please shine down on me.

#### **Drip Drip Maple Tree**

Drip, drip maple tree, have you any sap?  
 Yes, sir, yes sir, three pails a tap.  
 One for boil and one for to spill,  
 And one to carry way up the hill.  
 Drip, drip maple tree, have you any sap?  
 Yes, sir, yes sir, three pails a tap.