

HARTLAND COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

March 2019

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away." - Maya Angelou in ExchangeEveryDay

ANNUAL FAMILY SURVEY

An online family survey will be emailed to you in the next few days. All responses are anonymous. Please let Mrs. Harriet know if you'd like a paper version of the survey. Conducting an annual family satisfaction survey is a requirement of our STARS participation. Additionally, we value the opinions and feedback of our school families. It should take only a few minutes to complete, so please consider filling it out promptly, including comments and suggestions for any areas that you give us lower ratings. Any family with more than one child enrolled in the program is welcome to fill out a response for each child enrolled.

AMAZON SMILE

When you order items from Amazon, please consider using Amazon Smile and designate Hartland Cooperative Nursery School as the recipient. This is an easy way for our program to receive some extra funds, at no cost to you. Feel free to encourage friends and family to do the same!

HCNS MITTENS AND SOCKS

As the mitten wearing season begins to draw to a close (hopefully!), please check the mittens that come home in your child's backpack to be sure that HCNS mittens did not accidentally go home. Also, at times we have loaned out some of the Smart Wool socks we keep on hand for children who need them from time to time. The HCNS mittens have HCNS written on the label inside the mittens, and they are either navy blue or black Snowstoppers. The socks are either light green or reddish pink and do not have labels on them. We want to make sure that we have collected the school mittens and socks at the end of the season so that we'll have them for next year's winter needs.

AIDING AND FAMILY PARTICIPATION

Just a friendly reminder about getting in your last few aiding days before school ends. If you haven't gotten in your six extra participation activities please make sure you do so before school ends. If you're not sure on extra things to do please feel free to email Heather White (Co-President and Operations board member) at hcnsboardpresident@gmail.com.

On another note we have some dates coming up that we will need help for. For the VINS field trip on May 1, 2019 we need family chaperones. The Fun Run is Saturday May 18, 2019. More information to follow in the coming months. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE

Our HCNS annual Fun Run will be held on Saturday May 18th. This is held in conjunction with the Hartland Recreation Department's Touch-a-Truck event and some other kid friendly activities. The day's activities run from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We plan to tie dye tee shirts with all classes prior to the event.

MAKE UP SNOW DAY

We have had 3 snow days during our long wintery weather. This means that we will have to make up 1 day so that we'll fulfill our 140 day Act 166 contracts. Unless we have another snow day our final day of school will now be on **Tuesday June 4th**.

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. Upon request we will gladly inform you of the guidelines that must be followed.

HCNS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Hartland Cooperative Nursery School Board Meeting

March 13, 2019 5:30 p.m.

Present: Shawna Pinsonault, Val Raney, Harriet Dumas, Katelyn Holloway, Heather Vonada, Kana Wyman, Heather White, Bethany LaHaye, Katie Nordman

1. Caregiver Feedback:

- A caregiver reported that her family loves the amount of communication (blogs, email, etc) from the school. However, she is concerned by her daughter's frequent reports that she is hit in class by a particular child. This parent would like to know what the protocol is for these events in terms of informing the other child's caregivers. The teachers confirmed that they discuss these events with the other caregivers involved. They also communicated the importance of talking to your child's teachers if your child is reporting conflicts with other kids. Sometimes conflicts can fly under the radar and it's important for teachers to have a full picture of what's going on in order to support behavioral improvements in the classroom.
- A caregiver wanted to know what the protocol is for sending home sick children. Director Harriet Dumas reported that if the kid isn't able to participate in activities or if they are requiring attention from teachers that keeps those teachers from performing other duties, then we call parents and ask them to pick children up. Parents are asked to keep their kids home until at least 24 hours after they have begun medication for infectious illnesses (strep throat, etc), and until the child is able to participate in daily activities.

- A caregiver reported that HCNS has a very good reputation among her friends and colleagues in other towns. People are particularly impressed with our Outside Friday program and would like to begin something similar in their community's preschool program.

2. Approve December Minutes (Jan. and Feb. meetings were canceled due to snow):

Approved.

3. Treasurer's Report:

- Checking account: \$35,266.35
- Savings account: \$14,129.42
- Investment account: \$50,704.17 (this account has earned \$700 since we invested last February).
- We got word from the bank that some of the signatures on file for our accounts are out of date. Treasurer Val Raney is changing the authorized names on file to herself and Heather White (co-President).
- A parent asked what the accounts are for. Val reported that they are for regular operating expenses as well as a rainy-day fund for unexpected expenses.

4. Admissions Report:

- Our current numbers have not changed.
- We presently have 38 children enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year. These include 3 children from the Hartford School District; we didn't have any students from Hartford this year, so we will now be resuming a partnership with the Hartford district. 1 student is enrolled from Windsor Central Supervisory Union (Woodstock area). 34 students are enrolled from Windsor SE Supervisory Union. We are waiting to hear family plans for 4 students who are currently enrolled but who may not be able to attend next year. 2 more families attended the Open House and expressed interest and we are waiting to hear back from them.

5. Director's Report:

- Current Grants- We applied for and received a grant from the Byrne Foundation to pay for enrichment activities (VINS and Lebanon Opera House) for this school year. Harriet sent a thank you note. Last week Harriet applied for another grant to get snowshoes, poles, and snowshoe bags from RiseVT, a state grant fund supporting healthy habits activities. The grant request can be for up to \$1500. We have applied for just short of that amount for snowshoe equipment for a full class plus two teachers.

- Future Grants- The Couch Foundation, which gives grants for a variety of purposes, could be a good source of funding for teacher professional development. CLIF (the Children's Literacy Foundation) also has some community building grants. Anyone who would like to help apply for these grants should contact a teacher or board member- assistance is always welcome!
- Our theater trip to the Lebanon Opera House is planned for March 14. 50 people are scheduled to ride the bus to see the puppet performance of The Very Hungry Caterpillar and other Eric Carle stories.
- We received confirmation from the Butler Bus Company that they will provide transportation for our VINS field trip on May 1.
- Our Vermont STARS renewal application was due 2/6; Harriet submitted materials 2/5. Everything has been okayed for renewal of our 5-star certification except for the Program Practices arena, CLASS category, which was delayed because our observation was rescheduled due to illness. This category includes a preliminary unscored observation with feedback followed by a second scored observation within a year. Our first observation occurred on 2/28. We received helpful, positive feedback from the first observation that will help us plan for the scored observation. As soon as we receive a written report from the assessor we'll write a program improvement plan and submit it to the STARS office, which will complete our renewal at 5 stars. It's important that we follow up with our second observation or we will receive a score of 2 (as opposed to 3) in that category, which will bring our overall score down to 4 stars.
- It's time for the family satisfaction survey. Nikki Raney has agreed to again administrate and summarize the school survey.
- Our Vermont Humanities Council free literacy training has been rescheduled for 3/25 and 4/1. It includes a light supper at 5:30 and free childcare during the program. The program runs from 6-7:45p. Co-president Heather White has volunteered to provide dinner. **Update: There is still room for additional participants in this program - please let Mrs. Harriet know before the first date if you'd like to join us. Free books for your child!**
- A motion passed and was accepted to schedule our make-up day for this winter's extra (over those "alloted") snow day on Tuesday, June 4.
- The Hartland Elementary School (HES) 2019-20 calendar has come out, so we can begin working on our own 2019-2020 calendar (HCNS follows the HES schedule). School this year starts 8/29. Someone noted that the December break goes for over two weeks, which is much longer than the break we had this year.
- We agreed to schedule the 2019-2020 school orientation/open house for the week before school starts in August.

6. Operations Report:

- Co-president Heather White was happy to report that families for the most part are caught up on their classroom aiding responsibilities. We'll add a reminder to the newsletter for families to make sure they've also completed their six extra activities (bringing snack, accompanying a field trip, cleaning, etc). There are more families than weekends to clean, so Heather will check with teachers to see if they have any additional cleaning needs.
- We all agreed that it would be great to create an on-line system for signing up for aiding and other activities.

7. Fundraising Report:

- The Fun Run is scheduled for May 18 from 11a-1p. We appreciate that the Hartland Recreation Center does a good job doing promoting the other activities that day (Touch-a-Truck, etc). The Fun Run has historically been a fundraiser. Last year we gave money to the Girl Scouts (who helped with registration), the Alopecia Foundation in honor of a local child receiving treatment, and to the Hartland Old Home Day Committee. It was suggested that this year we run in support of a child in our community who is in treatment for cancer. Another possible recipient would be the Old Home Day Committee once again. We'll wait until April to start planning for this in earnest. Harriet will put a save-the-date into the newsletter.

8. Other Business

- Delayed starts: We had a lot of delayed starts this year following delayed starts called by the Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union. These are challenging for families for many reasons, including staggered start times for kids at HES and HCNS (when HES has a 2-hour delay, HCNS has only a 1-hour delay). This year there were several late start days because of cold weather, which doesn't affect our students because they aren't walking to or waiting for the bus. The possibility was raised of not having late starts on days that HES delays are for cold.
- Policies and Procedures Committee: Heather Vinada and four other community members have taken on this project. They'll be in touch with the caregiver community as they formulate their plans.
- Job Descriptions & Hiring Committee: Four caregivers and both teachers volunteered to be on this year's hiring committee. We need to hire one lead teacher and one assistant teacher, at least one of whom needs to be licensed by the state. Shawna is in the process of getting her license but the process can take as long as two years. There is a possibility she could get a provisional license, which the administrative team will look into. Harriet has been looking at job ads from other programs to get good language to describe our needs. There are a lot of people hiring for preschool

programs right now so it's important that we get started soon. ***Update: We will need to hire assistant teachers for both classrooms, as Ms Kara has decided not to return for the 2019-2020 school year.***

- Harriet will conduct required reviews of our current teaching staff soon.

**Upcoming Board Meetings
(Second Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.)**

April 10, 2019

May 8, 2019

June 12, 2019

Everyone welcome!

SONGS

Mud

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!

Drip Drip Maple Tree

Drip, drip maple tree,

Have you any sap?

Yes sir, yes sir, three pails a tap.

One for to 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.