



P.O. BOX 97, HARTLAND, VERMONT 05048

## HARTLAND COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 2018

*"Among the things you can give and still keep are your word, a smile, and a grateful heart." Zig Ziglar*

### THANK YOU

**Katelyn Holloway & Heather White** – for coordinating the Columbus Day weekend bake sale

**School Families** – who contributed time and/or baked goods for the bake sale

### OUTDOOR CLOTHING

Colder temperatures have arrived. Please be sure that your child has a jacket or sweatshirt, hat and mittens available each day for outside play. We'd rather have too much clothing than not enough. All clothing should be **labeled with your child's name**. Also, this might be a good time to check to be sure your child has a complete extra set of appropriate seasonal clothing always on hand in his/her backpack. **Remember too** that we **do** plan to go outside on rainy days but this only works well if everyone has appropriate clothing – **boots are essential**; we'll use our Muddy Buddies for the outside rainproof layer.

### MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

**Please do not have medication – prescription, 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. If your child has rescue medication like an inhaler or Epi-pen, we request that you provide the school with an "extra" that can be left in a tote out of reach of children but easily accessible to teachers in the event of an emergency.

### NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS

We have continued to progress in our Second Step social-emotional program, focusing most of this month on building listening, paying attention and focusing skills; and on strategies to help remember directions and where and how to get help. The Foundations literacy program has started and we have introduced a few letters, focusing right now on upper case letters, a word that starts with each letter and the sound the letter makes, while showing the children how both upper and lower case letters are written (they always start at the top!). We had another VINS visit – this time the topic was bats. Did

you know that the biggest bat in the world is called a flying fox because its face is shaped like a fox? The children enjoyed playing a game about bat food, and seeing a real (preserved) bat and a bat skeleton. We had fun field trips to Wellwood Orchard, followed by lots of apple activities. We have been observing signs of fall and have cleaned up and harvested our pumpkins from the Community Garden. We have had our first visits to the Hartland Public Library for story times, and have had staff at Hartland Elementary School come as guest story readers. We have been talking about community helpers and had successful walking field trips to the Hartland Fire Station. This year's fire safety focus is on finding two ways to get out of a room safely. Do you practice fire drills at home with your family? If not, your child will be asking you to do that! By the end of this week all classes will have visited Bly Acres goat farm to meet the more than 30 goats there and to help the goat farmer, Mrs. Sherry to get the farm ready for winter.

## Hartland Cooperative Nursery School Board Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2018 5:30 p.m.

**Present:** Katelyn Holloway, Bethany LaHaye, Heather White, Val Raney, Harriet Dumas, Katie Nordman, Lee Mulloy, Melissa Reynolds, Nikki Raney, Greta Marchesi

### 1. Caregiver Feedback

- A number of parents expressed their appreciation for the weekly e-mails, particularly the information about upcoming activities and the schedule of classroom aides. Some people hadn't been receiving the weekly e-mails from teacher Lee.
- Not everyone is consistently washing hands when they bring their children to school. It's important to make sure we're doing this, especially as the winter flu season is beginning. Perhaps the parent aide could help with the 4Cs students who arrive together via shuttle.
- Some morning parents are concerned about outside Friday with early mornings on cold and rainy days. Last year's parent survey reported that 78% of parents felt that outside Friday was a high priority and a key reason for choosing the school. We talked about ways to make sure kids have a positive experience with their time outside. Mrs. Lee's morning class has been coming in some to warm up. Parents need to make sure to send students with warm outerwear now that the weather is turning. Kids' hands get wet just sweating, so it's good to have a second pair available. Mittens that go to the elbow are especially good for extended outside play. We have some funds to purchase additional outerwear. We'll plan on at least 15 pairs of mittens.

### 2. Approve September Minutes

- Approved.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

- Savings account- \$14125.90  
Checking- \$35134.37.  
Investment account balance- \$52,138.02

- We received our first quarter payments from Windsor Central Supervisory Union.
- The Bake Sale made \$587.50. Thank you to all the bakers and sale volunteers!
- The Treasurer asked if we want to take any monies from checking or savings to add to our investment account. The consensus was that we will wait until January to see if any additional costs come up and then invest it then. Possible costs include monies for aides to support students with behavioral challenges.
- We have some possible grants to apply for. Vermont Birth to 5 has funds available for program development. Val is speaking with Amy Brooks at the Couch Foundation, which is a foundation that wants to help increase enrollment, do professional development, try to meet unmet needs in both public/private/for- and non-profit schools in the Upper Valley. They're also interested in mentorship/apprenticeship programs. It's possible these funds may be dispersed via the Upper Valley Child Care Association. The Byrne Foundation also might provide funds for classroom enrichment. A sub-committee will meet in November to strategize grant applications. Lee suggested the Tinkergarten training program for early childhood outdoor education as a possible avenue for professional development.

#### 4. Admissions Report

- We presently have 43 students: 1 from Woodstock Central Modified Union and 42 from Windsor Supervisory Union. Harriet and Bonnie's AM class has 16 students; Lee and Stacey's AM class has 15 students; and Lee and Bonnie's PM class has 12 students.
- We have 4 children on our waitlist.

#### 5. Director's Report

- Last year we agreed to revisit our tradition of having kids give a gift to the school at Christmas time and taking turns unwrapping presents for their classroom. We agreed to continue the tradition in a way that ensures that all kids are able to fully participate even if their families can't afford a gift to the school. We talked about possible strategies, including switching teachers for the unwrapping and wrapping the other classes presents.
- There's a high school student interested in early education who is working on her senior capstone project at our site. She's a former HCNS student. Currently she comes in twice a week to assist with the PM class and to talk with Lee about planning strategies, communication with parents, etc.
- The teachers would like to do a Paradise Park day in early November on a Friday, weather permitting. Last year students were dropped off and picked up at the Paradise Park parking lot near Mt. Ascutney Hospital and spent the day exploring. We might do something similar at Mount Tom in the spring.

- We have a postcard exchange planned with schools from around the U.S. via a Preschool Facebook group. These have already started arriving. The teachers agreed that this is a nice way to learn geography.

## 6. Operations Report

- Parents need to be reminded to bring snack when they are aiding and not to be on their phones.
- People really need to be aiding! We have a lot of days without aides. There was some discussion as to how to encourage parents to sign up to meet their requirements. As a reminder, all families must contribute 3 classroom aiding days before the December break. You can sign up on the calendar in the classroom or e-mail the teacher directly. Lee lists scheduled aides and days that still need aides in the letter she sends to families each Sunday.

## 7. Fundraising Report

- This year's Bake Sale was very successful, with many caregivers donating baked goods and volunteering for the sale. Each hour contributed by parents counts as a point. Some parents got multiple points. There was some confusion about whether donating baked goods counted for points (it doesn't, but it is deeply appreciated!). Leftovers went to the Listen Center's community dinner. They were very thankful. A few things were donated to the seniors who have their once-a-month dinner at the Hartland Rec Center.

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

November 14, 2018  
 December 12, 2018  
 January 9, 2019  
 February 13, 2019  
 March 13, 2019  
 April 10, 2019  
 May 8, 2019  
 June 12, 2019

**Everyone welcome!**

**SONGS AND FINGER PLAYS**

**Stirring My Brew**

Stirring and stirring and stirring my brew,  
 Oooo-oo, oooo-oo  
 Stirring and stirring and stirring my brew,  
 Oooo-oo, oooo-oo,  
 Tiptoe, tiptoe, tiptoe, BOO!

**Fa-la-la Fall!!**

Rake the leaves so orange and brown,

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la fall!!

Hear them make a crunching sound,

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la fall!!

Pick a pumpkin, wear a sweater,

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la fall!!

Birds fly south to warmer weather,

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la fall!