



P.O. BOX 97, HARTLAND, VERMONT 05048

Hartland Cooperative Nursery School Newsletter

September 2018

“Teaching children about the natural world should be treated as one of the most important events of their lives.”

Thomas Berry in *ExchangeEveryDay*

THANK YOU

Dan Silver – for giving the steps a fresh coat of paint (again!)

Yujin & Emily Silver – for sewing new shelf curtains for both classrooms

Bill Gokey & Casey Dillingham – for spreading lots of wood chips on the playground

Melinda Cass – for shampooing the carpets in both classrooms

School Families - who cleaned toys before the start of school

BAKE SALE CLARIFICATION

Family participation credit may be earned by working (either Friday night October 5 or Saturday October 6) on the bake sale, but not by baking for the bake sale. We hope that you will still consider contributing baked goods in the spirit of the cooperative aspect of our program.

NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCES

When your child will be absent from school please either call the school (802-436-2580) and leave a message on the answering machine if it is before school hours, or text your child’s teacher (phone numbers were in the welcome letter emailed to you in August, or we can provide again if requested). Unless an email is sent a day before the absence we likely will not see the email until after your child’s school day is over.

WATER BOTTLES

Please provide your child with a **filled water bottle** daily, **labeled with your child’s name**. Especially on Fridays, children and teachers are disappointed to find either no water bottle or an empty water bottle during our Outside Friday explorations.

SCHOOL HOURS

Please keep in mind that the **school hours are 8:00 – 11:00 for the morning classes and 12:30 – 3:30 for the afternoon class.** The teachers need the time prior to the start of each session to prepare for the day. We ask that children are **not** dropped off before the respective start times, and that they are picked up at the respective end times.

OUTSIDE FRIDAY CLARIFICATIONS

A couple requests and clarifications after our first two Outside Fridays: Children should wear boots on Outside Friday mornings due to heavy dew. For the afternoons, they may not be necessary unless the teachers have a trip to the brook planned. **Please take your child inside to use the bathroom, and sign your child in before delivering the child to the teachers outside.** At this same time, you should unload some items from backpacks into cubbies. Ask us if you’re not sure what to unload. Some of you have asked why we have the children carry backpacks on Outside Friday. Right now there may only be a water bottle in the backpack. However, clothing that gets shed during our class time, and eventually an extra layer and necessary winter items like an extra pair of mittens will be in the backpacks. If it is raining at the start of an Outside Friday, we’ll have the children put on Muddy Buddies in the classrooms before we head out. And, depending on weather condition, the temperature, and the comfort level of the children, the teachers will use their judgement about whether to return to the classrooms for a portion of the day.

Looking ahead: Waterproof mittens are extremely useful for all winter activities, so if you are getting ready to purchase mittens for the winter, please consider getting waterproof ones.

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS

Children and teachers have been developing classroom routines and forming or strengthening relationships during our first weeks of school. Our themes so far have been Grandparents, All About Me, and Caterpillars and Butterflies. We've been introducing the children to materials and centers in the classrooms. We have started our Second Step social-emotional learning program, had our first of one a month visits from Miss Hannah of VINS (Topic: Butterflies and Moths), and have scheduled apple picking field trips. We will be starting the Foundations (letters and sounds) program right away. The teachers and the children appreciate having family aides in the classrooms whenever possible. Upcoming themes include Apples, Community Helpers, Fire Safety and Fall.

HOPSTOPS

Held in both Hanover and Claremont, NH, children ages 3 and up and their adult companions enjoy free performances designed to entertain and introduce young children to the world of dance, music, theater and storytelling. These performances are participatory, so come ready to sing, dance and clap along—bring the whole family! HopStops are offered throughout the school year, often in conjunction with Visiting Artist performances. HopStops are free and open to the public; no tickets or registration required. For more information, call 603-646-010.

- Unless otherwise noted Hanover HopStops (September -May (no December)) are held in Alumni Hall, located on the second floor of the Hopkins Center (signs are posted). Doors open at 10:30 for an 11:00 show. Seating is limited. Hourly parking is available in the Hanover Parking Garage located on Lebanon Street. Metered parking on the street is also available.
- Claremont HopStops (September – November, March – May) are held at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center at 128 South Street, Claremont. Doors open at 2:30 for a 3:00 show. Seating is limited and on a first come first serve basis. Free parking is offered in the lot right next to the Community Center or at the middle school across the road.

The next HopStop is Jeh Kulu African Drum and Dance Theater on October 20th.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES Hartland Cooperative Nursery School Board Meeting

September 12, 2018 5:30 p.m.

Present: Nikki Raney, Harriet Dumas, Heather White, Bethany LaHaye, Val Raney, Lee Mulloy, Meggan Wehmeyer, Katelyn Holloway, Greta Marchesi, Casey Dillingham, Melinda Cass.

1. Caregiver Feedback

- A caregiver suggested that it would be nice to have a hand-out for parent aides with information on good snacks, how to be helpful, etc. There is a cleaning hand-out for aides already in the classroom and some other material in the handbook; parents suggested cleaning while kids are outside playing in order to finish earlier. Harriet has some material on snacks and will try to circulate something to parents soon (this material was distributed in boxes).
- A caregiver gave a reminder to have CO2 detectors in the house. Hers saved her and her family's lives after a new stove was installed with a faulty part.

2. Approve August Minutes

- Approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

- The school has the following funds:
Checking: \$17,364
Savings: \$14,126
Investment: \$52,019
- Val wrote a grant for field trip funds from Mascoma Savings Bank and received a check for \$1200. This money will support a new summer program that will launch in Summer 2019.
- A couple of really old checks totaling \$81.27 were written by HCNS but never cashed. We are canceling those checks.
- Val asked the town of Hartland if we could move the projected rent increase to July 2019. They said yes. Rent will go up to \$550 in July of next year rather than this month.
- Our last quarter payment from last year didn't come till this year. That gives us a net gain so far this year of \$10,659. We will need to raise \$15,000 this year to cover operating costs.
- Copies of a revised budget are available for the board to approve at the September 26 budget meeting.

3. Admissions Report

- Current enrollment is 43, with 42 students from Windsor SE SU and one from Woodstock Central SU. Harriet and Bonnie's morning class has 16 students (14 boys and 2 girls); Lee and Stacy's morning class has 14 students (12 boys and 2 girls); and Lee and Bonnie's afternoon class has 13 students (5 boys and 8 girls).
- Two people are on the waitlist. We're waiting until the end of September to see how things settle out with dynamics in existing classes.

4. Directors' Report

- The afternoon class has had some behavioral challenges. It is still early in the year and many children are still settling in, so the situation is in flux. The teachers are working with parents and kids to develop effective strategies for improvement and have asked for a class observation from the Family Place. Harriet will help out in the afternoon class on days when there are no aides signed up. The teachers are trying to make sure that kids are having comparable experiences in the different classes with the understanding that lots of different factors (weather, student engagement, parent aides, time of day, etc) can shape how lesson plans unfold in each classroom.
- We have \$3000 budgeted overall for enrichment activities (VINS, Opera House, apple orchard, etc).
- On 9/26 there will be an apple orchard trip. Butler Bus Service will provide a bus for the morning classes but can't do the same for the afternoon class because of their own afternoon bus runs. Parent volunteers will need to do the transport for the afternoon class. Volunteer drivers need to give the school a copy of their driver's licenses and have current registration, inspection, and insurance for their vehicles according to state law. Vehicles also need an emergency first aid kit, which the school can provide. Caregivers can choose to drive their own child without any need for paperwork, etc. Some parent are choosing to simply

do drop-off and pick-up at the orchard, which is near Windsor, which will cut down on need for additional transport. Four Corners Children's Center (4C's) will provide one large vehicle.

- We're going to start this month having the first VINS program. In the past there has been one hour-long program with both classes combined. This year the morning class will split the program into two half-hours - one per class in order to have more manageable group sizes. The afternoon class will have up to a full hour program. VINS staff will come every month of the school year. In May they will either return or we'll take a trip there, with the funds we have already paid going towards the cost of the field trip.
- We'll start bringing students to the Hartland Public Library on the second Tuesday of the month in October. Classes will walk to the library and back across the Recreation Center fields. Volunteer staff readers from Hartland Elementary School will come to read in our classrooms here twice a month.
- The Hartland Wellness Center program has gotten more expensive (\$60 last year versus \$135 this year). The logistics of coordinating morning classes at the Center are also challenging, since Hartland Wellness Center Director Stacey Mello is also employed as assistant teacher in Mrs. Lee's morning class. Another option is to do a similar fitness program outside on-site rather than travelling to the Wellness Center. We need to decide how or whether to proceed with fitness activities. We decided to re-evaluate in the spring.

5. Operations' Report

- Operations are running smoothly. We are missing a few family participation agreement documents from families but these should be in shortly.

6. Other Business

- **"Santa":** HCNS was invited to be a presence at a "Santa event" on Saturday December 8 at Damon Hall. We voted not to participate. The school supports the celebration of religious events but in ways that are inclusive of multiple traditions. It was also agreed that December is a very busy time of year for most families.
- **School Pictures:** The photographer HCNS has used in the past isn't available this year. She gave us some names of other people who are good with kids. Abby Rowlee was recommended as a good option. Pictures will be taken in October. We'll circulate more information when it's available. *(Update: We have found another photographer – Krystal DeCoteau – and have a tentative picture day of October 11th - details to follow as soon as they are available)*
- **October 6 Bake Sale:** We are planning to have a fundraising bake sale October 6 on the Damon Hall lawn. There's another event inside the Hall that day but there won't be a conflict in terms of use of space. We have permission to put up a poster at Damon Hall beginning Sept. 25 and will do so.

Upcoming Board Meetings

(Second Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.)

October 10, 2018

November 14, 2018

December 12, 2018

January 9, 2019

February 13, 2019

March 13, 2019

April 10, 2019

May 8, 2019

June 12, 2019

HOMEMADE PLAY DOUGH RECIPE

This is the recipe we use in the classroom; it keeps really well and the recipe can be easily doubled or tripled.

1 cup flour
½ cup salt
1 cup water
1 Tablespoon oil
1 teaspoon cream of tartar
Food coloring of choice

Cook and stir over moderate heat until mixture forms a ball. When cooked, store in an airtight container or zippered bag.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS

Grandparents

(Tune: Have You Ever Seen a Lassie)

Let's clap our hands for Grandma,
For Grandma, for Grandma,
Let's clap our hands for Grandma,
Let's clap them right now.

Clap this way and that way,
Clap that way and this way.
Let's clap our hands for Grandma,
Let's clap them right now.

Let's stomp our feet for Grandpa,
For Grandpa, for Grandpa.
Let's stomp our feet for Grandpa,
Let's stomp them right now.

Stomp this way and that way,
Stomp that way and this way.
Let's stomp our feet for Grandpa,
Let's stomp them right now.

Let's nod our heads if we love them,
We love them, we love them.
Let's nod our heads if we love them,
Let's nod them right now.

Nod this way and that way,
Nod that way and this way.
Let's nod our heads if we love them,
Let's nod them right now.

Way Up High

Way up high in the apple tree,
Three red apples smiled down at me.

I shook that tree as hard as I could,
Down came the apples,
Mmm, were they good!