

Greenhills Cooperative Preschool

NEWSLETTER

January-February-March 2019

Fun in the New Year!



Administrator notes

We have had a relatively calm few months. Which is nice to report. January found us having our first ever official “Lockdown” that we needed to do. The staff was trained in what we needed to do and all went well. Our biggest problem was that the we were not notified of anything going on outside until a parent came in and told us. I have spoken with the police about this and they now have our phone # and contact information and a refreshed awareness of our school. Two days later we had our unannounced state inspection. That was a bit if a crazy week, but we came through it all with “flying colors.” I am so grateful that they did not both occur on the same day!!

We are working on a system for getting important news out to all of you quickly. Please give us your BEST number to reach you by text message. Our lockdown made us realize that we have several numbers for most families and we want to be able to send out a “blast” to the best number to reach you in case we ever need to be assured that we have reached everyone. Please write the number down, along with your name and we will compile a text list. We have everyone’s email, but it seems like a text might work better. Give this paper to your child’s teacher and we will make sure it gets to our chairperson.

New medical reminders will be going out next week, so please be on the lookout for them. Remember it can take a while to get an appointment for a “well child checkup” so please call your health care provider as soon as you get a reminder.

Please remember to get your registration form for the 2019-2020 year turned in ASAP. We will be having our Open House on January 26th. That is the day we start taking registrations from the community. That means if the class you are interested in is filled on that day and you have not yet turned in your registration form, you are closed out of the class. We would hate to have that happen. We also need your help in advertising for us. If you have not taken a sign for your yard-or someone else that you might know that would be willing to advertise for us in their yard- please sign one out and get it “Planted” for us. THEN, after the Open House, please bring it back to us so that it can be reused at another time.

We will have our Spring Break from March 18-22. We usually have spring break during Easter, but this year Easter is so late, we decided to take a week in March and take a long weekend at Easter. (In April) We will be off the Thursday before Easter and come back to school on the Tuesday after Easter.

I am excited to announce that we have 2 more subs available to us, if we need them. Our amazing Chairperson, Betsey Herzog, and her Mom, Michelle Ahlers, have gone through the mandated training, fingerprinting, background checks, medicals, etc. and they can now be used in ratio with the children. I am so happy to have them available to us when we find ourselves in a pinch for a staff member!

Last Friday was such an amazing evening of wonderful food, fun fellowship and such sweet entertainment! Your children are amazing and so confident! What a great turnout we had! If you were not able to make it to our Family Night Potluck, you missed an incredible evening! Notice all of the exclamation marks? It really was a very fun night. Thank you to Erin Hopster (Addy's Mom in Mrs. Johnson's class) for heading up our Special Events committee. You all did an excellent job! And a huge Thank you to Mr. Stacy Doose, (Mrs. Doose' husband) for the stage and sound system. I really wasn't sure that we would need it, BUT, we did.

I also need to thank Sarah Cooley, (Megan's Mom in Mrs. Curry's class) she has made us the wonderful, washable and re-useable "Swiffer" Pads. They are working out so well on the laminate flooring in the one classroom and also on the mats in the muscle room. I love that we can save a bit of money AND keep a little bit more stuff out of a landfill! We are also now using them in the restrooms at clean up time after school. There is a spray bottle in the "boys" restroom with a cleaning disinfectant solution to spray on the floor. Then use the "Swiffer" pad to mop up the floor. If there is urine all over the place (what?? Kids miss the toilet??) please use a rag and water to mop that up first, before using the spray, etc. I will get some vinyl gloves to keep on that same shelf, help yourself to them is needing to wipe up the floor before disinfecting. The used rags/towels can then be put into the laundry basket that we keep in the muscle room. We store towels and rags in the cabinet under the sink in Mrs. Curry/ Mrs. Johnson's classroom. Thanks for all that all of our parent helpers volunteer to do!

I always look forward to seeing all of you in the hallway at some point during the week. Thanks for being an important part of the Greenhills Co-op!!

Jan Johnson, administrator



Threes' News

Oh my, it is so hard to realize that it is already half way through January. Time does really fly by when you are having fun! We have a busy, sometimes noisy class, but each day is a great adventure. The children are so full of love and each one has so many things to tell us about! We welcomed our new friend Willow to our class at the beginning of January. She is doing so well and we are so glad to be able to get to know her and her family.

We had so much fun going outside to “catch some snowflakes on our tongues” during that beautiful snow fall. A few kids did not have mittens so we did have a few cold fingers, but were only playing in the snow for a few minutes. I have brought in several pairs of mittens and some warm hats for folks to borrow if we are blessed with some more beautiful snowy days. They are on the shelf in the hallway by our coat hooks. **If your child comes home with some that you did not send them to school with, just put them back in the basket next time you are at school.**

We are practicing more and more with scissors. Please encourage them in this skill at home also. We are also noticing a few more children coming in with new haircuts, so have your home scissors practice in a highly observed location. ☺ Cutting skills are so important in the children's life and we are trying to get them to hold them “properly” to make learning to cut more enjoyable (“thumb in the thumb hole, fingers all together. Thumb on top.”). Let them cut out coupons, make millions of snips and collect them in an envelope, cut out pictures from magazine pages, etc.

We will have a day where we talk about what some animals do during the winter. Each child will be bringing home a bird feeder that we will be making that day. Try to hang it up at home and see who/ what comes to eat from it. If you have a camera ready, send in a picture of any of your visitors.

We will end January with a trip to the ocean! I still need to figure out how/where we will be painting that ocean, but that is my next big thing to figure out about our new setting,

February will find us making some fun Valentines for our family. We will also have a “Post Office” set up for dramatic Play. If you have any junk mail envelopes or any unused stickers (we use them for postage stamps, decorations on our letters we are “writing”, etc,) we would be glad to take them off your hands. Our Valentine's Day party is the 14th!

After Valentine's day we will be starting an almost 2 week unit on our 5 senses. Be prepared for some strange things coming home! (Smelly pictures are always a hit)

March will be here before we know it and that will take us all the way to our next conference dates. (I will be doing conferences on Wednesday and Thursday, March 6th and 7th) There will not be class time on the 7th.

I look forward to each day with your children, they teach me so much and we have such a great time together. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for sharing your little one with me. It is great to have all of you with us at the “Co-op”.

Jan

Fours' News

Happy 2019! Can you believe we're over half way through the first month of a new year? We had lots of fun in December as we prepared for the holidays and our Christmas parties and programs. Thanks to everyone who helped with the field trips, parties, etc.

We spent the first weeks of January learning about our five senses. Through our many fun activities (such as making shaker eggs, drawing each other, making a touch collage, and experiencing smell and taste tests) the children gained a better understanding of how important our senses are to our everyday life. We spread peanut butter on bread and poured a glass of water blindfolded to find out how difficult many activities are when you are blind. The children felt a menu from McDonald's written in Braille to see how you can read without seeing, and each one received a copy of their name in Braille. We also talked about deafness, looked at the American Sign Language alphabet, finger-spelled each of their names, and learned how to sign "I love you."

We are spending the last two weeks in January talking about winter. We are having fun making birdfeeders, snow globes, mittens, and snowmen. We are planning to have a great snowball fight! We will be heating up the end of January with Beach Day. On this very special day, we will dance to Beach Boy music, make a sand-and-shell collage, go fishing, and pretend to swim in a pool full of plastic balls. The children should really enjoy taking turns working at the lemonade stand. After all, how often can you have all the lemonade and fish crackers that you want?! Fun will be had by all!

Counting and numbers will begin the month of February. The children will be working on number sheets and looking for numbers in our classroom. We will make valentine surprises for family and friends – and even have our very own classroom post office. Our Valentine's Day party is on the 13th and should be lots of fun! We will have a valentine exchange, games, and a really cool pinata. What fun! During this time we will also be talking about colors and shapes. We want the children to realize that shapes are all around them – in fact, everything has a shape. Have fun with your children looking for geometric shapes in your home and neighborhood environments.

Following our Valentine party, we will have a unit on dinosaurs and fossils. We will pretend to be archeologists and dig in the sand for bones and fossils. We will make fossils and dino cookies and our very own dinosaurs out of shoe boxes. February 27th is our class trip to the Cincinnati Museum Center where we'll see dinosaur bones up close!

We are beginning the month of March talking about "amazing magnets" and all of the fun things we can do with them. We will talk about March wind and make beautiful windsocks. Don't forget about Spring conferences on March 7th and no school on the 8th. We are expecting a "surprise" visit from Lucky the Leprechaun on March 15th. (Do you think he will leave us a pot of gold again this year?)

After our week-long Spring Break, we will begin looking for signs of Spring. We will talk about Spring weather and rainbows and plant some marigold seeds.

Your children are such a delight! They are eager to learn and so proud of their accomplishments. We continue to work on writing our names and cutting – and they are coming along nicely. When we work on our “letter of the week,” they love to come up with words that start with that letter (the longer the better!). They are learning to read and spell each other's names, and they love to keep track of who will be next to take home Buddy Bear. (Just a reminder: We want the words in Buddy's book to be their words. Also, please check Buddy's bag when you are ready to bring him back. Make sure that his clothes, crayons, toothbrush, and notebook are in there with him. Thanks!)

The children are working very hard in their journals, practicing their letters and letter sounds, numbers, and doing theme and season-related activities. Since the beginning of January, we have two additions to our circle time: 1) the special helper gets to play a child-size guitar on our songs; 2) we are learning to say “hello” in 16 different languages (a new one each week for the rest of the year). We are reviewing their addresses, phone numbers, and birthdays, so please be sure to work on these at home periodically.

I am working one-on-one with each child in preparation for our Spring conferences on Thursday, March 7th. (We call these testing times “teddy bear games” because they will receive a teddy bear sticker and hand stamp - and a lollipop - when they are finished.)

I can't believe how fast the year is going! It will soon be Spring! And, hopefully, we will have no more snow days!!!

Co-operatively Yours,
Kathy Curry



Pre-Ks' News

Happy new year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is ready to start 2019 with a bang! Thank you to all for the lovely and very thoughtful gifts, I hope the kids enjoyed their books! The next couple months are going to be very exciting as we prepare to party for all things P! Pirates, princesses, pizza, and pajama party on Thursday, January 31.

LMNOPQ....R! Our first full week of February is when we put our family robot projects on display for the whole school!! The robots can be made with any products or materials but I encourage the whole family to participate! I will be posting ideas from Pinterest on the preschool Facebook page.

The letter "S" means a week spent on learning about snow and ice crystals. I'd like to mention that if we do have snow during the school day, and it is nice enough to go outside, we will make an attempt to enjoy it! So please have the children wear warm clothes on those days. Hopefully, we won't have too much of that stuff keeping us out of school!

I think we can all agree that the first half of the year is broken up with quite a few holidays and breaks. So, you're going to see some steady progress between now and the end of May. As we near the end of the alphabet, We will begin putting sounds together and learning two and three letter words. I look forward to working with each and everyone of you in the classroom and I truly appreciate all your help and encouragement!

January 31st: Pizza Pajama Party! Wear your pajamas to school and make your own pizzas! Pizza and toppings provided.

February 4th: Family Robot Project! Use your imagination - or steal an idea off of Pinterest - and create a robot the whole family can work on! Will put them on display for the whole school to see Monday through Thursday.

February 14th: Valentine's Day party. Sign-up sheet to come.

February 27th: Field trip to Cincinnati Museum Center.

Heidi Doose
poet63@hotmail.com



Fall Fundraising Update

To date our fundraising efforts have raised \$2,121.45! That is almost enough to cover our school supplies for a full year! Thank you so much for supporting our fundraisers and keeping the Co-op affordable!



Here is a review of our profits thus far:

Buddy Card: \$85.00

Entertainment Books: \$348

Yankee Candle Catalog Sale: \$521.20*

Bike-a-thon: \$467

Butter Braid: \$498.75

Usborne Books: \$201.50

*I do not have the results of the Yankee Candle online sales yet as that sale only closed in this month.

For everyone who signed up to participate in fundraising this year (as opposed to those who did the buyout) we will be contacting you soon to let you know your progress toward the fundraising goal.

The plant sale order forms are scheduled to go home January 28, so it's time to look out over your snowy yards and start dreaming of your summer gardens! This year we will once again be offering a beautiful selection of flowers from Blue Ribbon Blooms and vegetables from Cincy Sprouts.

Don't forget to keep selling LaRosa's Buddy Cards!

Thanks again for supporting the Co-op!

Jeanne & Mark Stephens

Fundraising Co-chairs

Special Events

Family Night Potluck was a wonderful evening! Thank you to everyone that brought in food, shared a talent (you were amazing), and helped with set-up and clean-up. If you missed it this year, be sure to join us next year, we had a lot of FUN!

Upcoming Special Events in the Spring will be Bunny Brunch and our Mother's Day Brunch - so keep your eyes open for information on those fun days. We are in need of a volunteer to be our Easter Bunny for our class parties. If you would like to help out, please contact me at (513) 240-8190 or ehopster91@gmail.com.



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

January:

22nd: Registration begins for past families

26th: Open House- Open enrollment

28th: Plant sale order forms out

February:

18th: Presidents Day- NO SCHOOL

March:

7th & 8th: Spring Conferences NO CLASSES

18th-22nd: Monday-Friday) Spring Break NO CLASSES

25th: School resumes