



## Co-Operatively Yours

Jan Johnson, Administrator

We have had a very uneventful opening to our 2020-21 school year! Much to my surprise there have been very few tears, missed parents, etc. Maybe EVERYONE is glad to be back to a little bit of “normal?”

It is also amazing to me that the little ones are all doing so well with the masks. Hats off to all of you parents that have been encouraging all of the little ones to help keep everyone safer. This is all so different for all of us!

It is so wonderful to have so many new families with us this year and our very dear returning families. You are all our best source of advertising, so please let your friends and neighbors know about us! It was fun getting to see so many of you at Parent’s Night and our fun Popsicle Night! The kids seemed to have a blast! Nice to see the children having so much fun together.

Our next big event will be the Bike-a-Thon on October 14<sup>th</sup>. We encourage all of the families to come enjoy the experience of watching the kids have fun and also practice bike safety at the same time. Firefighter Julie and Officer Rebecca are so spectacular with the kids and are such a blessing to us! **Please remember to bring the bike helmets along with the riding toys.**

I have a huge **Thank You** to all of you that have been so generous in helping us get a good supply of cleaning items! Right now we seem to be in pretty good shape with disinfecting wipes, alcohol, Clorox, etc. I will let everyone know if our supplies start getting low.

Another **Thank You** goes to Mary Hoffmann, J.R. Meister’s Great Aunt. She has donated a large stack of Halloween snack plates and some Christmas decorations to our collection. The children will enjoy them!

Another **Thank You** to Pattie Asebrook. (Lucy’s Mom in my Monday-Wednesday class) She has volunteered to take over the Scholastic Book program!

I hope that you are going through all of the school bags when the children get home. ( We are trying to train you for when the little ones head off to “big school” ☺). You might find leftover snacks, wonderful paintings and other artwork and also some very important notes from the teachers or myself as administrator or board members (medical reminders, permission slips, scholastic order forms, fundraising info, etc.). These last items will always be pinned to the outside of the bags.

More information will be coming home soon about Pumpkin Night, Halloween parties and conferences in November. So please be on the lookout for all of these. Thank you for choosing to send your beautiful children to the Greenhills Co-op! We are all so glad to welcome you to our family!

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# Messages From Your Teachers



## The Threes' Classroom

Jan Johnson

I am enjoying getting to know and love all of “my” new little ones! I love the fact that I get to know the younger siblings of some of my past students, but I have been at the Co-op long enough that I have the great honor of having children of some of my past students!! I feel so much love for all of you that have entrusted me with so many little people to get to know and love! THANK YOU!

We are having a great time getting to know each other in so many ways. We are learning how to use our words to let friends know we would like to use something that they may be using, that we each are very special in our own ways. Also, we are growing and learning many new things, like listening to each other and the grown-ups, how to sit quietly for a little while for stories, songs, etc. And, how to help each other at clean-up time. (one of the harder things to learn, sometimes ☺)



October will find us having fun with lots of fall activities. Learning about different types of apples, different types of community helpers, what animals need to do to get ready for winter and Halloween traditions! So many things are going on at Preschool! We all work hard to try to help each child meet social, emotional and academic milestones as they go through our program. If you ever have any questions about what or why we are doing something, please feel free to talk with me.

Thank you again for joining us and I am looking forward to a great year!

PS: Check out the fun playdough recipe included in the newsletter!



## The Fours' Classroom

Kathy Curry



Well, another year has begun and we would like to welcome you to the Fours' program. We are looking forward to working with and getting to know your children and your whole family, as the year goes on. We really weren't sure what to expect - with masks and "distancing" and new protocols, but the children - and parents - are doing very well! We have gotten off to a great start, as the children are making new friends and becoming reacquainted with old ones.

During the month of September, the Fours have spent time learning about themselves and talking about what makes each of them unique and special. We made face cookies for snack, began our journals, began our individual photo albums, worked on our "All About Me" posters, and even had our bodies traced for a class portrait. On Teddy Bear Day we all brought our bears to school. We had lots of fun together - and the bears were very well behaved.

We spent the last week of September having fun with apples. Our activities included an apple tasting contest, making Apple Crunch, (which was a big hit with the kids and adults!) and making a very cool apple tree using coffee grounds for bark. (We know many of you coffee lovers will enjoy "sniffing" that bark!). We also began working with letters and letter sounds (we introduce one letter per week.) The children will have fun trying to think of words that start with the letter of the week. (We discovered that three of our classmates have names that start with the letter "A" - Ava, Avery, and Addy!)

We will spend the second week of October talking about fire safety and prevention, and the proper use of "911". The children will enjoy dressing up in firefighter clothes at school. We will have some volunteer firefighters from the Greenhills Fire Station visit us on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. The kids will get to practice fire safety, sit in a fire truck, and squirt a fire hose. It is a really fun time and we hope all of the children will be able to participate!

On October 14<sup>th</sup> we will have our third annual Bike-a-thon in our church parking lot - after a lesson on bicycle safety by Officer Rebecca. We are hoping that all the children will participate and have lots of fun raising some extra funds for our school. Information will be going out very soon to explain the event. If you have any questions, feel free to ask. And please pray for good weather!

During the month of October, we will be discussing Autumn and its many changes. We will enjoy cooler weather, and be on the lookout for busy squirrels and beautiful fall leaves. (We will write some very cute stories about our good friends, the mysterious leaf creatures, so check them out in the hallway.) We will be doing lots of fun things with pumpkins, too. Along with Autumn come the many activities of Halloween. We will have Pumpkin Night with Dad on Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, and we really hope that all of our dads can make it (a

grandpa or uncle or mom could fill in, if necessary. And we provide the pumpkins!) Our Halloween party and parade will be on Friday, October 30th. Watch for more information on all of these events.

Also, please note that Fall Conferences will be held on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, with no school on the 13<sup>th</sup>.)

As the weather changes and it becomes cooler outside, please dress your child according to the weather. We will be going outside whenever possible. Thank you!

And, thank you for sharing your precious little ones with us. We are enjoying working with each one of them and watching them grow!



### **Play Dough Recipe from Mrs.Johnson’s Class**

(originally from Discovery Toys)

- \*1 cup of flour
- \*1 cup of water
- \*1 Tbsp of vegetable oil
- \*½ cup of salt
- \*1 tsp of cream of tartar
- \*Food coloring (or unsweetened kool-aid packet for scent)

Mix all dry ingredients together in a pan, add the liquid ingredients. Stir it all together. Cook on medium heat (stirring almost constantly) until mixture pulls away from the sides of the pan and becomes like playdough in consistency. Knead the dough until it is completely cool. Store in a sealed container. (It can be kept for months)

### **Fours’ Recipe for Apple Crunch by Mrs.Curry**

- \*Graham Crackers
- \*Melted butter
- \*Applesauce
- \*Cinnamon
- \*Sugar
- \*Muffin pan or baking dish

Mix graham cracker crumbs with melted butter and press into the bottom of a baking dish or pan. Add a layer of applesauce and then a layer of cinnamon and sugar. Repeat as desired. Heat in a warm oven and serve immediately! Yummy!

### **Caramel Fondue by Mrs.Gaige**

- \* 1 pkg. (14 oz.) caramels
- \*2/3 cup light cream
- \*½ cup miniature marshmallow

Put cream and caramels into a pot on low. Add marshmallows. Add more cream if too thick. Serve with apple chunks. Great around Halloween!

### **Mrs.Curry’s Circle Song**

Put a smile upon your face, let’s hear you whistle (whistle).  
Put a smile upon your face, let’s hear you sing (la la la).  
Put a smile upon your face, and clap your hands (clap).  
What a lovely way to start each day, with a smile upon your face!  
(Sing it again!)



## Messages From The Board Members



### Familiar Faces!

Bonnie Titus, Secretary

We have been so fortunate over the years to have a school board that has relatively steady membership. Some of our members left only to come back again (couldn't stay away!) and others have shifted responsibilities around. This, to me, is the heart of our little co-op. Even as our children move through the program and on to Kindergarten we still are a part of the GHCP family. It is less serving on a board and more like helping out in the family business. I can think of no better example of this long-term relationship than Janet Steele, our new Fundraising Chair.

Janet's children are co-op alumni (her daughter Katie was in Mrs. Gaige's class and her son Kevin was in Mrs. Curry's class) and now her granddaughter Cassia has started her education this year with Mrs. Johnson. Between her children's enrollment and Cassia's, Janet had remained as the Co-Op's liaison with Greenhill Community Church Presbyterian before our move last year. We are so excited that she's back and on our board. Welcome back, Janet!

Also returning to us this year are Shelli Hoffman for Treasurer (not pictured, sadly!), Jeanne Stephens for Advertising, Tara Bray-Ellerbee and Erin Hopster for Special Events, Betsey Herzog for Chairman, Katie Barber for Housekeeping and myself for Secretary. What another wonderful year to spend together and with all of you!

### Upcoming Fundraisers

Janet Steel, Fundraising Chair

There are several fundraisers planned for the fall. The Bike-a-Thon returns in October, Butter Braid pastries are on sale in late October for a November delivery and the Usborne Book Fair is scheduled for the first week in November. Butter Braids has agreed to bump our per-braid profit to \$5.60 because we waived the incentive program this year to compensate for a decreased enrollment. Profit from these fundraisers counts toward your family's fundraising goal of \$130.00 per student plus \$75.00 for each additional child enrolled.

There are two additional fundraising opportunities that run throughout the year. The first is the ever-popular Buddy Card program. Each card sells for \$10.00 and the profit to the Co-op is \$5.00 which counts toward your fundraising goal. These cards make great

stocking stuffer or hostess gifts. The second opportunity is to register your Kroger Community Rewards card with the Co-op – the school's number is **UG856**. Unfortunately, we cannot track individual contributions, but every time you shop at Kroger and use your Rewards card the Co-op benefits.

Look for more information on these fundraisers as the year progresses. If you have any suggestions for additional fundraises, please let me know!

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