



SWEET PCEL NEWS

Vol. 19, 2008

January/February, 2009

Newsletter of the PARENT COOPERATIVE FOR EARLY LEARNING

Dear PCEL Families,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We have a lot of new and exciting activities planned for this year. Please take time to look around the school to see all the great activities that the children are engaged in. The staff is doing a great job with children, while learning and implementing the new early childhood standards developed by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Please send your parent survey back as soon as possible. Parents, I will need you by responding to letter and sending the information we need from you as soon as possible. We are busy working on becoming re-accredited by NAEYC. If you have any extra time, I need some support in the office and naptime for staff meetings. Please see Monica if you can volunteer anytime.

We need you on the Parent Coop Board of Director's. Any parent who wants to join the board should feel free to apply. There are some open spaces on the board at this point. The board makes school policy, defines the yearly budget each spring, and consults with the director and staff on the running of the school. If you want to have more input running Parent Coop or if you want to understand early childhood education more thoroughly, please consider joining the board. You also get four credits for each board meeting you attend, and the company is great!

Monica Foster
Director

EVENTS CALENDAR

January

1/1-2 – New Years Day - NO SCHOOL

1/5 – School Re-opens, Operation Piggy Bank Begins

1/15 –Board Meeting, 6:15 pm

1/19 – M.L. King Birthday - NO SCHOOL

1/30 - Staff In-Service CAEYC

February

2/16 – President's Day - NO SCHOOL

2/19 – Board Meeting, 6:15 pm

2/27 – Parent Teacher Conferences - NO SCHOOL - Please look for sign up in your child's class

TBA – Family Outing

March

3/19 – Family Potluck/General Meeting/Family Jam with Marsha, 6:15 pm

3/20 – Summer Contracts Due

Dates are subject to change

THE EXPLORERS ROOM

Happy New Year Explorer Families!

We are already off to a great start to '09, especially since we now have 8 friends who are having great potty training success! We know that many of you are eager to be next in line for potty training. Our goal is to have everyone diaper free by the summer. We are finalizing our training schedule that we will share with you all soon. Just a reminder that we still use wipes while patty training so please continue to check your child's supplies.

We would like to congratulate Joshua Carter's family on the birth of Kylie, and Carly Crudup's family on the birth of Caden. We would also like to welcome Robbie Berks, our newest explorer!

January Themes

Exploring the animals, people, and places of our global community

January Birthdays

Lily Hundley, Jan. 6
Aden Mourillion, Jan. 19

February Themes

Exploring the animals, people and places of Africa

Over the next few months as we explore multiple global communities we would love parent's to sign-up to come in and show us how to cook a favorite traditional dish, read stories, or share with us any artifacts or pictures you may have.

Explorers Team
Alix, Angi and Dot

IMAGINATION STATION

We came back from our winter break rested and ready to begin the New Year.

We are working on the Alphabet Show and Tell each week. The children are beginning to understand that what they are holding in their hand has something to do with the letter posted in our room.

We made handprints of the color of ourselves. We celebrated the many colors of ourselves for the Martin Luther King holiday. It will be posted in the hall.

We brought the TV into our room and with the Discovery Room, watched the swearing in and the speech of our new President. All the children cheered. It was quite fun.

In February, we will celebrate the Chinese New Year, Mardi Gras, President's Day and Valentines Day. We will have a good time.

We have some Amish starter dough. We will make some bread and pass it to the Explorers Room and they will make it and pass it to the Discovery Room. We will give starter bread dough to 3 parents to make and pass on.

We are growing and moving forward each day. We are learning independence and self-control everyday.

Imagination Station Team
Babs, Tracy and Stacey

Class Pictures

Please come by the office during the first week of February to see the pictures and place your order. The cost of the picture will be \$10. Please make check payable to PCEL or Parent Cooperative.

HELLO EVERYBODY

from Marsha's Music Together!

I was at the school today, 1/22/09, and had a wonderful time with all your children! We are nearing the end of the first session with the Bongos collection and the children have some clear favorites. First, the **Hello Song** must be the all-time favorite.

They never tire of being sung to individually and to singing to various things in the room or their lives! We sing to Mommys and Daddys at work, grandmas, grandpas, siblings, cousins--it's great! This week, a child in each classroom requested **Down Under** (we haven't done it since December) and all three classes were giddy with excitement. Not only did they all know it and participate but we also did it REALLY fast and REALLY slow and some were laughing so hard they couldn't chant. Ask your child about **Down Under** and see if they will do it for you! We have had conga lines with **Palo Palo**--its amazing to see the dancing and the different ways to shake the mini maracas.

Another favorite is **Open and Shut Them**. The children love the pause with "open up your little mouth" and then "do not let them in" and we cover our mouths! The playalong with all the instruments is always a big hit but today I brought in the kitchen "instruments" and we jammed to **City Blues** which seems to be all the teachers' favorite! It is a toss up between the two lullaby songs: some love **My Bonnie** and some love **Sleepyhead** but all of them love to lie down on the rug with their friends and relax right before we sing the **Goodbye Song**. The children then try to wait for their name so they can give me a hug or shake my hand or both! What is wonderful to see at this point in the year is that all the children know our musical routines but they also love to improvise and play with the songs they know--this is a real indicator of musical learning!

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DISCOVERY ROOM

January

Welcome Back Everyone and Happy New Year. We hope everyone had a nice holiday break and are ready to go. Our themes for the month of January are:

Jan. 5-8 - Numbers
Jan. 12-15- MLK Jr.
Jan. 14-23 - Space
Jan. 26-30 - Winter

Remember, Wednesday and Thursday are Dance with Lisa and Music with Marsha. We are at day 66 in our 100 days of school count.

Happy Birthday to all our January Birthdays. As always please make sure your child has change of clothes in cubby and check folders daily. We welcome Amy Whitaker and family to the Discovery Room. Thank you everyone for the wonderful Christmas gifts!

February

Come on spring we are now in the month of February and our themes are

Feb. 2-6 - BLK History
Feb. 9-13 - Valentine
Feb. 16-20 - Careers
Feb. 23-27 - Time

We are at day 75 in our count to 100 days of school. Look in class for sign-up sheets for Valentine's Day Party and for Parent/Teacher conference. Happy Birthday to all our February Birthdays.

Discovery Room Team

Charlotte and Jackie

HELLO

from Marsha's Music Together
..... continued

We have two more weeks of the Bongos Collection and then we will be starting on the new music, the Bells Collection. I know most of your children were scheduled to be in class on the Thursday mornings, but a few have missed the majority of the classes. But, I do want you to know that due to rescheduling of the day from time to time (and changes in individual family schedules) all of the children who do not see me regularly have participated in the Music Together class at least two times, and some of them half the time. However, I am going to switch to Monday mornings in an attempt to get even more of the children! The first day of the Bells Collection is **Monday, February 9, 2009**. As with the first collection, I will send home the CD only if the family has paid for the materials. Initially the books will remain in the classroom so that the children can use them each week. Then, they will come home 6-7 weeks later.

Payments:

If you paid in full in the fall (\$80), you do not need to do anything more. If you paid for half in the fall (\$40), you now owe \$40 for the Bells Collection. I will put reminders in your child's cubby. If you are a new family, I will put the original letter in your child's cubby so that you can understand what we are doing. You will only be paying for half the year which is \$40. Payment is due by February 9, 2009. Please make out your check to Marsha's Music, Inc.

There are several families who have not paid at all. You now owe \$80 for both sets of materials. Please be courteous and send the money to the school as soon as possible. I have already paid for all the materials. Thank you very much.

FAMILY JAM at the POTLUCK!

We will have a Family Jam Session at the Potluck Dinner on March 19, 2009. I hope that all of you will come and participate with your children and with the school community. This is always so much fun! We will sing, dance and play some of the instruments and do your children's favorites songs. I know you will enjoy seeing what your children do musically and doing it yourself. I hope to make music with all of you there!

Happy New Year,
Marsha Melsheimer, Director
Marsha's Music Together
(773) 288-3815
marsha@marshasmusic.com

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent Teacher conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, February 27th. Please sign up for a conference time in your child's room.

Special Thanks

The staff appreciate all the gifts and kindness that was showed towards us during the Holiday Season.

Thanks so much!

JOIN A COMMITTEE

Looking for a fun way to earn credits? Then join a board committee!

- The Parent Involvement Committee plans three key events each year: Halloween Party, Family Field Trip Day, and Teacher Appreciation Week. If you have ideas about what we can do to make these events even more memorable, then join us! Contact Monica for more information.

- The Fundraising Committee is looking for creative and innovative parents who are interested in helping the school earn extra money.

- Buildings and Grounds needs you too!