



SWEET PCEL NEWS

Vol. 20, 2009

March/April, 2009

Newsletter of the PARENT COOPERATIVE FOR EARLY LEARNING

Dear PCEL Families,

I hope this letter finds you doing well. The children are having a great time in the classroom. I see them involved in so many great activities. Spring is around the corner and we are patiently waiting.

I want to inform all parents that we are creating and implementing new policies and procedures from the NAEYC Accreditation standards. Please read and follow the new policies and procedures that we give to you. We are also busy implementing the new NAEYC standards school wide and in each classroom.

Thank you for returning the parent evaluation forms. You will see an improvement plan based on the completed forms that we received from you. We want to improve our services to our families. The staff is planning many great activities for the children.

The parent teacher conferences went well. If you have not met with your child's teacher, you need to set up an appointment with them.

The Hyde Park Herald did a story on the PCEL in the March 18th issue. As of March 31, 2009 our new cook, Ms. Mary, will join our staff. Please stop by to say hi and introduce yourself.

Monica Foster
Director

Open House

The Spring Open House is Saturday, April 25, 2009, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. Please spread the word and tell your friends. We will have fliers that you can put up in your library, place of work, etc. Thank you.

EVENTS CALENDAR

March

3/23 – Summer Contracts Sent Out

3/26 – Pizza and Salad Dinner/Family Jam with Marsha's Music, 6:15 pm

April

4/10-13 – Spring Break – NO SCHOOL

4/17 – Summer Contracts Due Back

4/17-19 – Spring Cleaning

4/25 – Open House, 10 am - 1 pm

4/30 – Board Meeting, 6:15 pm

May

5/4-8 – National Teachers Appreciation Week

5/21 – General Meeting, 6:15 pm

5/22 – Fall Contracts Sent Out

5/25 – Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL

TBA – Annual Fundraising Event

Dates are subject to change

JOIN THE FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

The Fundraising Committee is looking for creative and innovative parents who are interested in helping the school earn extra money. Please see Monica if you are interested.

THE EXPLORERS ROOM

March/April News

Happy Birthday to:

Trey: March 3

Noah: March 12

Scott: March 24

Evani: April 14

Adrienne: April 28

The Explorers Room is all a buzz about Africa! All day long, in the block area, at the snack table, in the bathroom, we hear them talking about Africa! It is so exciting to see them so interested in this topic, and we are looking forward to all that March's Voyage to Asia will bring. Please don't be shy if you have something about Asia you can share with us.

We would like to thank Chloe's Aunt Joy again for spending the morning with us. If you haven't had an opportunity to see the Explorer's Kente cloth she made with us, please do! It is hanging on the door to the observation room.

In April we will travel to Europe and will also focus on spring and environmental awareness.

As it gets warmer, please take some time to take winter clothing out of your child's cubby and please remember to keep checking their personal supplies (i.e. Kleenex and wipes).

Explorers Team
Alix, Angi and Dot

IMAGINATION STATION

March and April

We said goodbye to Danny. He went back to China for a long visit with Grandparents. Omri leaves us for Oak Brook. It is the middle of March. We are continuing with the Show and Tell Alphabet. This week we are on the letter P. We are going to have a Pajama Party and eat popcorn, watch Pinocchio, and have a snack of punch and potato chips. Later, when we land on S and T, we will make string art and eat S'mores and make tube art, talk on our telephones, eat tomatoes, and watch Toy Story.

The weather seems to be breaking. The more we can be outside, the better we all feel, working off a lot of pent up energy.

We had such a wonderful time with Nelson Gil. What a treat! He came and sang to the whole school. We all met in the Explorers Room. The high point was the limbo with children and teachers.

We will color eggs and have an egg hunt, after which we will have a little party.

We are closed on Friday, April 10th and Monday, April 13th.

Now that the weather has changed, PLEASE make sure your children dress in layers for outside. It is cooler and windy here, because of the lake.

Have a happy spring! We will celebrate spring at the end of March.

Imagination Station Team
Babs, Tracy and Stacey

Website News

Our Webmaster, Jeannie, is looking for someone to take over website duties this summer, when her son Nicholas graduates from PCEL to Kindergarten. Time commitment is only about 1 hour per month (for which you earn credits), and can be done from home. Must have a computer, internet connection, and at least a smidge of HTML or website knowledge. Training provided. Contact Jeannie at webmaster@parentcoop.org.

We're still looking for photos for the PCEL website. Send your electronic photos to webmaster@parentcoop.org. Thanks!

New Policy for Exclusion of Sick Children

Plan to exclude child promptly if vaccine-preventable disease occurs.

- 1) Identify and implement appropriate isolation precautions. Isolation types: Airborne, contact, droplet, strict. Use personal protective equipment: gloves, gowns, masks (including N95 masks), hand sanitizers, i.e. Purell.
- 2) Designated area until child is excluded/removed from program.
- 3) Parents/legal guardians contacted to pick up child.
- 4) Alternative plans if #3 not done within specified time period. Contact emergency pick-up designated persons if no contact is made with immediate care-takers (parents/legal guardians) or get immediate attention (911 – emergency medical response team) if necessary.
- 5) Communicable disease exposure form sent out to parents of children exposed.

DISCOVERY ROOM

Hello from the Discovery Room!

March

We are thinking spring in the Discovery Room. Our themes for the month of March are:

- 2-6 – Transportation
- 9-13 – St. Patrick's Day
- 16-20 – SPRING
- 23-27 – Teeth

As the spring like weather approaches, we will be spending more time outside, so make sure your child is dressed for outside weather. Also, please check cubbies and make sure your child has a change of clothes (socks, underwear, shirt, pants, etc.) Accidents happen.

March 12th we reached our 100th Day of School!!! Friends had fun bringing in 100 of something to glue to paper.

Happy Birthday to all our March Birthdays and Happy St. Patrick's Day.

April

Spring is here, and we are loving it! Our themes for the month of April are:

- 1-3 – Easter
- 6-10 – Easter cont.
- 13-17 – Zoo Animals
- 20-24 – Farm Animals
- 27-30 – Pets

Please make sure cubbies are clean at the end of the day – NO FOOD!

Happy Birthday to all our April Birthdays.

Remember school is closed April 10th and 13th.

Discovery Room Team
Charlotte and Jackie

Mission Statement

Parent Cooperative for Early Learning is a full-day year-round preschool, serving families who require care for their children. We are a multicultural community, organized as a cooperative, jointly owned by the families and professional staff. Parent Co-op is a partnership among the families, the teachers and the community, attending to the social-emotional, physical and cognitive needs of our growing children with a curriculum grounded in our teachers' knowledge of what is developmentally appropriate.

We depend upon one another in order for the school to function smoothly. We value our diversity, family atmosphere and the opportunities our children have to create, think and problem-solve, work and play cooperatively. Our children develop confidence through mastery and experience trust in a safe environment

Volunteer Alert

Parents, we are recruiting a volunteer or two to take over the layout and production of the PCEL Newsletter beginning this fall. Lulu Claude will be going to kindergarten and taking our current newsletter volunteer with her. Please see Monica or email Irene (izc@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested. Thank you in advance.

PIZZA AND SALAD DINNER/FAMILY JAM

We will have a Pizza and Salad Dinner/Family Jam Session on March 26, 2009. The cost is \$5 per person. Marsha will have a sing-a-long with parents and children. Please sign up in your child's room.

MORNING AND EVENING CHECKLISTS

AM Checklist

- * If my child is not coming to PCEL today, did I phone to let teachers know?
- * Did I sign my child in?
- * If my child needs medicine today, did I alert the teachers on the sign-in sheet?
 - Write instructions on the form in the office?
 - Put the medicine in the office or kitchen refrigerator?
- * Am I sure a teacher knows my child is here?
- * Does my child have a supply of extra clothes in case of an accident?
 - Outerwear for today's weather?
- * What does he/she need for show and tell?
- * Is my child going on a field trip? Where?
- * Have I checked the cubby for notes, news, invitations, etc. ?
 - The classroom boards for news?
 - The hall boards for needs and news?

PM Checklist

- * Have I checked my child's cubby for artwork, notes, news, wet clothing?
- * Is there a special event tomorrow?
- * What does my child need?
- * Is there a meeting tomorrow?
- * Have I read the daily report (Explorers)?
- * Have I read the front hall boards?
- * Have I picked up my child's medicine?
- * Have I signed out?
- * Does a teacher know my child is leaving?

Spring Cleaning Week April 17-19, 2009

Please sign up in your child's classroom.

On Becoming a Parent at PCEL

The Parent Cooperative for Early Learning, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation, which is collectively owned by our parents, who share the common interests of the care and the social, emotional, physical and intellectual development of our children, as well as the smooth and efficient functioning of the corporation. All parents who enroll their children are members of the corporation. Membership is also extended to the professional staff who are entrusted with the daily responsibility for our children and for the day-to-day management of the corporation.

The Cooperative functions on a high degree of involvement from our parents and strong supportive roles from our staff. Parents participate in activities ranging from Board and committee participation, fundraising and donation of equipment to laundering of sheets, making a classroom presentation or going on field trips. The partnership is essential for the organization to carry out its mission.

Become a PCEL Board Member!

The PCEL Board needs you! All parents are eligible to run for the board and are welcome to do so. The only qualifications are a desire to help run the school and to make your voice a strong one in school decisions. Among its many duties are supporting the director and staff in running the school, making policy decisions, organizing various committees and devising yearly budgets. If you would like to be considered for board membership and need more information, please see Monica Foster or one of the current board members.