



Pointing the Way

October 2009



A Publication of Fishers Pointe Cooperative Preschool

Calendar of Events

October

- 12 - Board Meeting @7pm
- 14 - "Getting to know FPCP" @7pm
- 15/16 - Lions' Club Vision Screening
- 20 - Parent Ed: Classroom Conflict @7pm
- 27 - Fall Break Begins

November

- 4 - Parent Ed: Raising Grateful Children @7pm
- 9 - Board Meeting @7pm
- 17 - Parent Ed: Nutrition for Kids @7pm
- 25 - Thanksgiving Break begins

President's Prose

We've made it through the first month of preschool, and we are off to a great start! Many of our new families completed Classroom Participation Training last week, and we hope you all feel prepared and confident. A second CPT session will be held October 5th and 6th for those of you who were unable to attend the first one. We'd like to thank our New Member Liaison, Annie Liner, for doing a wonderful job of coordinating CPT!

We would also like to thank our Parent Education Chair, Courtney Floyd, for her hard work setting up our CPR and First Aid classes this month, and for planning an excellent Parent Ed schedule for the year. For more information on upcoming events and how to earn Parent Ed credits, see Courtney's article inside.

If you're still figuring out where items are located in the classrooms, or wondering why we do certain things, then be sure to join us on Wednesday, October 14th at 7 p.m. in the Upper Room. Meredith and Rachel will lead a casual conversation about our Policies and Procedures, and we'll walk through the classrooms to show you where things are stored. Please feel free to bring your kids, and also bring any questions you may have!

Here are a few important reminders for you: We will **not** have school on Friday, October 23. Our Fall Festival has been moved to Saturday, October 17th at 4PM, at 5740 E. 156th Street in Noblesville, IN 46062. Please bring your whole family and join us for fun activities, a hayride, and food! Also, Fall Break will take place October 26 – 30. FPCP will be closed. Whether you're staying home or traveling, we wish you a safe and enjoyable week.

We hope that all of our FPCP parents are enjoying preschool as much as the children are. Please remember that if you ever have any questions or concerns, we are always here to help you!

Cooperatively,

Rachel Byrne
Panda Mom to Eric

Meredith Pfligenstofer
Panda Mom to Meghan

Birthdays & Notes

Teddies

Ashely H. 10/16
Emma G 10/26

Koalas

Taylor G. 10/28

Bears

Welcome Harry Family

Pandas

Hunter H. 10/6
Eric B. 10/10

UPDATE FOR NEWSLETTER

We are going to be making a change starting with next month's newsletter. We will be sending it out electronically instead of printing paper copies. This change will save the school some money as well as being more environmentally friendly. If you wish to continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please let Anthony know by email at gerardot_anthony@hotmail.com.

Welcome to Fishers Pointe

I wanted to welcome all new and returning members to Fishers Pointe Cooperative Preschool. My name is Joscelyn Moore and my role with the school is as an Ambassador. I hope to help any new members and mid-year new members feel welcome and a part of the school and community. Any questions you might have about anything please feel free to contact me. I am at the school on Mondays and Thursdays. Email cmoore0518@gmail.com or 845-1599. This is my third year with the school and it has been a wonderful experience for my children and myself.

I also hope to start up some interest groups or clubs. If you have any suggestions or thoughts about this please let me know. I hope we can all get to know each other better and gain new friendships along with our children.

Joscelyn Moore
Koala Mom to Marissa

Teddies & Koalas

What a fantastic start to the school year! Tiny Teddies and cute Koalas have rocked my world! On Mondays and Thursdays it's a girl's world, with 11 girls and 3 very sweet boys. On Tuesdays and Fridays it's all about the boys, nine in fact, and 3 darling girls. So far my school days have been pink & glittery or all about trucks & cars depending what day of the week it is!

Memories of my first days will include watching the Teddies trying to eat yogurt out of the squeeze tubes. Squeezing and getting the open end in our mouths at the same time was quite an adventure. We had many Teddies with yogurt all over their hands, on their chins, *on* their tummies and *in* their laps. But they stuck with it and managed to have a yummy snack! I quickly discovered if it involves cars it involves a pack of Teddies. Or do Teddies flock or maybe they herd or are they a team? Hummm? Anyway these Teddies love cars and ramps, cars and play dough, cars and roads, cars and blocks, cars and rice andcars and shaving cream! Zoom, zooom

My Koalas know how to make Mrs. B. happy. They built me a house, complete with hard wood floors, a zoo and a restaurant! They didn't stop there, they've also dressed all the babies, painted overflow pictures and created endless art of glue and spangles (aka specials...wink, wink Pandas). Snack seems to be an important part of the day for the Koalas too. The kids don't care so much about what we are having for snack but when will we have it!

October will bring our first annual FPCP Camping Trip in the "big room"! Volunteers from all the classes are needed to help set camp and pitch tents on Sunday Oct 4th at 7pm. This is your first opportunity to have fun setting up one of our big unit events. Be on the lookout for the Volunteer Sign-up sheet on the school's bulletin board and make sure to add your name for this fun and creative parent activity! As with all things, the more who participate the faster the work will go and the greater the fun will be! This week long event is sure to be a hit with all the children too.

The parents in both my classes have been wonderful helping in the classroom, babysitting and taking on their responsibilities to our co-op with enthusiasm and commitment. Thank you everyone at Fishers Pointe for your contributions that helped to make this a great beginning of the school year!

Carla Bidwell

Bears Class News

The Bears class has gotten off to a great start! We have been working on getting to know each other. On the first day of school, we read one of my favorite books "The Rainbow Fish". We talked about meeting new friends and things we like to do with our friends. We also sorted rainbow fish crackers and made our very own colorful rainbow fish. During our second week of school, we had a great time with rice in the sensory table. (I think the moms had a little less fun cleaning it up when we were done ☺) It was a definite hit! We played a friendship version of musical chairs, examined and compared our finger prints, and made a class friendship quilt. As we move through the rest of September, we will be transforming our classroom into an animal hospital complete with stuffed animal patients and hand-made x-rays. The month will be topped off with a study of apples in our apple store. The Bears can look forward to fishing for apples, lots of yummy apple tasting and homemade apple sauce! I can't wait!

Miss Marlo

Greetings from Mrs. Barmann of the Panda Class

Now that we have all had a few weeks of Co-op Preschool experience, I want to share a document with you that is from “Judy’s Wayback Machine”. You see, once upon a time, I was co-op parent . I spent 10 years with my four children in coop.....a long time ago. But some things just don’t change that much.

This piece was written by those of us on the board of Butler Coop sometime in the 1980’s. We were musing among ourselves ,at the time, of the number of parents that didn’t understand the need for play-based learning in young children. There were some parents who would visit our school and later ask “When would the children learn anything?” Or why did the children “just play” all morning? They might say their children were “advanced” and “ready for academics”. They were looking for a program for what they believed was their “gifted child” and they failed to see the potential and richness of our co-op program. We joked that our co-op wasn’t for those parents promoting their “gifted child”. Our co-op was for *children with gifted parents*, instead. What started as a joking comment turned into a support statement for the dedicated parents who understand Co-op philosophy, understand the needs of young children, and value childhood. Please read and believe that, you too, are a *gifted parent*. And thank you for supporting your children and our co-op!!

Judy

Gifted Parents Are Those Who.....

Remember what it is like to be a child, and tell stories about what they did and how they felt when they were children.

Cultivate a sense of humor and the gift of laughter in themselves and in their children.

Can set limits without creating limitations; are flexible yet firm, reasonable yet consistent, about limits and rules.

Read to their children regularly; provide them with their own books; and take them to the library frequently.

Provide opportunities for new experiences and activities, but respect their child’s “timetable for learning” without pushing their children into too much.

Provide space for messy activities and extended projects.

Respect their children’s need for independence by not doing for them what they can do themselves; by providing them with real and meaningful choices; by including them in family chores.

Can accept mistakes made by themselves and their children as opportunities for growth and learning.

Can say “I love you” often and easily to their children; and also say “I’m sorry” or “I was wrong” sincerely.

Realize that values are “caught not taught” and examine their daily actions and reactions to see what they are really teaching their children.

Share strength, support, and friendship with families with similar values.

Include time for themselves and their “re-creation” (recreation) in the course of each day, and in doing so, model a healthy adult lifestyle for their children.

Allow their children to be children, not little adults, *for childhood is a treasure, a time that swiftly passes.*

Mark your calendars! Upcoming Parent Ed Opportunities

One parent ed credit will be earned for each of the following events:

Getting to Know FPCP, October 14th at 7pm

Join co-presidents Rachel Byrne and Meredith Pfligenstofer for an informal presentation about our school policies and procedures. Take a tour of the school and learn how things work! Bring all of the questions you may have about co-op! Children are welcome at this event.

Classroom Conflict, October 20th at 7pm

Please join FPCP’s very own Teresa Hinkle as she discusses how to handle classroom conflict, while staying within the co-op philosophy. Learn how to address challenging classroom behaviors, as well as techniques used to promote classroom cooperation.

Bring your questions—Teresa will attempt to address all of your concerns!

Raising Grateful Children, November, 4th at 7pm

Just in time for the holidays, Marianne Miller will be discussing how to raise our children to be grateful in today’s materialistic society. Learn how to raise a compassionate child with a thankful heart.

Nutrition for Kids, November 17th at 7pm

Trina Eastin of Dietary Solutions of Indiana, PC will be providing an informative presentation on providing healthful nutrition for kids. She will be discussing general nutrition guidelines for children of all ages, foods we should avoid, and how to incorporate healthier food into our children’s diets.

Understanding Life Insurance, December 8th at 7pm

Todd Hollowell will be sharing everything you need to know about life insurance. He will be discussing the difference between whole and term life insurance, when and why families need life insurance, and information on children’s life insurance.

And don’t forget that Lions Club Vision Screenings will be taking place during class on October 15th (for Koalas and Bears) and October 16th (for Teddies and Pandas) from 9:30-11:30am. Permission slips will be distributed soon. We will also be looking for 2 volunteers to help coordinate the screenings on those days. If you are interested in earning service hours for helping, please sign up on the bulletin board.

Articles that appear from Grandma Says are focused on general parenting practices and philosophy and are not as age-specific as articles that appear in Growing Child. "Grandma Says" is a feature of Growing Child and we encourage you to send your comments to: GrandmaSays@GrowingChild.com

GIVE 'EM A BREAK

I enjoyed a Doonesbury cartoon (by Gary Trudeau) a couple of years ago. It showed two mothers waving goodbye to their children on a school bus, on the first day of school. One turned to the other and said something like "Whew! It's a relief to have school start again. What with the French and drama camps, the music workshops, the tennis lessons, and the play dates, I'm exhausted."

When the other mother is silent, the first asks, "So what did Joanie do this summer?"

The other mother shrugs, "Nothing much. She messed around in the creek, built a tree fort, and played with the dog."

The first mother stares at her open-mouthed, and then comments, "Well, I guess technically that's not child abuse."

And Joanie's mother comments wryly, "That was my thinking."

Unfortunately, too many parents are more like the first than the second. Not content to fill every moment of the school year with productive activities planned to ensure their children's success, whether in academics, sports, or social life, they carry over the scheduling to the lazy, hazy days of summer.

Perhaps this is a reflection of their own frenetic and competitive lives, with so little room for down time. Perhaps it is the over-participation and over-involvement in children's lives, so accepted today, that leads to micromanagement of kids' time, both summer and school-year.

Whatever the motivation, this over-scheduling is not to anyone's benefit--notice the first mother's complaint of her own exhaustion.

Think, for a minute, of your own memories of summer vacation, time free from homework routines, with the long days extending for play past the dinner hour. No matter where you lived, my guess is that you remember time hanging around with friends, time spent inventing games and activities, and time spent exploring the outdoor world.

What's more, this was a time when the direct involvement and supervision of adults was more distant and relaxed. This is time when children can be the authors of their own lives, rather than living a life someone else wrote for them. In your memories, there were probably times of boredom as well, times when the games seemed too stale, the freedom even too much. Perhaps parents over-schedule kids because they fear hearing the complaints of "having nothing to do."

On the other hand, how will children learn to create, entertain themselves and solve their own problems if we don't allow them to have down time and empty spaces in their lives, to consider how they really want to fill their time?

Being bored is terrific motivation to initiate, to dream, to plan, to shape one's own destiny. Parents who have over-planned and over-structured their children's lives may expect that their children will have particular difficulty when left to their own planning. But this is a time to bite the bullet and let them try.

The gift of time is something all of us need to learn about, and some unstructured summer time is an important gift to give to your children.

From Teresa Hinkle

HSE Referendum

There is a special election scheduled for November 10 to vote on the HSE referendum. If you need further information about this referendum you can find some from the following links. Even if you do not have children currently in the HSE school system, you likely will within the next few years so we wanted to provide you with some information to be able to make a well informed decision.

<http://www.hse.k12.in.us/> (Click on the HSE Referendum link on the main page)

The link contains frequently asked questions, a presentation from HSE as well as links to media coverage from the local television stations and newspaper.

Did you know . . . participating parents must arrive **at least 15 minutes** before class starts. This gives you plenty of time to help the teacher set up the classroom and discuss plans for the day. When a participating parent is late, the teacher may be unable to prepare the room in time, and class can't start on time.