

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 0

Pointing the Way

A Publication of Fishers Pointe Cooperative Preschool

President's Prose

Welcome to FPCP! September was a busy month, filled with lots of fun preschool activities. The first few weeks of school have been exciting! We hope you have enjoyed the beginning of the school year as much as we have!

We started off the school year with two small, but mighty, fundraisers. We would like to thank Jenny Edmonds and Kristin Brown for ordering our new "Got Co-op" tee shirts. We would also like to extend our thanks to Julie Guldberg for coordinating our fall mums sale. We would also like to thank our treasurer Jill Wamsley, who works behind the scenes for most of our fundraisers. Thank you to all of our members who purchased tee shirts and flowers!

We would also like to thank Paul and Laura Haan for creating and maintaining our new website. They have really done a fantastic job updating the site and making it more user friendly! If you haven't visited the site lately, check it out at: <http://www.fisherspointecoop.org/>

For our next fundraiser, we will be participating in The Geist Orchard Fall Clothing and Toy Sale on Oct. 16th. Please consider donating your gently used children's items and/or helping us organize and price items in the weeks leading up to the sale.

Classroom Participation Training (CPT) is coming up soon for all of our new members. Thank you to Angela Noble, our New Member Liaison, for doing an excellent job planning the training. If you have any questions concerning CPT, please contact Angela at angelaknoble@hotmail.com. Please see Angela's newsletter article for more details.

We would also like to thank our Vice President of Parent Education Chair, Laura Haan, for planning some fantastic Parent Ed events already this school year! Laura is also planning a fun fall family activity for later this month. For more details on upcoming events and how to earn Parent Ed credits, please see Laura's article inside.

As a reminder, Fall Break will take place October 20 – 22. We follow the HSE school calendar for all of our breaks.

On Sunday, October 24th at 6:30 pm, we will have our first large unit set-up. Our first special theme week will be camping! If you have camping equipment that you would like to contribute or want to help turn the big room into a campground, please join us!

We're looking forward to having a wonderful school year. Please remember that if you ever have any questions or concerns, we are always here to help you!

Cooperatively,

Courtney Floyd
Panda mom to Grace

Lisa Switzer
Koala mom to Kaylei



Classroom Participation

- If you are snack or drink parent for the day, please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of class time to help the teachers prepare for the day. Teachers cannot start class without both participating parents. Also plan on staying for approximately 15 minutes after class to help with clean up.
- If you aren't participating in the classroom, please remain in the hallway with your child(ren) until the teacher opens the door and welcomes them into the classroom. Please be sure to arrive on time for drop off and pick up.
- If you are scheduled for early arrival, please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the end of class time. During this time, you can begin cleaning paint cups, spraying down surfaces with sanitizer, and vacuuming. Participating parents will help with clean up when class is over.
- If you or your child is sick on a day that you are scheduled to participate, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Some parents don't check email before school in the morning, so please use your roster to call and make arrangements with another parent.

Early Return/Clean up

- Early return parents should arrive 15 minutes before the end of class. Parents will clean up paint, vacuum, spray hard surfaces with sanitizer, and empty the trashcans in both the classrooms and lobby. The bathroom in the koalas/pandas room should also be cleaned daily.
- Clean up all paint in the sink in the utility closet near the front doors.
- Paint pots that have been mixed with other colors or that have very little paint left can be washed in the utility sink.
- If there is enough paint to use another day, please clean off the inner lid and put a flat lid on top. Store the paint under the sink in the lobby.
- Glitter or shimmer paints are more expensive and come in smaller quantities, please try to save as much of these special paints as possible.
- Please do not throw away any other kind of art medium (collage materials, extra paper, etc) or tools (paint brushes, sponges, eye droppers, etc) unless directed to do so by a teacher.

Co-op Communication

- Please check out the bulletin boards each week for important information about Parent Ed and Fundraising Events.
- Also please check your folder in the mailboxes at least once a week.
- All of our school email communication will come from Anthony Gerardot (agerardot@gmail.com). If you are not receiving emails from Anthony, please let him know. If you would like to have something sent to the whole school, please send it through Anthony.

Did you know that FPCP has a Facebook Fan Page? Stay updated on school fundraisers, parent ed events, and membership open houses. Go to our school website and click on the Facebook logo to join!

From the Panda Class

I recently read an article in the Indianapolis Star describing one particular five year old's struggle adjusting to kindergarten. The article was titled Rough Start. The little student was only five years old. He was not used to the structure and demands of school. He did not take directions well, and he lacked some very basic skills, such as holding a crayon, recognizing colors and numbers, and listening to stories. He was also lacking social skills, relying only on physical aggression to cope with his frustration and anger. Sadly, it was this five-year-old's undeserved misfortune to have been born into a family lacking parenting skills and the means of providing a stable home life for him. For me, imagining a child who had never been read to, or who had never been given crayons and paper, was more than I wanted to do.

In stark contrast to this sad story, I am granted the privilege of working with skilled parents and happy children. I see families who nurture and love their children. I see families who understand that by reading to their children they are helping develop attention span, listening skills, vocabulary, and potential for success in school. I see families who understand that by providing paper and crayons for children to scribble and draw with, they are providing tools for the development of small motor control, hand eye coordination, pre-writing skills, as well as the foundation for creative and artistic development.

I see parents who deserve another THANK YOU for choosing CO-OP as your child's preschool education experience. By doing so you are showing that you understand childhood and its developmental timetable. You understand the need to be a child before one can be expected to be a successful student. And by doing so, you are contributing to your child's "Smooth Start" into elementary school, in the future, as opposed to the "Rough Start" faced by far too many students in our community.

THANK YOU CO-OP PARENTS!!!

Judy Barmann, Panda Teacher

Cubs Open House November 10th

We will be having a Cubs Open House on November 10th at 9:30-11am and 5-7pm. Our Cubs class is for children turning 18 months by January 1st, 2011. The class will meet on Wednesdays, January through May, at 9:30 until 11am. Mrs. Teresa will be teaching Cubs this year. Please join us to hear more about the class.

Calendar of Events

- Oct 1 Tuition Due
- Oct 4 CPT Training, 9am-12noon
- Oct 5 Book Club, 7:30pm
- Oct 7 CPT Training, 9am-12noon
- Oct 11 Board Meeting, 7pm
- Oct 14 HSE Referendum Q&A, 7pm
- Oct 16 GOCP Consignment Sale
- Oct 20-22 ***FALL BREAK***
- Oct 24 Large Unit Set-Up, 6:30pm
- Oct 27 Pumpkin Carving w/Dad, 6:30pm
- Nov 6 Holly Daze Fundraiser
- Nov 8 Board Meeting, 7pm
- Nov 10 Cubs Open House
- Nov 12 Classroom Clean Up, 7-9pm
- Nov 13 Classroom Clean Up, 9:30am
- Nov 14 Large Unit Set-Up, 6:30pm
- Nov 24-26 THANKSGIVING BREAK

Please Don't Go by Teresa Hinkle

Reflect on a time when you have had to separate from someone you love. How did you feel? I'm sure your feelings ranged from sadness to fear to anticipation. Separation anxiety is the fear of being separated from your loved one, the fear you won't be okay while they are away, and the fear you won't be reunited. Separation is not uncommon for children between 10 and 18 months, children of preschool age, and even adults. Separation anxiety affects all of us at one point or another. Sometimes parents may experience it more than their children and may even cause children to also become anxious upon separating. However separation is a part of life and everyone needs to learn ways of which to cope with it. Here are some ways to overcome separation anxiety:

1. Recognize your feelings and work through them. Children can sense when you are feeling anxious.
2. Try to figure out why you and/or your child is experiencing separation anxiety.
3. Develop trust in the child and the teacher.
4. Parents lose the guilt! It is healthier for you and your child to have time apart from each other.
5. NEVER make your child feel guilty for having fun while you are away.
6. Stay busy and enjoy your time!
7. Get support from other parents.
8. Exchange a token with your child and/or allow the child to bring something special from home.
9. Develop a separation routine.
10. Leave matter-of-factly and do NOT stop if your child starts crying. DO NOT look into the classroom to see how your child is doing.
11. Practice "letting go" of your child.
12. Have a celebration of separating successes.
13. Understand that you and your child are connected for life unlike your child and his/her teacher.
14. Provide consistency and regularity for your child.

15. Be clear and specific with your child. Ex. "I am going to Target. I will return while you are in the large motor room."

16. Address and validate your child's feelings.

17. Work with your child's teacher to come up with the best plan to use with your child.

18. Connect your child to the adult with whom your child will be with while you are gone.

Taken from various resources. See Mrs. Teresa if you would like a copy of these resources.

Grizzlies Class News

The Grizzlies Class has gotten off to a fantastic start! Our first two weeks of class were spent getting to know each other and learning about friendship. We made a friendship photo quilt that will soon be displayed in our classroom. We also worked together to make a yummy friendship fruit salad and shared it at snack time. We will finish the month of September with an adventure to the "Apple Store", where we will do a variety of activities with apples and then on to a study of Bugs.

In October we will we turn our classroom into an "Animal Hospital". The children can bring in their favorite stuffed animals for treatment. Next, we will learn about Fire Prevention...Stop, Drop and Roll. The last two weeks of October will be devoted to exploring Fall and Camping. Start gathering your camping gear. The large motor room will be transformed into a campground.

Thank you to all the Grizzlies families for your help and flexibility in getting this school year started off right! This is going to be a great year!

Miss Marlo, Grizzlies Teacher

Koalas Update

I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to all my Koala families. The children are wonderful and the parents have been very helpful in getting the school year off to a positive start.

All the little Koalas entered the classroom on the first day of school without fear or tears! They explored all areas of the room and quickly discovered all the different things to do. The dinosaurs, train tracks, baby dolls, play dough and the sensory tables and SNACK time seem to be favorites with the group. I also discovered we have many artists in class too!

The next few weeks we will continue to explore fun things at school. We'll cook applesauce, go on a field trip, paint with buckeyes and have an Animal Hospital for our ill stuffed animals.

As the school days progress the children and participating parents will become more comfortable with the class routine. For those of you who are new to Fishers Pointe it will take time to get your bearings.... and that's OK. Don't ever be afraid to ask questions or seek out help. Just remember you are here to share with your child the joy of school and the wonderful world of co-oping!

I'm very excited about the plans for our school year. I anticipate a joy-filled class packed with many learning opportunities for all the children. I plan on keeping my Koalas very busy learning through play to explore their world by; touching, manipulating, pretending, and cooking. The Koalas are going to have fun and learn gently and at their own speed... and so will !!!

-Mrs. B., Koalas Teacher

As many of you know my family had a very sad end to our summer. My mother, sister and I lost two very special people from our lives. My step-dad, Smiles, lost his battle with dementia and ALS. Then just a week later my "second mom" PK passed away from brain cancer.

During this difficult time I knew I could count on my co-op family to support me and my family. I was not disappointed. The outpouring of support, caring cards, comforting messages, and food was overwhelming. My mother (who is a fantastic cook and hostess) was stressing about food for the out of town family and friends. I told her not to worry because "my gals will take care of everything". You did!

Coming together after the funeral to eat and talk was a very healing time for the family. We enjoyed wonderful food and great stories and this brought many of us comfort. My mother was able to relax and spend time with family and friends since she didn't have to be the "hostess". I took great pride when I could say; my family from Fishers Pointe had supplied so much of the food. We estimate over 60 people joined us throughout the evening! We cried, we laughed and we ate well into the night.

When PK passed away the following week we were all devastated. She had been my mom's best friend for 55 years. Her boys, my sister and I grew up as one family. My sister and I had known her our whole lives and she was without any doubt our second mom.

Again, I needed my co-op family to take care of me. Teresa, Judy and Marlo comforted me when I received the news of PK's passing. Rebecca, Lisa and Andrea stepped up and covered my responsibilities during the Koalas first class coffee. I had to be with my mom, sister and our childhood friends Brad and Jeff. I knew the families of Fishers Pointe would support me through this heartbreaking time.

I don't think I can put into words the gratitude I have towards my co-op family. You made me proud, gave me comfort and provided me the time to mourn. I thank you.

Carla Bidwell

Teddies Update

The Teddies have had a great start to the year. We have learned the routine in the classroom. We have painted, played with play dough, worked puzzles, and worked on learning everyone's names. The children are doing remarkable well. They have fully explored the room and have sat well for circle time. They have learned the songs we have learned in class. Most of our songs have revolved around the names of all of the Teddies. We will start learning more about apples, fall and farms.

Teresa Hinkle, Teddies Teacher

October Parent Education

HSE Referendum Q&A

Thursday October 14th @ 7pm

Get your questions answered about the upcoming November 2nd HSE referendum vote.

Pumpkin Carving with Dad

Wednesday October 27 @ 6:30 pm

Bring your hollowed out pumpkin and your favorite carving tools to school on this night. We'll carve our pumpkins, enjoy a snack and share some fall poems & stories.

Contact: Laura Haan
plhaan@sbcglobal.net

Classroom Participating Training

Just a reminder.... **10/4 7 10/7 are our CPT dates!**

Most of you "newbies" are already signed up, but if you have not received the Evite, or just haven't RSVP'd yet, please let me know sooner rather than later! A final headcount is necessary for the trainer, hospitality, and all involved with babysitting.

Please contact Angela Noble, New Member Liaison, with any questions you may have.
angelaknoble@hotmail.com or cell 250-9988

FPCP Book Club

We started a book club last year and would love to have more join us. We will be meeting Tuesdays, once a month, to chose our next month selection and discuss what we read. It's also a great time to get to know others at the school. Even if you didn't finish the book join us.

We met last month and our selection for September is: ***The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson.*** *Once you start The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, there's no turning back. This debut thriller--the first in a trilogy from the late Stieg Larsson--is a serious page-turner rivaling the best of Charlie Huston and Michael Connelly. Mikael Blomkvist, a once-respected financial journalist, watches his professional life rapidly crumble around him. Prospects appear bleak until an unexpected (and unsettling) offer to resurrect his name is extended by an old-school titan of Swedish industry. The catch--and there's always a catch--is that Blomkvist must first spend a year researching a mysterious disappearance that has remained unsolved for nearly four decades. With few other options, he accepts and enlists the help of investigator Lisbeth Salander, a misunderstood genius with a cache of authority issues. Little is as it seems in Larsson's novel, but there is at least one constant: you really don't want to mess with the girl with the dragon tattoo.*

Let me know if you would like to come. We will be meeting Tuesday October 5th at 7:30 at the Starbucks on 116th St by Target.

Joscelyn Moore
cmoore0518@gmail.com

October Birthdays

- 2 - Madeline B.
- 16 - Ashley H.
- 20 - Quinn N.
- 26 - Emma G.
- 27 - Adam M.
- 28 - Taylor G.



Fishers Pointe will be joining GOCP in their big upcoming children's clothing sale. Please bring to the school any gently used children's clothing or toys that you would like to donate and remember to stop by the sale and shop for great bargains!! Contact: Jenny Edmonds, jenny@randyedmonds.com or 317-446-7699.

Hey! It's Time.....



For Our Semi-Annual Sale!

Geist Orchard Cooperative Preschool's
Children's Clothing, Toys and Accessories

(Formerly located at Craig Middle School)

Maternity Clothes, too!

-All Items are Gently Used -

Saturday

October 16, 2010

8:00 – 12:00

(Doors close at Noon)

HUGE Selection of Everything!

Clothing sizes Newborn – 14 (teen)

Maternity Clothes

Toys of All Sorts

Books, puzzles & games

Bedding & Decor

Bottles and Feeding Equipment

Infant Bath Accessories

Shoes & Accessories

Family & Kid's Movies/Shows

Baby and Kids Equipment & Furniture

NEW LOCATION:

Oaklandon Church of Christ

(Former Oaklandon Christian Church Location)

6701 Oaklandon Road

Indianapolis, IN 46236

Volunteers AND Sellers are always needed & welcome!

For Volunteering: Jenn Westfall (317) 603-0292 or JennWestfall1@yahoo.com

For Selling: Sara Brown (970) 209-1148 or Browns4@hrtc.net

For General Questions or School Info: www.GeistOrchardCoop.org or (317) 336-7008

Proceeds directly benefit Geist Orchard Cooperative Preschool

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