

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 1

Pointing the Way

A Publication of Fishers Pointe Cooperative Preschool



President's Prose

Welcome to Fishers Pointe Cooperative Preschool! We are really looking forward to a fun and exciting school year. The beginning of the year can be very overwhelming to both

new and returning members, so please remember that the board of directors is here to help with any questions or concerns you may have. Your member folder contains a complete listing of contact information for every board member. Please feel free to contact any one of us if you need help!

As we transition into our first school year at Noblesville Nazarene, we ask for your patience while we work out all the kinks that come with relocating an entire school. We are all working together and doing our best to get our classrooms and other areas of our space organized and settled. It is a huge undertaking and it will take time to feel completely established in our new space.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our Open House on Thursday, September 15th from 6-8 pm. This event is open to all current and potential members of Fishers Pointe. If you have a friend or family member looking for a preschool, this would be a great opportunity to bring them out to see our school. Families are welcome to pack a picnic dinner, as well as a picnic blanket or lawn chairs. This will be a time to enjoy our new space and relax while getting to know other families at Fishers Pointe.

As we begin our school year we are pleased to announce that we have Parent Education events scheduled for September! We are offering CPR training on September 22nd and First Aid training on

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Calendar Of Events

- Sept 1 Meet the Teacher: **Cubs, Grizzlies;**
Class Coffee: **Cubs, Teddies, Grizzlies,** 7pm
- Sept 2 Meet the Teacher: **Koalas**
- Sept 5 No School – Labor Day
- Sept 6 First Day of School
Pandas @9:15
Teddies @ 9:30
- Sept 7 First Day of School
Koalas @ 9:15
- Sept 8 First Day of School
Grizzlies @ 9:15
Cubs @ 9:30
- Sept 12 Board Meeting 7pm
- Sept 15 FPCP Open House 6-8pm;
Supply Fee Due
- Sept 22 CPR Training, 6-10pm @
FPCP
- Sept 24 FPCP Game Booth at
Oktoberfest at Saxony
- Sept 29 First Aid Training 6-10pm
@FPCP
- Oct 1 Tuition Due
- Oct 3 & 4 CPT 9am-12pm
- Oct 10 & 11 CPT 9am-12pm
- Oct 27 & 28 NO SCHOOL –
Fall Break!

September 29th. Watch for more details from Holly Reine, our Parent Education chair.

Classroom Participation Training (CPT) is also coming up soon for all of our new members. Thank you to Bonnie Kandel, our New Member Liaison, for scheduling and planning the training. If you have any questions concerning CPT, please contact Bonnie at bonniebkandel@hotmail.com. We will also be looking for help with babysitting during all CPT days. This would be a great way to earn service hours. Please see Bonnie's newsletter article for more details.

As you can see, we always have something special going on at FPCP! There are several ways for you to keep up to date on all of our school's activities. You can like us on Facebook, just search for Fishers Pointe Cooperative Preschool. This is a great way to get real time updates on school events.

We also use email to keep members informed on upcoming school events and classroom information. All school wide emails will be sent via Karis Madison, our Communications Chair. Communication is key to a successful school year; if you ever have any questions, please feel free to ask your class rep, your classroom teacher or any member of our board of directors. Thank you for choosing FPCP!

Cooperatively,
Lisa Switzer and Laura Haan
FPCP Co-Presidents

Open House

WHO:

ALL current and potential members of Fishers Pointe

WHAT:

Pack a picnic dinner and come celebrate our new space!

WHEN:

Thursday, September 15, 6-8 pm

WHERE:

Fishers Pointe Cooperative
Preschool
1391 Greenfield Avenue
Noblesville, IN 46060

*We are planning on having an ice cream truck visit during our Open House. There will be popsicles and various ice cream treats available. If you are interested in purchasing treats please remember to bring cash.

Attention All NEW Members

We will hold mandatory CPT (Classroom Participation Training) classes during two sessions each composed of two morning classes. As a new member of a co-op, you are required to attend this 6-hour class in order to participate with your child in the classroom.

Sign up sheets for both CPT sessions will be available at orientation. All new members will need to pay the \$20 CPT class fee at that time. Childcare for siblings will be provided for both sessions of CPT. Sign up sheets to volunteer for babysitting on the session opposite the one you are attending will also be available at orientation.

CPT Session One

Monday 10/3/11, 9am-12pm

Tuesday 10/4/11, 9am-12pm

CPT Session Two

Monday 10/10/11, 9am-12pm

Tuesday 10/11/11, 9am-12pm

For questions or concerns contact:

Bonnie Kandel ~ New Member Liaison/Ambassador

bonniebkandel@hotmail.com

Calendar Changes

Please note the following changes to our 2011-2012 school year calendar:

- **Wednesday May 23, 2012 will be our last day of school**
- Our final classroom cleanup will be scheduled for both Thursday, May 24th and Friday, May 25th. We will offer both an AM and a PM shift on both days.

Meet the Teacher

Children will have the opportunity to meet their teachers during classroom visits August 29th through September 2nd. Teachers will use this time to get to know their new students, show the students the classrooms, and may take their pictures for use at a later time. The schedule is as follows:

Monday, August 29th: **Grizzlies** meet Ms. Marlo

Tuesday August 30th: **Teddies** meet Mrs. Teresa & **Pandas** meet Mrs. Barmann

Wednesday, August 31st: **Pandas** meet Mrs. Barmann & **Koalas** meet Mrs. B

Thursday, September 1st: **Cubs** meet Mrs. Teresa & **Grizzlies** meet Ms. Marlo

Friday, September 2nd: **Koalas** meet Mrs. B

Committee Sign-Ups

Please watch for the committee sign-up sheets during the first weeks of school. They will be posted near our sign in table. You have until Friday, September 23rd to make your selection. If you do not choose a committee to serve on, a selection will be made for you.



Important Membership Paperwork

Please be sure you have turned in the following paperwork:

- Your SIGNED Member Contract
- Health Record
- Student Information Form
- Membership Inventory form
- Pickup authorization form
- Child protection form
- TB Test Form

If you did not pay your supply fee at Orientation, they are due Thursday, September 15th. Supply fees are as follows:

Cubs: \$45

Teddies: \$65

Grizzlies: \$75

Koalas: \$70

Pandas: \$115

To obtain your child's health records, send the form in a self-addressed stamped envelope to your child's pediatrician. Allow approximately a week for them to return it to you. These forms should be completed and returned to the school by the first day of classes. **Your child will not be able to attend class on the first day of school, if your paperwork is not complete.**

All participating members must also have a TB test administered annually. This year, we will not be offering TB testing through Visiting Nurse Services. Their price rose considerably from last year and we felt the convenience was not worth the cost.

TB tests can be done at the Hamilton County Health Department (18030 Foundation Drive, Suite A, Noblesville, 46060, 317-776-8500). Tests are given every Monday and Tuesday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. You must return on Thursday of the same week as instructed by the nurse. There is a \$5.00 **cash only** fee for this service. TB tests can also be done through your physician's office. **Parents will not be allowed to participate in the classroom without a completed a TB test.**

Cubs & Teddies

The school year is fast approaching! We still have lots to do to get ready for the new year at the new school! I think our space is going to be a great space! I have had lots of questions regarding separation anxiety; therefore, I will take this time to give you some ideas on how to handle separation.

- First - Try to keep positive about school. Children do read parents' anxiety and will respond to it.
- Second - It is typically better if parents have a little separation routine with your child, such as a hug, kiss, or special hand signal. Be creative and make it special.
- Third - I am fine if you bring a small stuffed toy or blanket for which your child has an attachment. They may even want something of yours.
- Fourth - You are welcome to stay if your child becomes too anxious. We will work toward removing you from the room.
- Fifth - Be assured that if your child becomes too upset, I will contact you and have you return. If you would rather stay in the building, you may but **MUST** stay out of your child's sight. If he/she sees you, that may cause him/her to get upset.

I will provide you an article on separation anxiety at the class coffee. I have more resources if you want them. Please, let me know if you have any concerns about your child separating. I assure you separation anxiety does not usually last a long time and soon your child will be so busy playing, learning and having fun, they will not have issues coming to school.

Teresa Hinkle
Cubs/Teddies Teacher
Mom to Hailey Hinkle

Grizzlies

The start of the school year is right around the corner. I am really looking forward to getting to know our new families and to welcoming back our returning ones. This is going to be a fun and exciting year in our new space. During the first couple of weeks our theme will be Friendship. We will focus on getting to know each other. We will also do lots of activities using our names. Next, we will learn all about Bugs! Be on the look out for creepy crawlies you can capture and bring in to share with the class. We will finish out the month of September with one of my favorite themes: Apples! We will create an apple store. The children will grab a basket and go shopping right in our classroom. Get ready for yummy classroom made applesauce too!!! I will see you all very soon!

Miss Marlo
Grizzlies Teacher

September Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 – Daniel S., Grizzlies | 14 - Isaac M., Pandas |
| 5 – Zayd O., Grizzlies | 15 - Carter D., Cubs |
| 6 – Caleigh J., Grizzlies | 15 – Emerson D., Cubs |



FPCP: Fifteen Years of Growth and Success

by Carla Bidwell a.k.a. "Mrs. B"

- Spring '95:* Indianapolis Council of Preschool Cooperatives began efforts to establish a new co-op in Southeastern Hamilton County.
- Winter '96:* A group of eight families gather and agree to form a cooperative preschool and establish a Board of Directors. They lease classroom space with the newly opened Holy Family Episcopal Church, Fishers Pointe Blvd. Fishers, IN
- Spring '96:* A name is selected for the preschool. Fishers Pointe Cooperative Preschool Inc. ICPC and the co-op community provided training, executive, administrative and financial support. The Board launches the first membership drive.
- Summer '96:* The Board successfully establishes the school's non-profit status with the Local, State and Federal governments.
- Fall '96:* Doors open; running two classes, two teachers and 18 families.
- Spring '97:* The preschool builds a new playground on Holy Family's church grounds.
- Fall '98:* A third teaching position is added and the preschool expands to three classes.
- Fall 2000:* The Pandas class adds an extended day for an Enrichment program.
- Fall '02:* Fishers Pointe holds the first WORLD'S LARGEST WATER BALLOON FIGHT and receives international press!
- Fall '03:* The preschool relocates to Grace Pointe Christian Church with much larger classrooms. FPCP Ways and Means committee host first HOLLYDAZE BOUTIQUE.
- Summer '06:* Fishers Pointe celebrates our 10th anniversary by participating in the annual Fishers Freedom Festival Parade with many alumni families.
- Fall '07:* The preschool relocates to Northeast Community Church. A new four-and five-year-old mixed-age class, named the Bears, is added. The Cubs class is introduced for 2008
- Summer '08:* We held our last annual attempt at the World's Largest Water Balloon Fight record. R.I.P.
- Winter '08:* Over 50 children are enrolled during Fishers Pointe's membership drive.
- Fall '08:* Enrichment time is added to the Bears program.
- Fall '09:* The Parent Night Out program is launched.
- Spring '10:* A reconfigured age mix class called the Grizzlies replaces the Bears class.
- Summer '10:* A successful summer Enrichment Camp Program takes place in July.
- Summer '11:* The school finds a new location in a wing of Noblesville Nazarene Church. Increased square footage allows for the enrollment of over 60 children in five co-op preschool programs!
- Fall '11:* Fishers Pointe Cooperative Preschool begins its 15th school year!
- The future?* Continued success and growth!

Panda News from Mrs. Barmann

Throughout my years of teaching and parenting I have saved a lot of things. I fondly refer to my files as my "way-back-machine". At this time of year I like to pull from my way-back-machine a piece that was crafted by the parent board of Butler Co-op in Indianapolis back in the 1980's. I was part of that board that looked for creative ways to boost our enrollment and interest parents in the Co-op philosophy of preschool education. At the time there was a lot of interest in "gifted" programs. Some parents investigating our school would only want to know what our "academics" were. How did we manage "gifted" children? And wasn't their child ready for "more" because they were so "gifted"? So we decided to turn the "gifted" thing on its head by making up the slogan, "*Co-op Preschools are for Gifted Parents*". We had buttons made with a lovely logo and distributed them to prospective parents at our annual conference. It was a fun twist and one worth sharing with you all of these years later.

Gifted parents are those who.....

- Remember what it's 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 a gift of laughter in themselves and their children.
- Can set limits without setting limitations and 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 children's timetable for learning without pushing their children.
- Provide spaces for messy activities and extended projects.
- Respect their children's need for independence by not doing for them what they can do for themselves.
- Provide their children with opportunities to make 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 own 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.



IT'S OK TO CRY WHEN YOU SAY GOODBYE

In the next few weeks, if not already, many of you will be sending your youngsters off-to preschool or childcare, to elementary school, and all the way up to college.

You have prepared for this, with lots of talking, maybe some visits, some purchase of new clothes and shiny new school stuff from the required lists.

You have organized the car-pool or bus schedule, you have cleared your schedule for the send-off, and you and the kids are all ready. Or are you? Have you acknowledged to yourself and to your child what is really involved in some of these big transitions in your lives? The parent-child relationship is one of the most complex love relationships we will experience. From the beginning, you and your child have formed a transactional circle, with each of you providing necessities for the other.

In the case of children, we provide the physical care and nurturing, the emotional support, and the introduction to the world.

In the case of parents, children provide a loving relationship, often tender and adoring, such as when sticky-faced toddlers lavish us with kisses or carefully picked bunches of dandelions, or older children make it clear that Mom and Dad are the final authorities in their worlds.

Parents feel deep and unconditional love, pride, satisfaction, and joy when they contemplate their offspring, not to mention exasperation, frustration, and a myriad of other emotions (I told you it was a complex relationship!).

This next step you are preparing for will change that relationship forever. Whether the child will go off to the care of a teacher for a few mornings a week, or to the mysterious all-day world of "big school", or even move into a college dormitory, the expansion of this world will put the two of you in a different place. And how you support the child and give yourself wisdom will determine much of your relationship for the future. You have heard the old saying about giving your children roots and wings. In the earliest years, you concentrated on the roots, I am sure. Your unconditional love and support have helped your children build confidence and succeed in new experiences. Those are the roots, and therefore the essential nature of your relationship will remain.

The hardest part is giving the wings: the chances to fly away from you, soaring in a direction that you will not go and may not even be able to imagine.

Granted, they will be back. As Bill Cosby said, "Human beings are the only creatures on earth that allow their children to come back home!" But they will be back with new thoughts, new experiences, and sometimes new heroes and values.

As one mother of a first grader said to me, through gritted teeth, "It sounds to me like Miss Jones should be nominated for sainthood -SHE does no wrong!" Nobody ever prepares us enough for how much change there is in our lives. So, as you approach this next transition, it's okay to cry when you say goodbye, okay for both of you to be a bit scared and a bit sad, mixed in with the worry and the excitement.

Just make sure to balance your open talk between parent and child with chances for you both to admit sadness without it becoming such a drag on the wings that the child cannot get air-borne when it is time to go.

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"Grandma Says" is a feature of Growing Child and we encourage you to send your comments to:

UPCOMING PARENT ED EVENTS

American Heart Association's Heartsaver CPR Training

Linda Riley will present the American Heart Association's Heartsaver CPR course at FPCP on Thursday, September 22nd from 6-10 pm. Course fees will need to be paid in advance to secure your spot in the class. Watch for sign-up and more details coming soon via email.

American Heart Association's Heartsaver First Aid Training

Linda Riley will present the American Heart Association's Heartsaver First Aid course at FPCP on Thursday, September 29th from 6-10 pm. Course fees will need to be paid in advance to secure your spot in the class. Watch for sign-up and more details coming soon via email.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding Parent Education, please contact Holly Reine at hcope08@hotmail.com.

Fishers Oktoberfest at Saxony

Fishers Pointe will be sponsoring a booth in the free game area Saturday, September 24th at the Fishers Oktoberfest at Saxony. We will have a corn hole game for the kids to play and will be handing out prizes. We will also have information about our preschool on our table. This is a great opportunity for you to share with the community what you love about Fishers Pointe, and a good way to get to know another member of our school!

Booth setup time will be from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm. The booth will be open from 1:00 pm until 6:00 pm. We are only asking you to give one hour of your time. There will be other kids games and activities, as well as arts and crafts vendors and live music, so bring your spouse and kids along. We will be in need of volunteers to setup and work the booth. Please watch for more information regarding sign ups to volunteer.

If you have any questions please contact Laura Haan at PLHAAN@SBCGLOBAL.NET.