

December 2013

Whale Tales

South County Pre-Kindergarten Co-op
Monthly Newsletter

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2014 Enrollment News

It's time to start making plans for next year

SCPC Enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year will begin in early January for families currently enrolled. Current families will have first priority to register for the upcoming school year, followed by alumni and new families.

Be on the lookout for an enrollment packet in your child's bag in early January 2014!

If you have any enrollment questions or concerns, please contact Kelly LaBrutte at 410-259-2029 or e-mail to: kellylabrutte@gmail.com

January 13-17:

Current and Continuing Students (3's who will be enrolling in the 4's class and siblings of currently enrolled students)

January 20-24:

Alumni students (families who have previously attended the co-op but are not currently enrolled)

January 27-31:

Open Enrollment

Dress Up Drive

Soon you will see a box in the entry hall for dress up donations. Some of the most beloved dress-up clothes went missing over the summer so we're trying to help re-stock! Take a few minutes as you prepare for the holidays and sort through your current collection to see if you have anything you can pass on. The girls especially miss their white "bride" dresses!

SCPC's Annual Auction will be here before we know it!

The auction event is the primary fundraiser for the school each year. It is also a fabulous and fun evening for everyone. It offers a chance for adults to finally get to know each other a bit better, while helping out the school at the same time.

Organizing the auction is a huge job for our volunteers. It's difficult to explain how much time goes into planning an event of this scale each year. Our Events and Fundraising crew will be working diligently through the night of the event.

Please remember that payment for four auction tickets per family (\$160 for 1 child, \$240 for 2 or more children) is due by February 1st.

Additionally, each family is responsible for auction donations (a minimum of 1 \$50 or 2 \$25 items, purchased or donated for your first child, and an additional \$25 donation for your second child). These are due by February 15th.

We are still in need of vacation homes, sports tickets and other big items to go "live."

Please contact Carrie Hayes if you have something of that nature, or with any questions.



From the Board President

By Anne Canaday

Hello all,

Whew! I cannot believe it's December already. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving-we were able to build a snowman in Michigan so my kids were excited!

As we head into winter, don't forget we follow AACPS for closings. A 2 hour delay cancels the morning class, but afternoon classes are held.

We have had many events the last month or so and you continue to be an amazing co-op! Our fundraisers are going well and I want to thank you for going above and beyond to support our school. Remember the only mandatory event is the Annual Auction. You can plan in advance by purchasing tickets now, or in installments over the next 3 months. As it gets closer to the end of the year, consider working on your auction donations, so you don't have to scramble in January.

As always, read your newsletter each month! The newsletters are great sources of information and don't forget that Ms. Barbara sneaks in little reminders to see who's actually reading! If you have questions about policies, procedures, membership obligations, etc., please check the Bylaws or Policy Statement or ask your class reps.



If you have any issues or suggestions, please contact me or attend one of the Board Meetings - we'll be happy to do what we can! The next Board Meeting will be on December 18th at 7:00pm at Nicole Gunhus' (please note, the earlier time so that we can participate in some festive cheer after the meeting!).

We are moving quickly into a busy season with enrollment and the auction, so look for your January newsletter to be packed full of helpful information. In the meanwhile take a moment to slow down and enjoy the season. We're excited in our house for the Parade of Lights (annual boat parade) in downtown Annapolis- want to come? We'd love to have you join us!

Peace this season,

Anne Canaday
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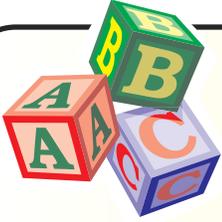
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(Debbie & Tanya will be working together on the 3's schedules and tasks this year.)



Teacher's Corner

By Barbara Freeman

It can't be December! It's hard to believe the holiday rush is upon us.

December is an exciting month for the threes and fours. Signs of that "C" word are everywhere! At school we will try to minimize the pre-holiday frenzy while exposing the children to some of the fun and spirit of the season.

It is always interesting to learn how other

families celebrate the holidays. We will give everyone a chance to share their holiday traditions by having "Traditions Day" on **December 12th or 13th**.

On these days, each child may bring in something that represents a special holiday tradition for your family - perhaps a special book that you read, a candle you light, etc. We will share these items with each other during opening group time.

FINGERPLAYS

We do these fingerplays during our first circle time each day.

Listen and see if you hear your child singing them at home!



Elves

This little elf likes to hammer,
 And this little elf likes to draw.
 This little elf likes to splash on the paint,
 And this little elf likes to feed Santa's reindeer.
 But this little elf likes most of all,
 To put the cry in the baby doll-mama, mama!



Santa

Here's the chimney, (make a fist)
 Here's the top, (Place other hand over top)
 Open the top, (remove hand)
 Up Santa will pop! ((Pop out thumb)



3

The Threes

December

3

Everyone enjoyed the Scales and Tales presentation last month. It was fun to see everyone's reactions to the different animals, including the adults. I think the children may have appreciated that big snake more than the adults.

Last month we talked about our sense of taste by trying several different types of foods. This month we will explore our sense of hearing. We will bring out the instruments and play in the band to test our hearing skills.

To help understand the spirit of sharing and giving we will also be making a special gift for the parents - remember, no peeking!

Our last day of class before the holidays will be **December 19th**. We will have a small celebration on that day. As part of this celebration the children will be making decorative bags to be displayed in the classroom. On this day, if

you would like, your child can bring a small item to help fill the bags. Stickers, wrapped candy, small party favors are a few suggestions. Please bring enough for each bag if you would like to participate. The children always enjoy filling the bags as much as they like receiving them! Please let me know if you have any questions. The bags will be passed out to each child at the end of the day.

Days to remember:

Dec. 12th - Traditions, bring in special item from home.

Dec. 19th - Last day, bring items for stuffing bags.



Touch and Tell Schedule

3 A.M.

TUESDAY	THURSDAY
Jane	Zoe
Landon	Leo
Courtney	Chaya
Shoshi	Nolan
Lucy	Lilly
Vincent	Alison
Izzie	Madison

3 P.M.

TUESDAY	THURSDAY
Owen	Luke
Trevor	Juliet
Mary	

4

The Fours

December

4

November was a busy month for the 4's. Everyone enjoyed the creative play and the many varied art projects that went along with the Native American unit. Grinding corn was very popular again this year. Peeling the corn off the cob is highly therapeutic! The voyage of the Mayflower was also fun. Thanks also goes to Ann who spent a long day in the kitchen helping the children stencil their t-shirts, they looked fabulous!

To encourage name writing we will begin to "sign-in" at the beginning of the day. When practicing at home, have them write their name with the first letter uppercase, the rest lowercase letters.

The letter box will again make several visits this month.

The 4's are always very excited about the holidays and we will busy ourselves decorating the classroom, making gifts and preparing for the holiday season. Now that the new

calendar has arrived, we will be able to use that "C" word. On **December 9th** we will talk about the many lights of the season. Each child needs to bring in an empty soup-size can **by Friday the 6th** for candle making. We will also be making a special gift to bring home for Mom and Dad. As with the threes, we will have a small celebration on **December 20th**. We will be making decorative bags to be filled on the day of the celebration (see note for 3's).

Looking way ahead - Our trip to the National History Museum to view the dinosaur exhibit will be held on March 18th. Each child will need an adult to attend this trip. We will meet at school at 9:00 and carpool to the New Carrollton Metro Station. We generally leave the museum at 12:30.

Days to remember:

Dec. 6th - bring in empty soup can

Dec. 13th - Traditions, bring in special item from home

Dec. 20th - bring in items for bag stuffing

**4 a.m.
TOUCH
&
TELL
Schedule**

MONDAY	WED.	FRIDAY
Sophia L.	Madelyn C.	Sophia M.
Cameron	Maddie	Micah
Hope	Jonathan	Ryan
Jennifer	Ally	Madelyn L.
Michael	Anna	

SCPC Calendar

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Tuition Due	2	3	4	5	6 Fantastic Friday 12:30-2:30 Soup Can for 4's	7
8	9	10 Green Turtle Fundraiser All Day	11	12 Traditions for 3's	13 Fantastic Friday 12:30-2:30 Traditions for 4's	14
15	16	17	18 SCPC Board Meeting 7 p.m.	19 Holiday Celebration for 3's	20 Holiday Celebration for 4's	21
22	23 NO SCHOOL ALL WEEK	24	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28
Enjoy your break!						
29	30	31	School Resumes Jan. 2nd			

DECEMBER

- 1 Jan. Tution Due (\$95 for 3's, \$125 for 4's)
- 6 Fantastic Friday, 12:30-2:30
- 6 4's need to bring in a soup can
(see class notes)
- 10 Green Turtle Fundraiser, all day
- 12 Traditions event for 3's
- 13 Traditions event for 4's
- 13 Fantastic Friday, 12:30-2:30
- 18 SCPC Board Meeting, 7 p.m. *New Date
- 19 Holiday Celebration for 3's
- 20 Holiday Celebration for 4's
- 23 Thru Jan. 2 – Winter break/**NO SCHOOL**

JANUARY

- 1 Feb. Tuition Due (\$95 for 3's, \$125 for 4's)
- 10 Fantastic Friday, 12:30-2:30
- 13-17 Enrollment for 2014
current and continuing families
- 17 Fantastic Friday, 12:30-2:30
- 20 School Closed - MLK Holiday
- 20-24 2014 Enrollment for alumni families
- 21-22 Conferences for 4's
- 27-28 School Closed
- 27-31 2014 Open Enrollment
- 31 Fantastic Friday, 12:30-2:30

FEBRUARY

- 1 March. Tuition Due (\$95 for 3's, \$125 for 4's)
- 1 Auction Ticket money due
- 10 General Membership Meeting
Attendance is mandatory for members
- 15 Auction Donations Due
- 17 School Closed - President's Day

Reminders & Notes

Upcoming

Financial Obligations:

January 13-17:

This is for families enrolling in the 4's class, or enrolling a sibling in the 3's class. Registration fees will be due with your application. Registration costs will be \$100 for first child, \$50 for second child

Feb. 1st: Each family is required to purchase at least 4 auction tickets for their first enrolled child and two additional tickets for your second child. Auction ticket payment is due by February 1st. Feel free to pay in advance in part or in full for your tickets. More information will be in the January newsletter. Auction Tickets \$40/each

Auction Donation: Each family is required to donate items or money in the value of \$50/first child and an additional \$25 for second child.

Fantastic Friday Fun

Fantastic Fridays are great! We are adding future dates, so make sure to check out the online registration to reserve a spot.

Upcoming dates are:

January 10, 17, and 31

February 7, 14, and 21

March 7, 14, 21, and 28

Sign Up Here:

www.signupgenius.com/

go/8050445A5AF2BA57-fantastic

(Yeah, that's a tough address to type, check the body of the e-mail that came with this newsletter for a clickable link.)

Photos for Yearbook

Keep sending in your photos of classroom days, special events, field trips, and more.

Please remember to periodically e-mail your class and individual pictures to Historian Christina Feindt at: scpcyearbook@gmail.com

Classroom Notes

From Ms. Barbara

SANTA

Santa usually comes to visit on the last school day before Christmas. The school has a Santa suit that can be used. Each class needs to decide if they would like Santa to visit, and if so, arrange for a father, grandfather, or neighbor to be Santa. Santa usually arrives the last 30 minutes of class time and hands out the decorated bags. Parents are invited to watch Santa's visit. If you are interested in having Santa come, please let your class rep know so they are able to make arrangements.

OUTSIDE PLAY

Please remember to dress your child warmly for playing up on the hill. We will continue to play outside as long as the weather is not too bitter. Our hill is the windiest place in David-

sonville so be sure to have your child bring hats and mittens! It is easier to find your child's hat and mittens if you place them in the sleeve of their coats. We have difficulty finding them when they are down in the bottom of the tote bag. Ann & I would also like to express our preference for mittens over gloves. When trying to get 16 children ready to go outside quickly, mittens are so much easier!

PARENT-HELPING DAYS

With winter right around the corner, it is not uncommon for your child (or other family member) to become sick on your parent-helping day. If possible, we would appreciate it if you could call another class member to switch parent helping days with you. We realize sometimes it is not

possible to find a replacement at the last minute. There is an emergency snack and juice supply available at the school. If it is used during your assigned parent helping day, we ask that you replace it as soon as possible.

PICK-UP TIME

December is a very busy month for everyone. We realize that parents try to fit in as much shopping and errand-running in as possible during the short time their children are in school. When you are out and about, please remember that at this time of year there are longer check-out lines and more traffic. Ann & I have many commitments after school as well and we appreciate it when parents arrive on time for pickup.



BOOKS



Books always make wonderful Christmas gifts. You might want to consider some of the class favorites when Christmas shopping this year.

Go Away, Big Green Monster by Ed Emberly

Abiyoyo by Pete Seeger

The Very Busy Spider, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and **The Very Quiet Cricket** by Eric Carle

There's an Alligator Under My Bed by Mercer Mayer

Freight Train by Donald Crewes

The Napping House by Audry Wood

Sadie and the Snowman by Allen Morgan

The Wild Toboggan Ride by Suzanne Reid

The Mitten, The Trouble with Trolls, and **The Wild Christmas Reindeer** by Jan Brett

The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry, and **The Big Hungry Bear** by Don and Audry Wood

Froggy Gets Dressed by Jonathon Landan

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

The Spooky Old Tree by Stan and Jan Berenstain



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Green Turtle Fundraiser All Day

Tuesday, December 10th

*Take the whole family!
Mention SCPC*