

November 2013

# Whale Tales

South County Pre-Kindergarten Co-op  
Monthly Newsletter

3789 Queen Anne Bridge Road • Davidsonville, Maryland  
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## Family Fun Day Thank-You's

We had a good turnout and lovely weather for this year's event. So many people helped with the great Family Fun Day. Let's give them all our thanks.

Firstly, Katie Moore and Caitlin Pavon pulled the whole thing together rather well. They had the help of Tanya O'Rourke, Heather Oster, Carrie Groff, and Lisa Kelley.

The following businesses and individuals helped:

- Gateway Tractor and Equipment Company
- Kona Ice
- Fisher's Famous Hotdogs
- Little White
- Fashion Truck
- The Richter Sisters band
- The Kids for the Co-op
- The hay was provided by the Suchoski family.

We are so grateful to everyone who helped put the event together. It was a fabulous day of family fun!

## Putting the Fun back in Fundraising *It's all a matter of choices*

The word "fundraiser" has seen a lot of use this year at the South County Pre-Kindergarten Co-op. It seems like we are all hearing about several different events and promotions each month. In fact, there may be more fundraising ideas this year than SCPC has seen in some time.

If everyone thinks back to the General Membership Meeting held in September, you may recall the news about lower than average enrollment numbers that have reduced income. SCPC Board meetings for the last several months have seen many discussions on solutions. The co-op now offers Fantastic Fridays and Extended Day options for the 4's as a result. Both of these ideas are helping to reduce the gap in the operating budget.

As successful as these programs may be, it is truly the fundraisers that may be helping the most and here's why: non-members get to help too.

Our fundraisers have featured items we all use, and places we all go. Sure, it takes a bit of extra effort to plan purchases around certain dates, or to help spread the word and ask friends and family to buy things from us instead of from a store. But it does work.

At October's meeting, the Board saw the financial reports showing that the latest fundraiser events have shown good results. The Board then heard the schedule for the latest round of upcoming fundraisers, and there was some discussion about what is "too much" to

### November 3

3 p.m., Family concert at Homestead Gardens. Suggested donation is \$10/family

### November 4

Papa John's, West St. Mention SCPC

### November 12

Edgewater Steakhouse 4-9 p.m.  
Mention SCPC when paying

### November 18-27

Franklin Toys, Mention SCPC at checkout

### November 21

Barnes & Noble. All day, mention SCPC at checkout. 10% donation

ask of people. However, it bears reminding that all of these are optional (except for the auction event), and nobody is expected to take part in ALL of them. Having a lot of fundraisers to choose from lets us all do just that – choose. Do as much or as little as you want.

If you can just get the word out to others and help out when you can, it all adds up. Every bit of money the school raises is used for the school. Nobody gets paid around here, besides the fabulous teachers. And they earn every penny of what we give them! The rest of the work is handled cooperatively by the membership.

So, keeping that in mind, check out the listing above of some of the upcoming fundraisers for SCPC and choose your own level of support.

# From the Board President

By Anne Canaday

Greetings!

Are you loving this sweater and boots weather as much as I am? The fall is one of my favorite times of year both because it's cooling down (I'm a Michigan girl!) and because there are so many activities that my kids get excited about – from pumpkins and Thanksgiving to Christmas and birthdays in our house – it's non-stop!



Before we launch into what's happening in November, I wanted to take a moment and thank Caitlyn Pavon and Katie Moore – they worked very hard to host a fantastic Family Fun Day. I know my kids had a blast and I enjoyed being able to see some of our 3's families and chat! Also a huge thank you to our Kids of the Co-op- the alumni kids who helped bake fantastic treats, face paint, and sell concessions. You guys rock!

I also want to thank Carrie Hayes and her Events and Fundraising Team – we have had some hugely successful fall fundraisers this year and we appreciate their hard work planning those and their creativity in some new activities this year. I'm excited to see what they have in store for our auction on March 1st. Speaking of the auction – letters went home in October about how to solicit for donations. Please let me know if you'd like a little more help with this!

November around the co-op is a busy time: there is

the 3's animal day, 4's Native American visit, various fundraisers and Fantastic Fridays. As a co-op, we all work together to provide for our school. All we ask is that you do what you can and help where needed. The fundraisers are not mandatory, so choose those you wish to participate in. 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.

Again, please read your newsletter each month! The newsletters contain important dates, reminders, and other information in each issue and don't forget that Ms. Barbara sneaks in little reminders to see who's doing their homework...

If you have any questions, 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 is Monday, November 18th.

Enjoy the changing colors and your thanksgiving break,

*Cheers,*

Anne Canaday

annecanaday@gmail.com/

president@davidsonvilleprek.com

734-717-0480 (calls/text)

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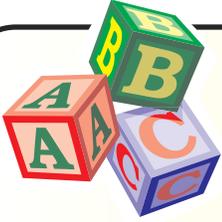
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*(Debbie & Tanya will be working together on the 3's schedules and tasks this year.)*



## Teacher's Corner

*By Barbara Freeman*

**N**ow that most parents have had an opportunity to work in the classroom several times we hope you are feeling more comfortable with your parent-helping. The most important thing to remember is to relax, enjoy the children and have fun!

Everyone enjoyed the many Halloween activities last month. There is nothing like a few spooky art projects and a little sugar to get everyone all excited!

If you haven't returned your "family page" yet, it's not too late! We will continue to share them with our friends and put them in each class book.

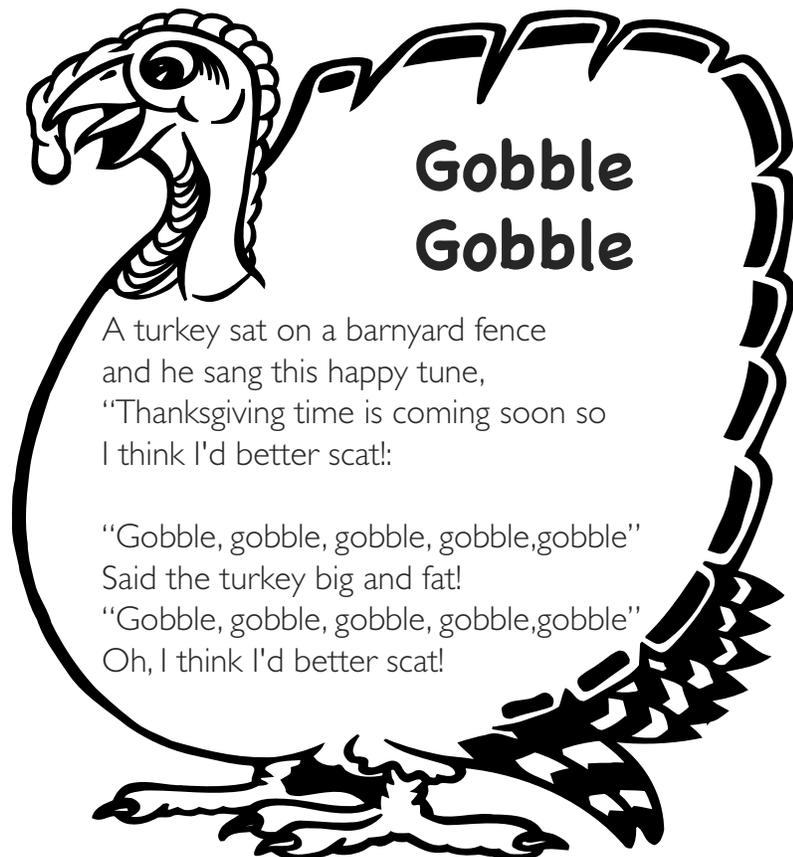
Fall has finally arrived. Please remember to send a jacket to school on colder days - our hill can be very windy.

November is a short month for both the threes and fours with a week off for Thanksgiving. We will be busy the days we are here!

## FINGERPLAYS

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

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



### Gobble Gobble

A turkey sat on a barnyard fence  
and he sang this happy tune,  
"Thanksgiving time is coming soon so  
I think I'd better scat!:

"Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble"  
Said the turkey big and fat!  
"Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble"  
Oh, I think I'd better scat!

3

# The Threes

## November

3

**M**y past experiences have found that the threes are not ready to discuss any of the historical aspects of the Thanksgiving holiday. Instead we will focus on people who care for us and why we are thankful – an equally difficult concept! On the 21st we will make corn muffins and butter. Ann will contact the parent helpers to let them know what to bring for snack.

The Maryland Park Service is arriving on **November 5th** with their Scales and Tales program. We will have one presentation at 11:00 for both classes. The morning class will attend their regular hours from 9:15-11:30. The p.m. class will be held from 11:00-1:15. Parents and siblings of the three year old children are invited (but not required) to stay. We hope the time change will not be too inconvenient for the afternoon class.

Written evaluations for the threes will be sent home the second week of November. Conferences will be held during the late afternoon and evening **Nov. 18th and 20th**. If you would like to have an oral conference, a sign-up sheet will be on the front bulletin board beginning the second week of November 11th. Each conference is 15 minutes

long, please come without your children. Although this may be inconvenient, it can be difficult to discuss your child if they are present.

Now that Touch and Tell has begun, your child may bring in an item to share on their assigned day. Check the list on the front bulletin board (also included on this page of the newsletter) if you are unsure of your child's day. It often takes the threes a while to become interested in this activity. Don't be concerned if they don't want to bring in anything to show on a regular basis.

Again, please let me know if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns.



### 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

## November

4

The fours really enjoyed all the Halloween activities and songs last month. Ann & I enjoyed their imaginations and enthusiasm. We did a lot of story writing. We hope everyone enjoyed reading all their stories.

Our “Star of the Day” activity is winding down. They have been very patient waiting their turns – and it is very hard to wait your turn to be star! We will return to this activity in January with a little bit of a twist.

Our units this month will center on Native Americans and Thanksgiving. During this unit we will set up our tepee and make Indian costumes. Each child needs to bring in a white t-shirt (large enough so they can wear it over their own clothes) by **November 11th**. These shirts are really quite nice when they are finished and you may want to splurge on a new pack of t-shirts. We will end the unit on **November 22nd** with a special snack.

During the month we will also be emphasizing numbers, counting skills and one to one correspondence. Four year olds love

working on their counting skills and we have a lot of fun games and readiness activities. The letter box will bring two new letters as well. We hope everyone is enjoying their “ABC book” to put their pages in each time the letter box arrives.



**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

## NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Tuition Due Fantastic Friday 12:30-2:30	2
3 Daylight Savings Homestead Garden Concert	4 Papa John's Fundraiser	5 Scales & Tales for 3's, 11 a.m.	6	7	8 Fantastic Friday 12:30-2:30	9
10	11	12 Steakhouse Fundraiser, 4-9 p.m.	13	14	15 Fantastic Friday 12:30-2:30	16
17	18 SCPC Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.	19 3's Conferences	20 3's Conferences	21 Barnes & Noble Fundraiser	22	23
Franklin Toys Fundraiser Nov. 18-27						
24	25 NO SCHOOL ALL WEEK	26	27	28 Happy Thanksgiving!	29	30
Enjoy your break!						

## NOVEMBER

- 1 Dec. Tuition Due (\$95 for 3's, \$125 for 4's)
- 3 Daylight Savings, turn back one hour
- 3 Homestead Gardens Concert, 3 p.m.
- 4 Papa John's Fundraiser
- 5 Scales & Tales for 3's, 11-11:30 a.m.
- 12 Steakhouse Fundraiser, 4-9 p.m.
- 18 SCPC Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 18-27 Franklin Toys Fundraiser
- 19-20 Conferences for 3's
- 21 Barnes & Noble, 10% donation all day
- 25-29 **School Closed**, Thanksgiving Break

## DECEMBER

- 1 Jan. Tuition Due (\$95 for 3's, \$125 for 4's)
- 6 Fantastic Friday, 12:30-2:30
- 10 Green Turtle Fundraiser, all day
- 13 Fantastic Friday, 12:30-2:30
- 23 Thru Jan. 1 – Winter break/**NO SCHOOL**

## JANUARY

- 1 Feb. Tuition Due (\$95 for 3's, \$125 for 4's)
- 20 School Closed - MLK Holiday
- 27-28 School Closed

## FEBRUARY

- 1 March. Tuition Due (\$95 for 3's, \$125 for 4's)
- 1 Auction Ticket money and donations due
- 17 School Closed - President's Day

# Reminders & Notes

## Dismissal/Arrival Time

Please remember it is important to arrive on time at the beginning of the day. If you arrive too late they have missed the opportunity to play in the sand, greet their friends, do Touch and Tell, etc. It is very disruptive when they come in once we are seated at circle time. We know with little ones it can be hard to get them up and out of the house sometimes, but we appreciate your efforts!

At dismissal time please remember to show your smiling face in the doorway.

Sometimes it is difficult to see who has arrived to pickup their children. Once you have your child, please gather all of their tote bags, art projects, etc. before leaving. By exiting quickly we will be able to keep congestion in the hallway and door area to a minimum.



## PUMPKIN MUFFINS

The fours made these muffins last month and they disappeared quickly at snack time. We wanted to share the recipe with you.

3/4 c brown sugar  
 1/4 c molasses  
 1/2 c soft butter  
 1 egg, beaten  
 1/4 c nuts (optional - we left them out)  
 1 c cooked mashed squash or pumpkin  
 1 tsp. soda  
 1/4 tsp. salt  
 1-3/4 c flour

Cream together the sugar, molasses and butter.

Add egg and pumpkin and blend well. Mix flour with soda and salt; beat this mixture into the pumpkin batter. Bake 20 minutes at 375 degrees. Makes 18 muffins.

## Fall Back

November 3rd! Daylight savings time means we get an extra hour of sleep....wait we have preschoolers so we get an extra hour of time to enjoy our awake, tired kids!

## Upcoming

### Financial Obligations:

**Mid-January:** Registration for 2014-15  
 \$100 for first child, \$50 for second child

**Feb. 1st:** Auction Tickets \$40/each, 4 per family first child, 2 additional second child

**Auction Donation:** \$50/first child in donated goods or a cash donation  
 (additional \$25 for second child)

## Parent Helping

By now most parents have had an opportunity to parent help in the classroom several times this year. Please remember that parent helping is a team effort. While the Parent Helping Schedule lists specific duties for the juice parent and the snack parent, the system works best when both parents work together to complete all the tasks. As the weather gets colder we will play outside for shorter time periods making the job even more difficult for the parent helpers.

If you arrive early to pick up your child and see parents frantically rushing around the school trying to empty garbage bags, stuff the totes and sweep up the sand – offer to help or ask if any help is needed. The parent helpers will appreciate your assistance! Remember, we are a “co-operative” preschool!

## Reminder

Please get a receipt for ANY CASH payments you make to the school. This includes tuition, Fantastic Friday's and auction related fees. Receipt books are in the mailboxes and can be signed by any board member or teacher.

# Keep it to yourself!

## SCPC's health policy aims to reduce contagious illness

As we head into cold and flu season please remember that while your child loves school that for the health of the entire school sick children should be kept home. General policy is:

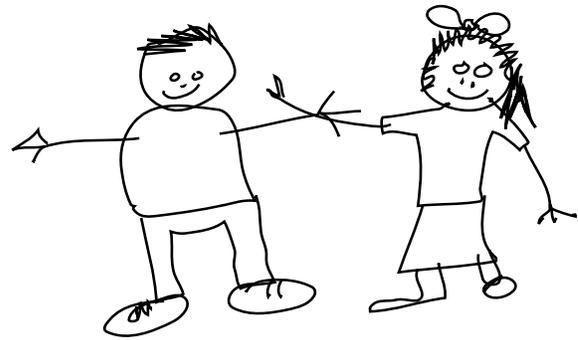
Should your child be exposed to communicable diseases such as chicken pox, hand-foot-mouth, or pink-eye, please advise your child's teacher as soon as possible so that other parents may be alerted to watch for symptoms.

If your child is being treated with antibiotics we ask that he/she be on that medication for at least 24 hours prior to returning to school.

In the event your child is feeling under the weather we earnestly ask, in consideration of the other children, that he/she be allowed to recover at home. Such symptoms would include:

- Yellow or greenish discharge from the eyes or nose during a cold
- Heavy coughing or excessive sneezing
- A temperature of 100.5 or greater (they need to be 24 hours fever free to return to school)
- An earache or stomachache
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Questionable rashes

Please help keep everyone as healthy as possible by adhering to this policy.



## It's Fantastic! And It's Friday!

Fantastic Fridays are a hit with everyone. There are still a few spots left for our November and December dates:

Nov. 1st, 8th and 15th,

Dec: 6th and 13th

Sign Up Here:

[www.signupgenius.com/go/8050445A5AF2BA57-fantastic](http://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.)



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