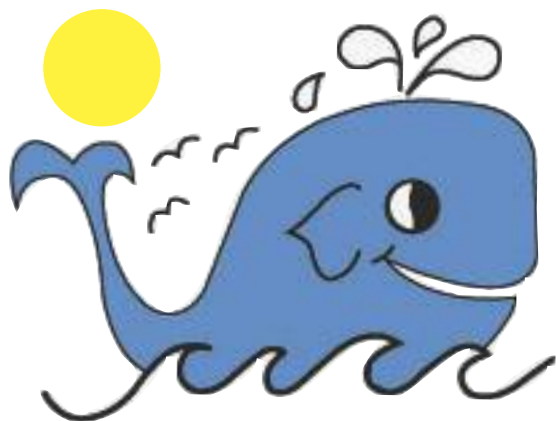


December 2014



Whale Tales

South County Pre-Kindergarten Co-op
Monthly Newsletter

3789 Queen Anne Bridge Road • Davidsonville, Maryland

P.O. Box 160, Davidsonville, MD 21035 • 410-798-5650 • www.myscpc.org • www.davidsonvilleprek.com

New ideas offer something for everyone

New 3's Class Times!

The 3's class will begin meeting from 9:15-11:45 a.m., beginning in December.

New 3's Lunch-Bunch!

We are pleased to offer our 3's families the opportunity to pack lunch stay longer for more preschool fun.

Every Thursday, children are invited to stay for Lunch Bunch until 1:00 p.m. The cost per lunch bunch is \$10/day, but will be sold in 5-count punch cards. There is a discount if you sign up for all Lunch Bunches.

Please make sure you sign-up on the reservation form so we ensure we are ready! Parents will NOT have to stay for Lunch Bunch, so if you parent help on a Thursday you will be finished at 11:45 a.m.

New 4's Optional 4th Day!

Parent's of all 4's students now have the opportunity to sign your child up for a 4th day of class from 12:15-2:45 p.m. every Tuesday afternoon.

This will begin December 2nd and continue through the end of the school year. The additional day is only \$41/month (in-line with current tuition rates). You can enroll your child now or at the start of January.

The Optional 4th day is open to all 4's students (morning and afternoon).

This class will be integrated into the curriculum, supplementing current curriculum and lesson plans (beginning in January – December will be enrichment similar to last year's Fantastic Fridays).

If you have questions or want to sign-up, e-mail Anne Canaday: annecanaday@gmail.com



New Class Times

Please make note of your class times as some have been adjusted by recent program changes:

All 3's

9:15-11:45 a.m.

4 AM class

9-11:30 a.m.

4 PM Class

12:15-2:45 p.m.

New Tuesday Program for 4's

12:15-2:45 p.m.

Be sure to arrive on time for drop-off and pick-up.

It's a Special Day Wednesday

The annual Native American program will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 3rd, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Ford Hall next to the school. This is a combined program for the 4's, but all are welcome to attend. Siblings of current co-op members, and even non-member families are invited.

The morning class will meet from 9:30-12 and the afternoon class will meet from 11-1:30. The morning class should pick-up at Ford Hall and the afternoon kids can go directly to Ford Hall.

Cost is \$10 per family, and hopefully everyone paid before the holiday break. If not, pay at the door. Cost is \$15 for non-member families.

From the Board President

By Anne Canaday

Hello all,
Whew! I can't believe its December already. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving- I ate too much, but was grateful for the break (and to my in-laws for cooking!)



As we head into winter don't forget we follow AACPS for closings. A 2 hour delay cancels morning class, but afternoon classes will still be 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 17th and will include some holiday fun!

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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Teacher's Corner By Barbara Freeman

December

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. opening group time.



We will give everyone a chance to share their holiday traditions by having "Traditions Day" on **December 11th or 12th**.

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

FINGERPLAYS



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)



Reminders & Notes

Santa Claus is coming

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.

It's COLD outside

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 Davidsonville 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!

Off the Road

The green rug that has roads for driving cars has gone missing! Does anyone remember seeing it at the spring or fall clean-ups? If so, please let Ms. Barb know.

With a little help

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.

Ready, set, GO!

December is a very busy month for everyone. We realize that parents try to fit in as much shopping and errand-running 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. Thank you for your consideration.

New Friend Craft Morning

Join us January 23rd from 9:30-11:30 am for a FREE crafts and storytime at the Crofton Library. This is a great time to invite friends to come meet some families at the Co-Op, learn about the school and have fun with their preschooler. Look for a flier to hand out in January.

ENROLLMENT NEWS

SCPC Enrollment for the 2015-2016 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 2015!

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

Here are the dates you need to know:

January 12-16:

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

January 20-23:

Registration open for all Alumni students (families who have previously attended the co-op, but are not currently enrolled).

January 26 - Ongoing:

Open Enrollment for all new families.

SCPC Calendar

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Tuition Due	2 Tuesday for 4's program begins today	3 Native American program 11 a.m.	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Traditions Day for 3's	12 Traditions Day for 4's	13
14	15	16	17 Board meets at 7:30 p.m	18 Last Day 3's	19 Last Day 4's	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<i>Happy Holidays!</i>						
28	29	30	31			
<i>School resumes on January 5th</i>						

DECEMBER

- 1 Jan. Tuition Due (\$95 for 3's, \$125 for 4's)
- 2 First Fourth Day 4's begins, 12:15-2:45
- 3 Native American Program for 4's, 11-12
(See more info. on front page)
- 5 4's Bring in empty, clean soup can
- 11 Traditions Day for 3's
- 12 Traditions Day for 4's
- 17 SCPC Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Holiday celebration for 3's
- 19 Holiday celebration for 4's
- 22 **School Closed** for holiday break
thru January 2

JANUARY

- 1 Feb. Tuition Due (\$95 for 3's, \$125 for 4's)
- 12-16 Registration is open for continuing students/families
- 19 **School Closed** MLK Holiday
- 21-22 Parent Conferences for 4's
- 23 Craft Day at Crofton Library, 9:30-11:30
- 26-27 **School Closed** professional development

FEBRUARY

- 1 Mar. Tuition Due (\$95 for 3's, \$125 for 4's)
- 3 Open House, 7:30 p.m.
- 9 General Member Meeting, 7 p.m. Ford Hall

MARCH

- 1 April. Tuition Due (\$95 for 3's, \$125 for 4's)
- 1 Auction Ticket money due by this date
- 21 Auction Event held

3

The Threes

3

December

There will be lots of changes going on this month as we combine the morning and afternoon classes. Ann and I are excited about having the two classes together. It will give each group more of an opportunity to interact and learn from each other. It will also give us an opportunity to have two parent-helpers in the classroom more often, which also gives us a chance to provide more activities for everyone.

Everyone enjoyed the Scales and Tales presentation last month. It was fun to see everyone's reactions to the different animals, including 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 18th**. 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. 11th - Traditions, bring in special item from home

Dec. 18th - Last day, bring items for stuffing bags.

Touch and Tell Schedule

TUESDAY		THURSDAY	
Isabela	Anna	Holly	Lily
Sydney	Sammy	Matty	Sawyer
Abbie		Hudson	
Thomas		Weston	
Lola		Gracelyn	

4

The Fours

4

December

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 **Dec. 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 5th 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 **Dec. 19th**. We will be making decorative bags to be filled on the day of the celebration (*see note for 3's*).

Days to remember:

Dec. 5th - Bring in empty soup can

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

Dec 19th - Bring in items for bag stuffing

Looking way ahead

Our trip to the National History Museum will be held on **March 23rd**. While the main dinosaur exhibit is closed, they have a temporary exhibit set-up for those of us that can't wait five years to see a dinosaur skeleton.

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.

Touch and Tell Schedule

4 A.M.

MONDAY	WED.	FRIDAY
Liam	Leo	David
Vincent	Lillian	Lucy
Izzie	Shoshi	Landon
Zoe	Courtney	Chaya

4 P.M.

MONDAY	WED.	FRIDAY
Owen	Luke	Lilly
Mary	Abby	Alison
Isaiah	Jane	Nikolas
Kortland		

Giving Tree

'Tis the season when it's easy for our kids to be focused on what they want and not on giving to others.

To help facilitate generous hearts in our young ones as well as show some love to our teachers and school, we'll have a Giving Tree set-up soon in the foyer.

On the tree, you'll find items that the school is in need of – from new toys to paints! Feel free to grab a tag and have fun shopping and wrapping with your preschooler for the school!

We'll watch the pile of wrapped gifts grow during December!

The Auction is Coming!

March 21st is the Big Night

The Events & Fundraising Committee is hard at work gathering donations for this year's auction! The auction will take place on Saturday, March 21st at the Blue Dolphin in Crofton. Tickets will be \$40 each and will need to be purchased by March 1st. Remember, each family is responsible for purchasing 4 tickets to this great event. Information will be sent home this week explaining the auction and how the donation process works. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me (e-mail Jen Novak at novakdreamhomes@gmail.com).

We are looking for fun, unique items for the auction! If you would be willing to donate an item like a vacation stay, tickets to a sporting event, or any other type of unique experience, please let me know.

Thank you for everything you do to support our school!

Book Suggestions for Holiday Giving

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