

Coop Scoop

• December 2010 •



Newsletter for the Cooperative Playschool • 611 East Prospect Avenue • State College, PA 16801 • 238-3922

December at a Glance

Theme Weeks: Holiday Celebrations

1-3	Hanukkah
6-10	Kwanzaa
13-17	Christmas and Other Traditions
20-24	Christmas; No School Friday
27-31	No School; Holiday Break

Reminder:

School will not be held on Friday, December 24th through December 31st. Classes will resume on January 3rd.

December Birthdays

Cara --- December 6th
 Marshal --- December 20th



Board Meeting---December 1st 7-9pm
Family Tea & PJ Day---Friday, December 17th
Gift Opening---Wednesday, December 22nd

Looking Ahead to January:

Winter Clean Up---TBA
Board Meeting---January 26th 7-9pm

family's donations, we would not have had such a wonderful meal! Thank you for helping us celebrate the gifts that each family and child brings to the Coop. We owe a special thanks to the parents who volunteered that day for preparing the meal and cleaning up afterwards.



The December holidays involve the lighting of the lights and occur during the darkest time of the year, the beginning of our winter season. We wish to talk about how the days are getting shorter and how nice it is to celebrate by lighting lights this time of year.

To continue the tradition of the Festival of Lights we will be talking about the different celebrations with light. We plan on honoring the major festivals held near this time each year including Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Advent/Christmas.

Our goals in teaching about these holidays are simple. We want to children to learn that different families celebrate the different holidays, and that everyone's holidays are fun, special and important. We don't hope or expect to cover all of the holidays that exist, but we would like to acknowledge the holiday that is important to your family and that you celebrate in your home.



If you have books, songs, games, recipes, or other items you'd like to share, please talk to the teachers about sharing the items with the school. =) Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

We will be having a Co-op wish list for Christmas



A Note from the Teachers:

We hope everyone who could attend the Thankful Soup celebration enjoyed themselves. The kids were very excited about making lunch for Mommy and Daddy! The meal emphasized the community we have here at the Co-op. Without each

at the Co-op. It is listed below as well as on the bulletin board at the school. You may cross off the item(s) as you purchase them. Please wrap the gifts and bring them in to display in the classroom. The children will then have the opportunity to open the gifts for the school. We do not need to have all of the items on our list; it is just a wish list. This collection is meant to substitute for holiday gift giving to the teachers. Please give us gifts that will help make the Co-op a more enjoyable place to work and play. This is a much appreciated way of thanking us for working with your children.

Our Wish List

Boxes of Rigatoni Style Pasta for Beading
 Used CD/Tape Player
 Elmer's Glue Sticks
 Paper Plates (Regular and Small Size)
 Coffee Filters
 Tacky Glue
 Big Construction Paper:

Brown
 Black
 White/Cream
 Yellow

Boarders for Bulletin Boards
 Light Blue/Dark Blue
 Snowflakes
 Red
 Hearts
 Springtime



As the holidays come closer, we have noticed some more aggressive behavior at school. We will be addressing this issue during circle time but we would appreciate it if you could also try to reinforce this idea at home by talking about hurtful words that some people may find offending. For example, shoot, kill, and die. It is greatly appreciated.

We will be having a special family tea celebration on Friday, December 17th for the families. This day is also a pajama day where the students wear the pajamas to school but remember to wear appropriate pajamas for going outside and bring shoes. Families will arrive around 11:00. The students will sing songs and give their

special gift. Refreshments will be provided. On Wednesday, December 22nd, the parents are welcome to come join us in opening the Co-op's Christmas gifts and singing the songs we have been practicing all month. Please let us know if you plan on attending either one of these events or both so we can plan accordingly.

We would also like to send out a special thank you to the parents who have welcomed and assisted us in setting up the school. We'd like to thank everyone on the board and the committees that help run the Co-op, as well as the families who take time out of their weekend to clean the school. It is noticed and appreciated! Thank you to all of the families for all of their hard work this fall semester of school! We hope you take time out of your busy schedules and enjoy the holiday season!

Enrollment Openings

We still have several openings at the Co-op for this year. Remember, the Co-op depends on word-of-mouth for much of its publicity!

Call for Recipes

If you have a recipe you love, especially a kid-friendly one, please consider submitting it to the newsletter! We'll include it in the next issue and maybe even use it at school! You can leave a note at the Co-op or may email Susan at SusanRambeau@gmail.com.



Come to the Board Meeting!

Yes, we really are a parent-run cooperative and that includes you! We encourage everyone to attend at least one board meeting this year. It really is inspiring to see a group of parents and teachers working together in the best interest of play-based education for our children!

**Our Next Board Meeting is Wednesday,
 January 26th from 6:30-9:00pm**

Family Profiles

Family profiles are just a small article on your family. Some examples would be who is in your family, what do they “do” (work, fun, etc.). Please include a picture of your family to accompany your profile. Family Profiles need to be completed and submitted to Susan Rambeau. We will compile the profiles into a booklet which each family will receive. The family profiles will also be hung in the school on the wall across from the bathrooms. If you have any questions contact Susan.



Allergy Alert

If you are the helping parent, please have your snack available for parents to check in the morning for dietary restrictions.

Remember to fill out the required paperwork for any allergies.

We now have a student with Celiac Disease where the child cannot have gluten. Please keep this in mind when thinking of ideas for snack / activities. Thank you!



Work Calendar Policy

Please Note: When the monthly work calendar has been posted on the bulletin board, parents are no longer permitted to erase their names from it. For example, in September, the September and October work calendars are posted. Names should not be erased from either one. However, names could be erased from the November through May calendars, located in the Work Schedule binder on the bookshelf.

If you are unable to work on your work date, please contact one of the parents who is available to work on short notice. There is a list of parent contact information in the back of the binder as well. If you are unable to contact anyone please let Miss. Susan know.

Winter Reminders:



Sicknesses as School:

While it is unavoidable that children will catch colds and other illnesses during the winter months, **let's do our best not to spread the illnesses at school.** =)

** Keep a very drippy child at home. A cold that is bad enough to keep a child up at night should keep him/her home as well.

** Call school to let us know of any contagious illnesses your child contracts: strep throat, chicken pox, etc. We will post a note to inform other parents.

** Hand washing is essential. Before children help prepare a snack, or do any type of food preparation make sure they wash their hands thoroughly before snack time as well. Parents and teachers, please wash your hands more frequently throughout the day as well.

Going Outside:

Don't forget to dress children warmly for outdoor play. Hats, mittens, boots, and even snow pants may be necessary. We will be going outside each day unless it is raining or extremely cold.

If children wear boots to school, bring other shoes or slippers to wear indoors. You may keep an extra labeled pair of shoes or slippers at school and store them under the coat hooks if you'd like.

Weather-related School Closings:

When the State College Area School District cancels or delays the starting time of school; the Co-op will be closed. The Co-op also has the option of closing, independent of the SCASD.

Welcome New Friends!!

We'd like to welcome our new friend Leo to the school. His older sister came to the Co-op last year and he is continuing the tradition. He has joined the class and we know that he is going to be a wonderful addition to our classroom.

Help the Coop Raise Money through Amazon

By using the Amazon button on the top right corner of the Coop's Webpage, you can help us earn between 4% and 15% of your purchase through the Amazon Associates Program. YOU DO NOT NEED TO PURCHASE THE BOOKS LINKED TO! You DO need to begin your session from one of the links below and complete your purchase within 24 hours and in a single visit. A portion of your **entire** purchase when started from one of these links will be credited to the Coop.



Raise Money for the Co-op by Grocery Shopping!

One of our biggest fundraisers each year is as easy as shopping at Giant grocery stores! In fact, by shopping at Giant you can help raise \$5 for the Co-op for every \$100 you spend. Please email Shelley at slfarahani@gmail.com to indicate each month how much you would like to spend at Giant. Cards can be purchased in any increment between \$10 and \$300. The Co-op will purchase gift cards in that amount. Use your gift card for your regular grocery shopping and 5% of the money will go to the Co-op. Leave payment in the envelope provided next to the sign-up sheet. Please make checks payable to the Co-op. Happy shopping!!

Friends and relatives are welcome to participate as well!

Order by December 20th for a January 5th pickup.

Drop N' Shop – Holiday Babysitting:

Please let all of your friends/family know. =)

Saturday, December 4th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Get a head start on your holiday shopping, enjoy a day out without the kids, or recuperate from Thanksgiving! Let the parents of Cooperative Playschool care for your children while you enjoy some much deserved free time! Your children will be cared for in the Cooperative Playschool facility filled with unique and educational toys.

Drop your child off anytime between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Price is \$5 per child per hour. We will round up to the nearest hour. The maximum amount any family will be charged is \$50. Please pack a lunch for your child. A light snack will be provided.

Advanced Registration is required. Please send an email with the names and ages of your children to: NicoleEileen@hotmail.com or call: (814) 238-3922.



Sharing Pictures

Along with our website, we also have an account at <http://concepcion-design.com/clients/>. The user name is coop and the password is friends. There is a folder titled 2010-2011 Coop Pictures. I have added random pictures of the kids. We can also make new folders as you'd like. (Example: Halloween 2010) Anyone from the Coop can upload/look at the pictures. It is a great way to share pictures with our coop family and it allows them to be added to the website or even the newsletters. If you have any questions about it just contact Susan.

Happy Holidays!

Songs for December:

Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
Through the fields we go
Laughing all the way.
Bells on bob-tail ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight



Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh, O
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh

Rudolf, the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer
had a very shiny nose.
And if you ever saw him,
you would even say it glows.

All of the other reindeer
used to laugh and call him names.
They never let poor Rudolph
join in any reindeer games.

Then one foggy Christmas Eve
Santa came to say:
"Rudolph with your nose so bright,
won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Then all the reindeer loved him
as they shouted out with glee,
Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,
you'll go down in history!



Frosty the Snowman:

Frosty the snowman was a jolly happy soul,
With a corn-cob pipe and a button nose
And two eyes made out of coal.
Frosty the snowman is a fairy tale, they say,
He was made of snow but the children
Know how he came to life one day.
There must have been some magic in that
Old silk hat they found.
For when they placed it on his head
He began to dance around.

O, Frosty the snowman
Was alive as he could be,
And the children say he could laugh
And play just the same as you and me.
Thumpetty thump thump,
Thumpety thump thump,
Look at Frosty go.
Thumpetty thump thump,
Thumpety thump thump,
Over the hills of snow.

Frosty the snowman knew
The sun was hot that day,
So he said, "Let's run and
We'll have some fun
Now before I melt away."
Down to the village,
With a broomstick in his hand,
Running here and there all
Around the square saying,
Catch me if you can.
He led them down the streets of town
Right to the traffic cop.
And he only paused a moment when
He heard him holler "Stop!"

For Frosty the snow man
Had to hurry on his way,
But he waved goodbye saying,
"Don't you cry,
I'll be back again some day."
Thumpetty thump thump,
Thumpety thump thump,
Look at Frosty go.
Thumpetty thump thump,
Thumpety thump thump,
Over the hills of snow



Must be Santa:

Who's got a beard that's long and white?
Santa's got a beard that's long and white.

Who comes around on a special night?
Santa comes around on a special night.

Special night, beard that's white,

Must be Santa must be Santa,
Must be Santa, Santa Claus.

Who wears boots and a suit of red?
Santa wears boots and a suit of red.

Who wears a long cap on his head?
Santa wears a long cap on his head.

Cap on head, suit that's red,
Special night, beard that's white,

Must be Santa must be Santa,
Must be Santa, Santa Claus.

Who's got a big red cherry nose?
Santa's got a big red cherry nose.

Who laughs this way:
HO HO HO?
Santa laughs this way:
HO HO HO!

HO HO HO, cherry nose,
Cap on head, suit that's red,
Special night, beard that's white,

Must be Santa must be Santa,
Must be Santa, Santa Claus.

Who very soon will come our way?
Santa very soon will come our way.

Eight little reindeer pull his sleigh,
Santa's little reindeer pull his sleigh.

Reindeer sleigh, come our way,
HO HO HO, cherry nose,
Cap on head, suit that's red,
Special night, beard that's white,

Must be Santa, must be Santa,
Must be Santa, Santa Claus.



Holiday Gift Giving:

The following are some suggestions of alternative gifts that may be sent to family and friends.

Spend time together. Certificates for a day trip to the pool, the zoo, or a special performance and meaningful and special gifts.

Encourage Children's Hobbies. Talk to the children to discover what they like to do. A class in martial arts, gymnastics, or a day ski pass might be most appreciated. You can provide transportation and each time they go, remind the children the experience is a gift from you.

Choose toys that have no real end, or winners and losers. A box of scarves from a second hand store or irregular handmade building blocks can be surprisingly satisfying to children.

Choose a toy you remember loving from childhood and include a story about your memories with it.

Make something – a hat, a checkerboard, a kite. Children sense the difference when someone cares enough to make them something.

Give something really useful. Age 1: small silverware set. Age 2: flashlight. Age 3: step stool. Age 4: bowls, baskets, sewing kit. Age 5 and up: accessories to encourage your child's natural interests: swim goggles, a new basketball, art supplies, etc.

Give something alive. Bulbs in the fall, seeds in the spring, a houseplant or cactus in a hand-painted pot are all unique and thoughtful gifts. Always check before giving animals.

Honor the child with a donation to a nonprofit organization that addresses their concerns. As children get older they have their own concerns that are meaningful to them. Even the very young child can understand the importance of giving.



More Gift Ideas:

- * Gift baskets full of fruit are incredible gifts for families to share.
- * Music that the family would be able to play together, personalized songs are best!
- * Hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for the entire family
- * Beauty supplies, things like bubble bath, spa kits, spa gift cards, massage tickets
- * Memories are a precious thing; picture frames make fantastic gifts for families.
- * Homemade cookies or cakes that the family can share
- * Tickets to a band or a stand-up comedy show are a great gift for anyone and it is something you can do together!

Classic Toys, Better Gifts?

- Playing Cards
- Rubber Stamps
- Jacks
- Slinkies
- Crayons/Markers/Paper
- Finger-Paints
- Wooden Building Blocks
- Magnets
- Paper Dolls
- Wagons
- Dress-Up Clothes
- Felt Board & Felt Figures/Shapes
- Board Games
- Marbles
- Wooden Toys
- Tiddlywinks
- Watercolor Paints
- Pick Up Sticks
- Magnifying Glasses
- Modeling Clay
- Jump Ropes
- Blackboard and Chalk
- Color Forms

IDEA: Turn old picture keychains that you do not want to throw away but don't know what to do with into ornaments using ribbon and lace. It is a great way to cherish those memories!



Have a Wonderful and Peaceful Holiday Season!!