

the Cooperative PLAYSCHOOL

Play-based Preschool Education Since 1949



The Coop Scoop

• February/March 2010 •

www.cooperativeplayschool.com • 611 East Prospect Avenue • State College, PA 16801 • 238-3922

February/March at a Glance

February:

15: Chinese New Year

16: Rescheduled Valentine's Day Party for T/T
March

8-12: Spring Break: NO SCHOOL

21: board Meeting 7 pm

31: Alumni Day/ Parent's Coffee

Birthdays

Feb 13 Odessa turns 4!

Feb 19 Lia turns 4!

Mar 30 Aidan turns 4!

Looking Ahead: April

1: Alumni Day

2: NO SCHOOL

5: Cultural Exchange: A visit from the JCC

10: Open House

From our Teachers:

We have a fun-filled month ahead of us this February and March. Our Valentines will all be distributed by Tuesday March 16th, when we have our postponed party. Mindy has prepared some cute penguin related games and stories for the kids after snack time.

Coop will transform itself into a hospital for the following two weeks. We will bring out our doctor's kits and doctor's lab coats and set up office. If you have a bathroom scale we can borrow, it would be much appreciated. The kids will have 'check ups' and weigh and measure their patients if we can find a scale to use. The week of March 1st-5th will be Veterinarian week. We invite your child to bring their stuffed animals from home to school. If you have a live pet you would like to share with us, please let us know. This would be a perfect time to focus on caring for live pets. Our week will culminate with a 'Teddy Bear Picnic'. We will focus on Teddy Bears, but your child can also bring in a favorite stuffed animal. Our teddies will sing songs and win prizes as we conclude our business hours at the Coop All Creatures Clinic. If you are a working parent please bring in snacks/activities that compliment the theme or ask us to assign you a role.

After our spring break week we plan on setting up a play grocery store and we need your help. Please collect your empty containers and bring them into school. Rice, cereal, butter, yogurt, oatmeal, cookie, and other types of boxes will help us stock the store. On Monday we will sort through the items and begin sorting them into categories for shelving. By Tuesday/Wednesday we should be open for business with cashiers and bagging helpers. If you have a spare child-sized grocery cart, please share it with us this week. This has always been one of our most popular imaginary scenarios. Come and see how much the kids enjoy being the shopper.

Welcome!

**The Gregor Family has joined our
Coop. We extend a Hearty Hello to
the Gregors! Odessa attends school
on Tuesday and Thursday.**



Did You Hear About The School Rules?

Need a nap after your working day? Some of us may have had moments where it feels that things are getting out of control and need the teachers right there to help us – or, should I say “to save us”? We have creative, curious and smart kids at the Co-op that come from different backgrounds and experiences. The Parent Handbook includes a section called “Discipline Philosophy for parents and children that enables us to be consistent and offers simple guidelines.

Here you can also find the rules for “Indoor Play” and “Outdoor Play.” And if there is something you don’t understand, ask your child! The kids know the Co-op rules better than us!

INDOOR PLAY

1. Use kind and friendly words with each other.
2. Listen to each other and your teacher.
3. “Good groups versus bad groups” or “girls only and boys only” games are discouraged. Children are actively encouraged to play cooperatively to win a game.
4. Be respectful of people, toys, and school belongings.
5. The hallway is to be used to access the three classrooms. Children may not gather or play in the hallway.
6. Running is not permitted in the classrooms or hallway.

OUTDOOR PLAY

1. Stay within the limits of the playground (or the sand pit, or the yard, etc)
2. Walk to and from the playground.
3. Playing tag or chase may only be played in the open field next to the playground, and only with children who want to play that game.
4. Only one child at a time is permitted to be on the slide. Children may not climb up the slide, but should access the slide by using the steps.
5. Parent assistance is required on the monkey bars. All children need to go in the same direction.

Hey, why is the newsletter so late?

The Board of Directors had to reschedule our meeting this month to avoid issues with the Super Bowl and Valentine’s Day... I apologize for the delay, and hope to get back on track for beginning-of-the-month newsletters for April’s Issue.

Have something to say? I’ll print it! Just send submissions to Kate via communications@cooperativeplayschool.com.



A Note from Our Registrar:

Enroll now for Fall 2010! Applications are in a folder on the bulletin board. (\$50 Application Fee is required to reserve your spot.)

2010-2011 Tuition Rates

- \$102 - 2 days per week
- \$153 - 3 days per week
- \$255 - days per week

April Open House - The school is hosting an Open House on **Saturday, April 10 from 10am-Noon**. If you are able to attend and help educate those who are interested in enrolling in the Co-Op for fall 2010, please contact Michelle at mkk114@psu.edu Your assistance and enthusiasm would be greatly appreciated!
Thank you!!!
-Michelle

A REMINDER FOR WORKING PARENTS:

If you are suddenly unable to work on your day, it is **your responsibility** to find a substitute working parent. The phone list and the list of parents usually available on short notice are both posted on our Google Doc space. Feel free to print a copy out to post by your telephone.

If we do not have working parents for the day, the school will not open.

Still Looking for Next Year's Board of Directors

An unsolicited editorial from Kate:

I've been asking around, and it seems word on the street is that the Board of Directors is "too much work." Well, that depends on how you look at it.

See, we're a Preschool Cooperative, which means that we *all* cooperate and do our part to make the school run. The school is what we make it. We chose to introduce our children to school in an environment that is caring, accepting, and, well, cooperative. We chose the Coop because we believe that the environment we create here is essential to our children's development, and we want to play an active role in their development both at home and at school.

There is something magical about a Coop kid—you can spot them in a crowd. They're able to interact comfortably with both children and adults. They are imaginative and open-minded. They can work alone or in a team, and problem-solve their way through their day. They are independent, empathetic, and polite (for the most part. They're still just ages 3-5).

The magic that makes our kids stand out can't survive without the hard work of the parents—*all of them, whether they serve on the Board or not*. But *someone* has to keep the books, do the paperwork for grants and licenses, write the rent checks, etc. *Someone* has to speak for the parents as a group, and for the school as an institution. So *someone* has to be on the Board.

How much work is it? Well, it's only as hard as the goals that group of parents makes. As our parents change, so do the goals of the Board. In my experience, serving on the Board of Directors has been a lot of work, and yes, sometimes it makes me cranky...

But all in all, it is a labor of love. I love my kids, and I love this school, and I do my best to serve the parents who are currently enrolled... to do what makes the school work for them while still preserving the integrity of the organization as a playbased cooperative educational experience.

Please, consider joining next year's Board of Directors, and serving the community that works so hard to help you and your children prepare for school. It's not an easy commitment to make, but none of the great decisions are...



Call For New Board Members

In March, the nominating committee will meet to consider potential board members for the 2008-2009 school year. If you are interested in becoming a board member, talk to any current board member.

Joining the board of directors is a great way to get involved in the school at a different level and it also counts as your committee work.

All current Co-op families will elect the new board members at the Spring 2010 Parents' Meeting. Descriptions of the board positions will be posted at school. Feel free to talk to any board member about their experience on the Board this year, and ask any questions you may have about serving on the board.