

The DCP Bee

Delaware Cooperative Preschool



February 2012

Variety of learning opportunities

By Jennifer Bourget

What a wonderful and busy place is our Preschool Classroom. The children have created a new post office and all the children are very busy writing and creating their "mail". Any donations of paper, envelopes, or stickers are greatly appreciated.

Upcoming in March, we will start many activities centered around Dr. Seuss, St. Patrick's Day, the Continents and the parts of the bird and plants. We will also begin to take some journeys around the continents as we learn about travel and create our own passports.

After spring vacation the preschool teachers will be holding conferences.

The Preschool class welcomes any Toddler Time families to come and visit our class. Please join us at 11:30 for our second circle or contact Jennifer or Anna - Marie to set-up a time that is convenient for you and your child. We look forward to seeing you.

Thank you to all members and teachers who are working hard to provide a great learning experience for the children of DCP. We had a great response to the survey. Look for the data to be available soon.

Chili Cook – off and Silent Auction Quickly Approaching

By Jen Gorz

DCP's annual Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction is quickly approaching. This event is not only a fundraiser for our school, but it is a great opportunity for our school's families to come together for a fun evening, talk with people you may not normally see, eat some great chili, and win some great prizes! I especially encourage those families who are newer to our school to attend and meet the "more seasoned" families. I know we don't always get the opportunity to mingle during class times or meetings, but this is a great chance to do just that. I know I personally feel horrible not knowing a face when I walk down the hall at school. I am looking forward to getting to know those families!

One of the main components of our coop is volunteerism. We are all aware of the opportunities to volunteer in the classroom, but there is more to it than that. This is a chance for us all to come together and raise funds for our school, which in turn benefits our children. It is a simple way to off-set some of the costs it takes to run our incredible school. I know it sometimes feels like we are constantly asking for donations or help with this or that, but as my oldest makes his way through grade school, I have learned that those requests are still alive. DCP makes the same type of requests as the public schools. We post suggestions for donations and hold fundraisers to fund our unique program and materials. We don't expect every family to donate or volunteer the same amount. We only ask that you do what you can.

So next time you walk down the hallway at school, please take a moment to stop and look at the sign-up sheet for the chili cook-off. What is open that you can sign up for? Do you have an item you can donate for the auction? And remember, auction items don't necessarily have to be physical items. It could be as simple as offering babysitting hours or a delicious home-cooked meal. I know I would pay BIG bucks for someone to cook us dinner!

I look forward to seeing you at the Chili Cook-off!

Save the Dates!

Enrollment

Feb. 9th – open to current members

Feb 23rd – open to new members

Please see new enrollment options on page 2!

Board Meeting continues – Goal Setting

February 19, 6pm Old Bag of Nails

Please RSVP to

communications@dcpkids.com

by Feb. 18th if you plan to attend.

Pajama and Teddy Bear Week

Week of February 20th - Wear pajamas and bring favorite bear

DCP Open House for Prospective Families

February 23rd, 6-8pm - Please spread the word about our wonderful programs!

Final Tuition Payment due – March 1st

DCP Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction

March 3rd 5-7pm Asbury UMC

DCP Group Outing - Deer Haven Preserve

April 24th, 2012 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Weather permitting, please dress for an outside nature program

Contact Mary Hupp with questions.



New mathematics learning materials were recently purchased:

- 1) Short Bead Colored Stairs-5 sets of beads 1-9, to aid children in counting
- 2) Ten Beads & Box-to aid children in counting into the teens
- 3) Black & White Bead Stairs- to aid children in simple addition and subtraction problems

New afternoon classes added to schedule

Jen Gorz - Letter sent via email 02/13

We've got some wonderful news! The teachers and board of directors are excited to announce the opening of two afternoon preschool sessions at DCP for the 2012-2013 school year!

DCP is now offering enrollment for Tuesday afternoon and Thursday afternoon preschool classes in addition to our Monday through Friday morning classes. At our General Membership Meeting in January, the possibility of offering these classes was discussed, however it was not certain if everything would come together to put them in the schedule for the 2012-13 school year. In the past week, all of the puzzle pieces have fallen together so that we would be able to offer our members the first opportunity to sign up for these classes.

Enrollment will proceed as it has been, however the enrollment forms on our website have been updated to reflect the two additional afternoon preschool classes. The change in schedule form on our website has also been updated. If you have already enrolled a child in the morning classes, but you wish to add an afternoon class or change sessions, please fill out a "Change in Schedule" form and return it to the metal lockbox in the hallway at school. The tuition for the afternoon sessions will be the same as the morning classes at \$490 each. If you wish to enroll for a full day, tuition would be \$980.

Over the course of the next several months, we will be fine-tuning the afternoon schedule and transition period between the morning and afternoon sessions. However, we believe you will be able to expect something like this:

*Morning class will run the same as it always has with closing circle at 11:30am. Dismissal will be at 11:45am for those children enrolled in the morning session only.

*For those children enrolled in a full day of classes, they will eat their packed lunch in the classroom after dismissal is complete.

*Drop-off for the afternoon session will begin at 12:00pm. If you wish to send a packed lunch with your child, they would eat it at this time. Otherwise they would find activities throughout the room as they do in the morning. During this transition period the morning students would be finishing their lunch.

*The afternoon session will run similarly to the morning session. Closing circle will be at 2:15pm with dismissal at 2:30pm.

*Parent volunteers will be scheduled for both morning and afternoon sessions on a rotating calendar, based on the number of students in each class.

This is a great, new change for DCP. We are confident these afternoon sessions will bring a new element to our program and keep us competitive throughout our community. Please realize, though, that in order for us to provide these classes, we must have at least 8 children enrolled for each of the afternoon sessions. This is taking into consideration the cost of increased rent, teacher salaries, cost of supplies, etc.

If you have questions regarding the new preschool schedule or enrollment for these classes, please ask a teacher or board member. We will continue to update you as the plans evolve for these additional classes.

We are very excited to have the opportunity to offer afternoon preschool classes in our school's schedule. Our intent is to provide our members with more flexibility and to provide additional learning time for our children. We hope you are as excited as we are about this new change!

Sincerely,

DCP Teachers and Board of Directors

CHILI COOK-OFF and SILENT AUCTION – A note from the Theresa and Stephanie

DCP's 3rd Annual Chili Cook-off and Silent auction will be held on Saturday March 3, 2012 at Asbury United Methodist Church. This was our biggest fundraiser last year, so it is very important we have everyone's participation, no matter how big or small. Sign-up sheets are in the hallway near the drop box. We are asking for all types of donations, including items for OSU, Kids Crafts, and Movie/Game baskets, and of course, chili! We are also asking you to bring in items for the silent auction, so we can get everything organized and cataloged. There is a bin in the teacher's office for you to put your donated items. If you have any questions or want to get more involved, please talk with either Stephanie Mampe or Theresa Carey. Thanks again for everyone's help and participation!!

Parenting Corner - Undressing and Dressing

Undressing is easier than dressing and is learned first—sometimes much to the consternation of the parents. Clothing that is easy to remove and to put on oneself enables the child to practice these skills. These are things to consider when picking out any clothing, from shoes to pajamas, to coats, for young children.

A child's efforts at picking out her own clothes and dressing herself are satisfied if the parents hang up, within the child's reach, just two outfits, letting the child decide between them when she dresses in the morning. This is enough of a decision in the beginning. Eventually she will be able to select everything from drawers, hangers, and shelves. This takes the adult's time and patience in the beginning but it is worth it for all.

The Michael Olaf Montessori Company, 2009, <http://www.montessori.edu/0-3year2familytext.html>

Meet Stephanie Mampe

Stephanie Mampe holds the position of Secretary for which she records and posts board meeting and general membership meeting notes. She also spends time organizing events as a fundraising co-chair for DCP. In her spare time, she spends time with her kids, writes, and knits. She is also a member of the Delaware Parents Club. Her children are Katie (6), Shaun (4), and Christopher James. You might find her with her kids at the zoo. Her favorite aspect of Delaware Cooperative Preschool is the ability to come in as a visitor/volunteer and plan an active role in her child's preschool experience.