

The DCP Bee

Delaware Cooperative Preschool

Preschoolers Busy with Learning

By Anna-Marie Kay

I hope you all had very happy and restful holidays! Happy 2012! We are now off to an exciting start to the new year in the classroom. The children came back very eager and excited.

We are continuing our work in handwriting without tears, building “Matman” with big lines/little lines, big curves/little curves. We have been writing our letters on the chalkboards and making letters out of clay. The children are also continuing to work on their green and orange workbooks.

In “Circle” we are continuing our work on counting – for example, counting how many days we have been back in the classroom and adding a new day each day. We are also continuing the Maurice Sendak book Chicken Soup with Rice.

The children are very excited and proud to be able to recite this poem, called “January”

January
In January
It's so nice
While slipping on the sliding ice
To sip hot chicken soup
with rice.
Sipping once
Sipping twice
Sipping chicken soup
with rice.

Some of the books we have read this year are Stranger in the Woods, Popcorn Dragon, Doghouse, and Rhyming Bunnies (a favorite!). We have also been working on “Block Stories” which are a series of blocks that the children build a story with. It starts with blocks moving left-to-right and they can change the story each time we build it.

The children are working hard in the practical life and sensorial areas of the classroom. This helps them to develop fine motor skills, sequencing, and distinguishing between similarities and differences. This work lends itself to the language area – with the children using sandpaper letters which are visual and tactile. They have been working on the beginning sounds. Once these sounds are learnt, the children work with a moveable alphabet, combining the sounds with phonetic words. This, then, lends itself to simple sentence writing.

In the math area, the children are continuing to count each day. For example, we do this during circle. We also continue our work with the “Number Rods” starting with the shortest to the longest rod – 1 through 10. The children have also been working with the spindle box, cards, and counters. The mathematical skills develop logically from concrete to abstract and from simple to complex.

The Pre-K children have now been given manila folders with worksheets to help them prepare for their entering into Kindergarten. In April, we hope to have conferences for Pre-K families.

Here is to a great rest of the year! Upcoming events will include a Teddy Bear's Picnic with activities and games. We will also have a “Pajama Week”. Watch for announcements and details to come. As always if you ever have any questions feel free to leave us a note, call, or see us after class.



Save the Dates!

General Membership Mtg

January 19th 6:30pm McCoy Room, Asbury
Presence of all members is appreciated. At this meeting we will discuss important school decisions, gather input, and share information.

DCP Open House for Prospective Families

February – date to be determined

DCP Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction

March 3rd



DCP Volunteers Needed to...

__Post an open house flyer on a Delaware business's message board.

__Photocopy and laminate items for the classroom.

__Assist with the Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction.

If you can help please contact communications@dcpkids.com.

***Thank you to all members,
whose involvement makes DCP
a great place for children to
learn and grow!***

Toddler Time News

By Linda Hurley

Simple Ways to Support DCP

-Kroger rewards - don't forget to sign up!

www.krogercommunityrewards.com

-Use Goodsearch as your search engine! We earn \$.01 for every search done under DCP's name! Also remember to use GoodShop when making purchases online. DCP will get a % of the amount spent!

- Save your inkjet cartridges and turn in at school! We turn in used inkjet cartridges to Office Max and get \$\$ to use toward office and school supplies.

-Delaware Community Market - a % of all purchases made go to DCP!

-Keep an eye out for Scholastic Book orders! This program is a great way for our teachers to earn free books and teaching aides for the classroom. Scholastics Books offers a variety of books in different forms (paperback vs. hardback) and bundles that may not be currently available in local bookstores, a great way to stock up for your child's library or to buy gifts.

-Collect Campbell's Soup Labels and turn them in next to the lockbox.

Please be on the lookout for a survey to be presented to the membership in the coming weeks. Gathering feedback from every member is very important when determining short-term and long-term goals for the program.

With the new year come some subtle changes in the toddler room. You may have noticed that we have new blocks and that one of our shelves now faces the other way. As I said...subtle. The blocks are a welcome upgrade for our room and the turned shelf will allow me to introduce new activities. The activities on the shelf are our "table toys". Meant to be used mostly one on one, the objective is that if a child chooses, he/she can select an activity and take it to the table to complete. Once finished, the activity is returned to the shelf and is then available for another child. New activities, new methods of play and clean-up.

And a reminder: Going outside is a big part of our daily schedule. Obviously the weather can prevent us from venturing outdoors, but on days when it is possible, we will go outside. Our adventure may be a short one, but we will go out if we can. Please be sure your child has a hat and mittens every day just in case. As always, if you have any questions, let me know.

Enrollment Season Begins!

By Gina Breglia, Business Chair

It is already time to start planning for next year at DCP! For those of you who are planning on sending your children to either Toddler Time or Pre-school next year please keep these dates in mind. Enrollment for the 2012-2013 school year is open to current members only starting Feb 9th - Feb 22nd. Feb 23rd starts our public open enrollment for both Toddler time and Pre-school.

To secure your spot for next school year you simply need to fill out an enrollment form and submit your non-refundable member fee of \$60. The Enrollment form is available on our website, dcpkids.com. Place the form and fee in the gray drop box in the hallway as you enter the school. Once your information is received by the Business Chair, Gina Breglia, you will get a confirmation email from her.

Please let your friends and family know about our open house in February. This is also the date that enrollment will open to the public. Those who attend the open house can sign up their children that night. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Gina: GinaBreglia@yahoo.com

Meet Jen Gorz...

Jen holds the position of President. She takes care of the "business" of our school (i.e. contracts, lease, and insurance). She also runs meetings, oversees board members and committee chairs, and assists the administrator when needed.

In her spare time, she works in the garden or yard, knits and reads. Her children are Hayden, age 7, Owen, age 4, and Evan, age 18mos. You might find her family on the soccer or baseball fields, camping, or hiking during their free time.

Her favorite aspect of Delaware Cooperative Preschool is all the friends she has met through DCP. She loves the personality of the teachers and all families as well as the flexibility of each child's learning experience.





3rd Annual Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction

Stephanie Mampe and Theresa Carey, Fundraising Co-Chairs

As the year progresses from fall into winter, we begin to look forward to our Annual Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction! If you are new to the DCP family, let me tell you a little bit about the event.

The 3rd Annual Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction will take place this year on March 3, 2012 from 5-7pm at Asbury United Methodist Church. Members of the co-op volunteer to make chili, which is then taste tested and voted upon. The lucky winner receives the coveted Chili Cook-off Trophy which, like the less popular Stanley Cup, is passed along to the Chili Cook-off winner each year.

But that's not all! This event is also marked by a performance by our very own DCP students AND a phenomenal silent auction.

Needless to say, we need as much help to make this event a success. Please keep an eye out in the hallway of the preschool for event information and sign-up sheets. We will be in need of volunteers to cook chili and desserts, chili-related food donations, items donated for the silent auction, and a crew of set-up and tear-down volunteers.

We look forward to a fun and successful Chili Cook-off! Thank you for your time and attention.