

Saline Cooperative Preschool

Newsletter

February, 2011

A Note from Ms. Bonnie

Sharing is a difficult concept for young children. As parents and teachers, we sometimes mistake egocentricity for selfishness. But they are not the same. Egocentricity refers to the total inability to see another's viewpoint. It is normal in young children. Selfishness, on the other hand, is doing something for one's own benefit, knowing that it may inconvenience or even hurt someone.

Sharing is a learned behavior. We can help children learn to express their feelings and understand the feelings of others. At the same time, we should not shame any child for not sharing.

To foster sharing, toys that promote cooperation, such as blocks, water centers toys, and big puzzles, are used in the classroom. When two children want to play with the same toy, we try to help them work out a way that they can use it together, take turns, or reach some other solution. The solution may not seem fair to you; however, as long as both children agree, adults need to accept their arrangement.

Most children do not begin to *decenter* until they are 5 or 6. Instilling the values of sharing requires continuous support and encouragement by teachers and parents.

~Ms. Bonnie

REMINDER: The General Membership Meeting will be held on MARCH 2!

A Note from the President

Thanks to everyone's hard work, this has been a great year for the Saline Co-Op, and we are

looking forward to a great 2011-2012 school year. Enrollment time for next year is upon us. Don't forget: in order to have priority, you need to enroll now! Our Open House is February 15th, so tell a friend.

The March 2nd General Membership Meeting is fast approaching, and we are looking for members to serve on the Board, beginning in June. The preschool must have a Board in order to operate. Please read the descriptions below and see if a position appeals to you!

President: heads the Board, communicates with members, and solves problems.

Vice President: heads many committees and supports the President.

Secretary: takes meeting minutes and sends Board communications to members.

Treasurer: responsible for all out-going funds.

Membership Chair: gives school tours, keeps Board up-to-date on membership status, and registers new members.

Publicity Chair: works on finding new members.

Fundraiser: coordinates fundraisers to help members reach their monetary requirements.

Session Chairs: serve as a liaison between the Board and each Session.

There are additional positions that the Board nominates. These jobs also begin in June.

Orientation Coordinator: creates packets to prepare the Membership to start school.

Job Coordinator: assigns jobs to Membership and manages them.

Website Coordinator: keeps website current (very important for gaining new members).

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Assistant Treasurer: responsible for in-coming funds.

Newsletter Editor: responsible for communication between members.

Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. We need your help! Voting for the Board will be done on March 2, at the GMM.

~Victoria Patrick

A Note from the Vice President

I would like to ask everyone to think about what it means to be part of a Cooperative Preschool.

As a member of a Co-Op, you have a unique opportunity to participate in your child's first learning experiences. It also affords you a chance to get to know the other children in the classroom and their caregivers on a more personal level. In order for a Co-Op to run successfully, we need every family to do their share: in the classroom, in their assigned job, and with extracurricular fundraising and publicity activities. Without everyone's full cooperation, our organization would fall apart.

It is every family's participation that helps keep our operation costs down, which results in lower tuition. I encourage everyone to review your job and contract responsibilities and determine if you are doing your part. If you are having difficulties fulfilling your obligations, please contact a Board Member to help you resolve any issues.

Have you noticed something that needs repair? Please record it on the sheet placed inside the cleaning cabinet. Also, if you notice we are low

on any cleaning supplies, please record it on the appropriate sheet in the same location.

A note to all helping parents—when you are cleaning at the end of the day, please don't forget to sweep/vacuum by the entrance. This includes the rug by the door and inside the cubbies. The bottom cubby where kids put their wet shoes has been collecting significant amounts of mud and salt this winter.

Thank you to all the hardworking families who have helped make this year successful!

~Becky Meyers

Volunteer Hours Reminder

If you still have not met your family's requirement of 2 hours of volunteer time, here are a few dates to keep in mind.

Preschool Open House: Wednesday, February 15, from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Hippity Hop at the Rec Center: Saturday, April 23, from 12 PM - 1:15 PM

We also need volunteers to help clean up after the Open House. Contact me at tangyhg@comcast.net, if you have any questions or if you can assist.

~Tangy Gordon
Publicity Chair

Field Trip Update

3's: Currently, we are at a standstill with scheduling field trips and speakers. We are looking into field trip options for March or April. More information will be given at a later date.

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4's: We are looking forward to having a Dental Hygienist speak to us on February 28, for Dental Health Month. Some of the children may remember a similar experience from last year and how much fun we had.

(Jackie Mills, 4 AM Parent)

In April, we are planning to visit a real restaurant so that the children will have an opportunity to see what goes on "behind the scenes." The exact date is still unknown, but we will, of course, be in touch about the date and the cost involved. We are also considering visiting Cooper Leaf Crossing in May. This will depend on the anticipated cost per child. Keep an eye out for more information!

~Field Resource Coordinators
Melissa Wolf, Julie Marion,
and Veronica Malinczak

Fundraising Update

We will be starting a Schwann's Fundraiser soon, so we will need a fundraising boost. In March, we will be doing Little Caesar's Pizza Kits again. These are the last of the fundraisers for the year. Fundraising Money is due on April 15.

~Jenny Roberts
Fundraising Chair

Thank You!

A GREAT BIG THANKS to everyone who assisted with our community service DVD drive. The troop is putting together a big package for the St. Joe's Children's Ward, and we really appreciate all the help. I am sure they will be excited; I know our scouts are!

~ Saline Troop 613

Important Dates

2/18-2/22: No School (President's Weekend)

3/1: Final Tuition Due

**3/2: General Membership Meeting—
7 pm**

3/10: Pocket Day—3's

3/11: Pocket Day—4's

3/17-3/18: No School (4'a Conferences)