

The Learning Cooperative Newsletter

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Special Thanks

As always, we owe a big thanks to the parents who continue to make our co-op a success. We'd like to give special thanks to those who helped make our open house so festive (Jen Trela) and informative (Trish DelVecchio, Jean Spence). Our kick-off for fall registrations has been a success!

Thanks also to everyone who commented on progress reports or requested conferences. We're very proud of the incredible progress everyone is making!

And more thanks to:

Michael Banks for the great new rugs

Trish & Butch Paris for our fabulous new Puppet Theater

Jen Trela for coordinating our March 1 fun trip to Jump On In

Mrs. Fichera for all the extra hours and getting our "second room" in great shape for Enrichment!

The parents who took time to write out their thoughts to the Exchange Club for scholarships

And to all the moms and dads who helped make our Valentine's Day parties special (and for working with your children to get names on all those valentines)!

Dates to Remember

- ◆ March 19th
Kindergarten Readiness Workshop 5:30pm
- ◆ April 9th, 9:30am
Literacy Workshop at Triumphant Lutheran Church
- ◆ March 25 & 26
Salem Schools closed - TLC open
- ◆ April 21st, 1:00pm
Annual Family Fashion Show & Auction at Searles Castle, Windham
- ◆ April 22nd-26th
Spring Vacation



Happy Birthday Sam and Chloe!



In the classroom

We had lots of snow this winter, and we're not just talking about the blizzard! Our lessons were filled with snow-themed activities like sledding, making snow angels, snacking on snow pies, snowflake matching, snowman sequencing and duplicating, singing a snow folk song, playing the snowball Olympics, and saying goodbye to melting snowmen.

Our Valentine's Day celebration was extra sweet, filled with cards and treats and even a special performance featuring songs and poems about snow, valentines, and even Punxsutawney Phil himself. We ended the month learning all about dinosaurs!

Although we are all participating in the same themed activities, each child's



Upcoming events

On Tuesday, March 19th, at 5:30pm, there will be a workshop addressing "Kindergarten Readiness." This will be held at The Fisk Elementary School, 14 Main St, Salem, NH. A light dinner of pizza and salad will be served.

Tuesday, April 9th at 9:30am, there will be a literacy workshop as part of the Ready, Set, Go! Series. This will be held at the Triumphant Cross Lutheran Church, 141 Zion Hill Road, Salem, NH.



Fundraisers

Thank you to those who participated in the field trip/fundraiser to Jump On In. We got lots of positive feedback from the parents, and the children had lots of fun getting some of their energy out from vacation.

progress and developmental skill levels dictate their specific and individualized curriculum. For example, some friends are working on numeral recognition, whereas others are moving onto addition, subtraction, counting by 10s, and much more!

Coming up: As March brings the promise of better weather, we will chart the Lion and Lamb days. We'll also celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday, St. Patrick's Day, and spring with lots of learning disguised as zany fun! Look for Dr. Seuss feet; Cats in Hats; Red Fish, Blue Fish number and math activities; and leprechaun hats, gold, and rainbows. With the arrival of spring, we'll learn about bears and life on the farm.

If you cannot make this workshop, Literacy will be presented again on Wednesday, May 1st, at 5:30pm at Lancaster School, 54 Milville St, Salem, NH. Pizza will be served.

Child care will be provided for each of these workshops. Please contact Ms. Jury if you or someone you know would like to attend.

The Annual Family Fashion Show & Auction will be on April 21st, at 1:00pm at Searles Castle, Windham, NH. Tickets will be on sale soon. Only \$15 for a sweet and elegant afternoon.

We will be handing out information for our new Tupperware fundraiser soon. Please keep an eye out for this information in your child's backpack.

Cultures & Cooking & Creativity with Ms. Jury & Mrs. Fichera

We continued with a snow theme for Monday Enrichment by making snowflake tortillas (yum!) and orange snowballs. We celebrated Valentine's Day with chocolate tarts and games with hearts and love bugs.

We also celebrated Chinese New Year with colorful dragons and a feast of fried rice, vegetable chow mein, and fortune cookies. (PS: Did you know that fortune cookies are NOT actually from China?)



Fun with Fine Arts with Nancy D'Agostino

As cold weather settles into New Hampshire, outdoor time tends to decrease along with the use of many of our large motor muscles. To help meet the gross motor needs of our young artists we have been busy exploring how bodies move. A few classic books, such as *The Snowy Day*, *Caps for Sale*, and *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, plus some newer titles, have allowed us to explore movement, expression in our voices, and emotions. Some days our young friends can't wait to see if a puppet or marionette will come out of my case! The day three goats and a troll marionette arrived it did not

take much to get the children into character. They did a great job acting out the story. Be sure to check out your little artist's torn art collage of goats and trolls on the wall.

On February 19th our young actors acted out the book *Down by the Cool of the Pool*. Their masks were a big hit! We also used a mixed-medium approach to create an illustration from the book.

Need a little at-home fun and movement? Find a simple story or book that your child loves, and act it out. A piece of

fabric over a tension rod and placed in a doorway makes a great homemade puppet theater. You can use toys found around the house or draw and cut out pictures for the characters. For example, after reading *The Snowy Day*, head out into the snow and recreate some of the movements. Make up new ways to make tracks in the snow, and explore tracks and marks that are already in the snow. Try to discover what caused them. Was it a bird? A chipmunk? A squirrel? A dog? Or some other animal? Get creative, ask questions, and explore! You'll be amazed at what you discover.

Sensational Science with Frannie Greenberg

January was a fun month for our scientists. We studied *Ice and Snow*, *Lightning and Tornadoes*, *Measurement* and also *Shadows*. We discovered that ice cubes can be picked up with salt and a piece of yarn placed on top of the cube. When salt is sprinkled on top of the cube, it melts the ice. The water then refreezes the yarn to the cube. With patience you can pick up an ice cube by the yarn. No fingers!

In order to more closely see the shape of a tornado, we made tornadoes in water bottles and watched them spin. A static electricity generator helped us understand lightning in a safe setting. We made snow measurers that will show 8" of snow or less. Of course the blizzard of '13 was a bit too much for our snowmen to measure, but there will be more before it is spring.

Identifying shadows was a big treat for our scientists. They enjoyed guessing what they were looking at by seeing only shadows. Plastic objects proved to be the trickiest. Learning to ask questions, make observations and predictions are an important part of our workshops. Be sure to ask your scientists to notice the world around them and discover the wonder of simple things.

March Poems and Rhymes

There was an Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe (with Cindy's edits!)

There was an Old Woman
Who lived in a Shoe
She had so many children,
She didn't know what to do

She gave them some broth,
She gave them some bread
She read them a story
And put them to bed.

Leprechaun, Leprechaun, I've been told
Hiding in our room are coins of gold!
Find them, find them, quick as can be.
Put them in your pot -what number do you see?

There's a Lion at my Door to the tune of:
Who's that knocking at my door?

There's a Lion at my Door
There's a Lion at my Door
How do I know?
I hear him ROAR!

Rainbows (sung to the tune of
Twinkle, Twinkle)
When the rain falls from the sky,
Look way up very high.
If the sun is shining bright,
A rainbow might just be in sight!
Red orange yellow green and blue,
Indigo and violet are purple, too.

Rainbow colors (sung to the tune
of *Twinkle, Twinkle*)

Red Orange Yellow Green and Blue
Indigo and Violet are Purple, too.

Feet feet feet
to the tune of *Three Blind Mice*

Feet feet feet
Feet feet feet
They're so neat
They're so neat
I love to march,
I love to stomp
I love to walk
I love to romp
I love to slide
I love to clomp
Feet feet feet

You put your shamrock in,
you put your shamrock out,
You put your shamrock in,
you put your shamrock out,
and you shake it all about.
You do the shamrock pokey
and you turn your self around,
Happy St. Patrick's Day.

You put your shamrock high,
you put your shamrock low,
You put your shamrock high,
you put your shamrock low,
And you shake it to and fro
You do the shamrock pokey
and you turn your self around,
Happy St. Patrick's Day!

