



Newsletter

Fall 2011

From our Director, Christi Porter

Happy Autumn!

What a fantastic time of year! As an educator I love the possibilities that a new school year presents. How fortunate it is to be in a profession where each new year begins with the meeting of new friends and families, the redesigning of your work environment and the ability to reflect on past lessons and try to creatively incorporate them into the present curriculum.

We have already had a few family and adult gatherings at the school that have been a lot of fun. The ice cream social was a great way for our co-op family to meet and great before the beginning of the school year and the Stella and Dot Mom's night was a fun night too!

I hope that your child has had an easy adjustment to their teacher(s), new friends, and classroom environments. If you need to meet with me for any reason during the school year, I am in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays (9-12:00) unless I am co-oping in Creative Play. Wednesdays at 11:30-12:30 and on Thursdays and Friday's from 11-12:30. Of course you can always leave me a message on the voicemail at the school or email me too. Please reach out to me if you are in question of something that is happening in the classroom, with your child and /or a general concern about the school.

As you are helping in the classroom try to remember that our goals at the co-op are to make each child's experience positive and enjoyable by offering acceptance in a nurturing environment. To encourage each child's thinking, language, creativity, and problem solving ability through developmentally activities and to encourage the children to play in harmony with each other and with adults.

Thank you for all of your help with our Co-op!

Christi Porter

Calendar

Wednesday Nov 23rd

Early Dismissal
AM classes 9 – 10:30
PM Classes 10:45 – 12:15
(no lunch)

Th / Fri Nov 24th -25th

Closed for Thanksgiving

Saturday Dec 10th

Holiday Party, 10AM

Thursday Dec 22nd

Last day before Winter
Break (regular schedule)

Dec 23rd – Mon Jan 2nd

Closed for Christmas
Holiday and Winter Break

Tues Jan 2nd

School reopens

Mon Jan 9th –

Wed Jan 11th

In-house registration for
2011 – 2011 school year

Wed Jan 11th

Board meeting 7:30PM

Mon Jan 16th

Closed for Martin Luther
King Jr. Day

Sat Jan 21th

Clean up weekend #3

From Co-op President, Allyssa Tzavlakis

As the Watchung Coop 2011-2012 school year is underway, I am very pleased to see everyone enjoying the school, whether you are returning or new families. For some children preschool has been a new experience but all of the children are transitioning better than expected into the routines thanks to the help and care of our fantastic teachers and aides!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Halloween with your children. Everyone loved seeing the children's costumes (some of you are so creative and crafty!) when we handed out treats. It was a big hit with the children as well!

In the spirit of upcoming Thanksgiving, I'd like to thank all our families and staff for a successful start to the new school year! Thank you to the teachers for their hard work and dedication to helping our children grow. And thank you to all our families for contributing to the Coop by co-oping in the classroom, taking care of your family jobs, and attending our many special events. I would like to say a special thank you to Christi Porter for her enthusiastic dedication as the Coop Director. She has been tireless working to improve the school in so many ways!

We have had several recent events that have given us a chance to get to know one another outside of the busy drop-off and pick-up times, starting with the Ice Cream Social back in September. There was also our recent Moms-Night-Out Jewelry Fundraiser, hosted by Christi Porter.

I would like to thank Alexia de Fays and Vivian Lopez again for their work on the Annual Yard Sale. They were able to seamlessly pull it together in a short amount of time, with the help of so many of the Coop families. Thank you to all of the families for your donations and help on this big day. Despite the weather forecasts, we still had another successful sale this year!

And now the busy holiday season is upon us. We are currently having our first fundraising Scrip Gift Card sale. It is such an impressive list of companies and for our school to benefit a little from shopping that you are already planning will certainly add up quickly! If you have any questions about the gift card program please contact me. Also, our ShopRite cards are always available at the school for your Thanksgiving and Christmas feast shopping, or regular daily shopping. See Elaine for ShopRite gift cards.

Please note that our popular Holiday Party is happening soon, on Saturday, December 10th. This is always a very fun day for the children and families of the Coop to get together, make crafts, and socialize before the Holiday break!

Please don't hesitate to email or call me with any questions, comments or concerns. I hope everyone can attend the Thanksgiving Feasts in each of their children's classes. It is a favorite among parents and children! I wish everyone an enjoyable Thanksgiving with your families and friends and hope to see you all at the Holiday Party next month!

Allyssa Tzavlakis
2011-12 Board President

Fundraising

SHOP WITH SCRIP are brand names gift cards from every major store, retailer and restaurant and many, many more! You can use these gift cards to do your own shopping or to give as gifts – in-store or online.

www.shopwithscrip.com

Register and enter our organization's enrollment code:
11D975D431547

ShopRite GIFT CARDS

Are an easy way to contribute to our school while you shop for groceries. Please see our Miss Elaine to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards.



***Thank you to
all of you for
making
Watchung
Co-op such a
GREAT and
UNIQUE
place!***

Creative Play

We have had a wonderful start to our 2011-2012 school year. September was filled with adjusting to school, seeing old friends, and making new friends. We said good bye to summer, but welcomed fall with excitement. We learned about apples, made apple prints, and we even made our own applesauce! It was delicious!

In October, we had a lot of fun learning about pumpkins and preparing for Halloween! We went pumpkin picking in the Watchung Co-op Pumpkin Patch (our outside play area) and each child got to paint their pumpkin. They all worked so hard and were extremely focused while painting! Ms. Mary Anne and I were so proud of them. We also created jack-o-lanterns and our very own not so scary spiders. We have many budding artists in our class!

Our Halloween celebration was an exciting day for Creative Play! We went trick or treating in the hall, walked downstairs to visit our pre-k friends, and played pin the nose on the pumpkin. They have really come a long way and are a wonderful class! They are beginning to engage in play with their peers and many friendships are forming. We will continue with the Fall themes and we'll be learning about weather changes and leaves. We are all looking forward to our Thanksgiving Feast on Tuesday, 11/22 at 11:00 am.

Happy Fall!
Christa and Mary Anne

Discovery

Our November theme is All About Families. Our lesson plans will include finger plays, songs, and stories about families. The children will be making special family artwork, and portraits using cut-out bodies and faces. Thanksgiving is also part of our November theme so watch for some fun Thanksgiving Day projects.

We are having a Thanksgiving feast *Wednesday 23th from 9:45-10:30.*

We are grateful for all our super parents who donated treats and helped at our Halloween party. You made it fun for everyone! We appreciate your support! The children had a great time in October learning all about pumpkins, how they grow, sizes, shapes, seeds and even the various ways we can eat a pumpkin.

Cold weather will be with us now until spring. We will try to get outside as many days as possible. After sitting through circle time and using small motor skills in art activities and play, it is important for our children to get outside and use their large muscles. The weather in the fall is quite changeable, with chilly early mornings and warmer afternoons. It is generally a good idea to send your child to school with a jacket for chilly weather. Please remember to LABEL all jackets with your child's name.

Blanca



PreK AM

The children in Pre-K have been in school for several weeks and have been busy making decisions about their play plans. They are navigating the room, learning to listen and share materials with each other. When we meet in small groups it is an opportunity to explore specific materials and interact with children and an adult. We have used hole punchers, scissors, bears for counting, sound matching and patterns. In the classroom, we made a tree house and decorated it with leaves and branches. We then added a farmer's market and hayride in anticipation of our field trip. Our roles included tractor driver, cashiers and customers with the children exchanging ideas how the play should act out. Large group time gives the children a sense of community and choices for music. To exercise our bodies we had fun jumping on bubble wrap and parachute play with leaves. Story time engages children with language and literature, a favorite of mine.

An upcoming event in November will be our annual Fall Fiesta. It's a chance for us to come together as a school family and share recipes and foods from our varied backgrounds.

I look forward to growing with your children in the coming months. As always, thanks for all your help and support in the classroom.

Pat

PreK PM

Our year in Pre-K PM has gotten off to a great start. Our very small class in September (3) has now grown to a cozy seven on some days. Many of our afternoon friends are tired at rest time so please remember a cozy blanket or pillow for your child. In the next few weeks we will be talking about our families and things that we do with our families. We will be making family "trees", a class quilt and maybe having some family members come in to our class to be guest readers. During the month of October we took our first nature walk to Naussa Road. The children loved the walk and all of the many things that we found. We collected many things from our trip and noticed the beginnings of Autumn. We will do our walk again in the next few weeks to discover the changes that have occurred since our last walk. It is wonderful to experience the awe that the children see in the seasonal changes in our outdoor world. Enjoy the upcoming holidays!

Christi



Give the gift of KINDERMUSIK
\$10 coupon

This coupon is good towards tuition through August 2012

KINDERMUSIK with Jill
Union Congregational Church, UCC
176 Cooper Ave., Montclair, NJ 07043
jillnewsomenj@gmail.com



www.kindermusikwithjill.com

