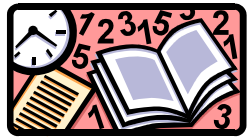




PPP November News

November 2005

Brought to you by the Piedmont Progressive Preschool Council



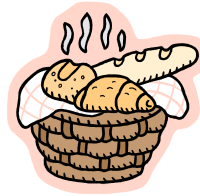
Dates to Remember

1st of each month – tuition due
 Nov 7th – No School, Parent/Teacher Conferences,
 Nov 15th – PPP Council Meeting, 7:00, PUUC, parents welcome, Sharon King's home
 Nov 17th – Tee shirt and Tupperware orders/payments due to Sharon King
 Dec 9th – Annual Pizza Dinner, PUUC **(rescheduled)**



1st Annual PPP Family Picnic – HUGE Success

Families played, explored, socialized and shared food at Mallard Creek Park on a lovely Saturday afternoon. It was such a treat to meet parents and kids in a relaxed setting. And all reports are that the families of PPP can really cook up some good eatin'. The picnic was such a delight; we plan to have another one in the spring. A special thank you to Bryna Callison for organizing the event.



Recipe Corner

After the Family Picnic folks were buzzing about the terrific food that the PPP crowd had prepared. A recipe sharing in the newsletter seemed like a great idea. If you have a recipe that you would like to share, please email it to Sibyl Wessler, swessler@carolina.rr.com for inclusion in our newsletter. And maybe we could start compiling these luscious recipes for a brochure or booklet at the end of the year. Thanks to Tracy Hensley for our recipe this month.

Chinese Salad

- 1 head cabbage, chopped
- 2 chicken breasts, cooked and chopped
- 2 pkg. chicken flavored ramen noodles
- 10 oz. pkg. frozen peas and carrots
- 1 pkg. sliced almonds

Dressing (shake together)

- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup oil
- 7 Tbsp rice vinegar
- 1/4 Tbsp pepper
- 1 or 2 envelopes ramen seasoning (from ramen noodles package)

Combine all ingredients except ramen noodles. Toss and add dressing. Add ramen noodles (uncooked) about 20 minutes before serving.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Monday, November 7th is set aside for parent/teacher conferences. We will close the school so that this can happen. Sign-ups are on the classroom doors. Conferences will be held to 20 minutes and on the half-hour. These conferences are designed to give parents and teachers an opportunity to speak freely about the children. Since it is early in the year, it is not going to be a time when the teacher reports on your child's progress – rather, you get to tell the teacher anything you think she needs to know about your child, and perhaps ask questions about the school day and the philosophy. You are the expert where your child is concerned, and this is the time for you to tell us of your goals for your child in this school year. In keeping with our school's dedication to having these types of discussions without little listening ears, it will be a good idea to have childcare arranged for your young ones. Buddying-up with another family for an hour on the playground can really help this process go smoothly for all.



Inclement Weather Policy

With the craziest hurricane season we've seen in years and winter on its way, we want to reiterate: we do not have school when Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools close due to inclement weather. If they have a one or two hour delay, we will cancel school.

Philosophy Q&A

"Encouragement or Praise, Which Fosters Positive Development?"

Praise is a form of reward, which discourages children from judging for themselves what is right or wrong, good or bad, acceptable or unacceptable. Praise can lessen self-motivation and may lead to dependency on adults to verify a child's every action. Praising is actually a form of judgment, and to judge implies superiority. It therefore takes away children's power to judge their own work. "I love it" or "It's beautiful!" is not conducive to self-reliance, self-direction, or self-control. To the child, if an adult can judge positively, they can also judge negatively. Children will thrive in environments where they don't fear being evaluated, where they can make mistakes and learn from them, and where they don't need to always strive to meet someone else's standard of excellence.

Unlike praise, encouragement doesn't place judgment on children's work or give information regarding its value, or implications of child's status. Instead, encouragement is . . .

- * very specific
- * non-judgmental
- * honest, sincere, and credible
- * fosters potential for honest exchange of ideas
- * focuses on process not product
- * helps children develop appreciation of their own behaviors/achievements
- * avoids competition and comparisons with others.

So, the next time your child brings home a "work of art," try encouraging your child to describe their efforts, ideas and creations, i.e., "I see that you've painted a picture that has lots of blue paint on the bottom, and red paint along the side. You've used so much bright yellow paint; it makes me feel like the sun is shining on me!"

Your child will learn that she/he can depend on you for an honest observation of life!



Change of Clothes

Our children sometimes need to change clothes to be comfortable. As the weather begins to get cooler, please check your child's cubby for

spare clothing. You are the expert on what your child feels comfortable wearing, but please ensure that the clothes are seasonally appropriate.

It is time to change out the clothes at home, too. As you are making your change over, think of PPP when you come across any unisex sweatpants, long sleeve shirts, boys' underwear, socks and mittens/gloves that might be destined for Goodwill or the garage sale box. Sizes 3 to 5 are welcome. And if you notice your child coming home in one of our spares, please wash and return at your earliest convenience.



Fertilizing the Money Tree

Tracy Hensley is our Fund Raising Chair and she and her committee are working hard to support our wonderful preschool. This group stays busy all year with different activities, large and small. Participation in this committee doesn't require yearlong membership. You can add it into your schedule a little at a time. We all will benefit from helping our school's bank account stay healthy. Please contact Tracy, 704-509-9261 or Tdphensley@wmconnect.com, to offer help or with any ideas you have about fund raising.

Here are a few things in the hopper.

Remember to clip those Campbell soup labels and send them in with your children. We can use them to help support the school.

Our annual pizza dinner is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 9th. Save the date and watch for details on how you can help. December is such a busy month. Won't an evening with no dinner duty or dirty dishes be a delight? Remember that friends and neighbors are welcome to come as well.

Please return your order forms and payment for the PPP "Play is Powerful" tees to Sharon King by Thursday, November 17th.

Tupperware has come up with many great new ideas for making food storage and family organization even better. Catalogues will be shared so you can order even if you couldn't make the presentation. All proceeds and commissions will be donated to PPP. Orders are due back to Sharon King by Thursday, November 17th.

Holiday Sale - We have plenty of note cards available for sale. \$2.50 for a pack of 10. What a fresh idea for thank you cards and family invitations for the holidays.

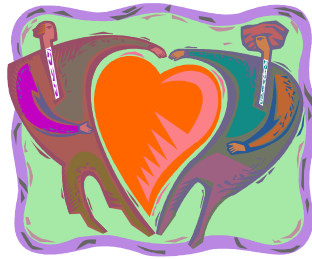
Thanks for your help and participation!



All Full Up – 2's Teacher Needed

We currently have a waiting list for both classes. In fact we have enough 2 year olds on the list to open a second 2-day 2's class. All we need is another teacher for a Wed/Thur class. If you know of any candidates, please have them contact either Sharon King 704-948-8293 or Dana Emery 704-248-0599.

Council News



The University Magazine, in its November edition, has run a feature article about PPP. We are very excited about this free publicity. Please pickup a copy and see what they have to say about our wonderful school and share it with friends and strangers alike. Being a part of this inspiring community is something of which we can all be proud.

The love and commitment that PPP parents are willing to give is truly remarkable. Special thanks to Jeff Abernathy, Sean's Dad (2-day 2's), who responded with lightning speed and beautiful craftsmanship to repair our playground bench.

Remember, we are all important to the smooth and happy running of our preschool. All jobs, big and small, make a difference. Catherine Lutin, 704-766-0660, is our Parent Volunteer Coordinator. She will happily help you find a job that works with your skills and availabilities. Happy Volunteering!

Council Members

Sharon King, Co-Chair,
704-948-8293
Dana Emery, Co-Chair,
704-248-0599
George Gruber, Treasurer,
704-688-6879
Bryna Callison, Secretary,
704-606-8521
Tracy Hensley, Fund Raising,
704-509-9261
Catherine Lutin, Parent
Volunteer Coordinator,
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Angi Calhoun, (4-day class)
Parent Representative,
704-948-0196
Susan Gruber, (2-day class)
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