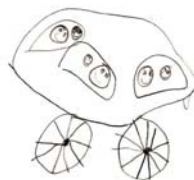


February 2008

Play is Powerful



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PPP COUNCIL

PPP February News

Silent Auction Update

Paula and the Silent Auction Committee have been hard at work, gathering donations for the big night. We have received over \$1000 in items already!

Here's a list of some of what will be auctioned:

- \$25 Gift Card to the Bradford Store
- Dinner for 2 at Brixx Pizza
- Lollipops Concert Tickets
- Adventure Children's Museum Tickets
- Irrisistable Portraits \$150 Gift Certificate
- Lowes Motor Speedway - Truck Race & CocaCola Qualifying Tickets
- \$25 Gift Card to Max & Erma's
- NASCAR Speedpark Passes
- 4 Tickets to NC Zoo
- Birthday Party for 10 at Northcross Lanes
- \$25 Pampered Chef Gift Certificate
- Reiki Gift Certificate from Susan Thompson
- 4 Tickets to Riverbanks Zoo & Garden
- Stampin' Up Gift Basket
- Dinner for 2 at Carrabba's
- Gift Certificate for Tiujana Flats

There is still much to be done and there are lots of different ways you can help. Please join the Silent Auction committee at our next meeting on Thursday, February 27th at 9:30, to find out what you can do.

PPP Logo Items

Love our school logo? Show it to the world by wearing PPP logo clothing. The following items are still available:

Short Sleeve Shirts (\$10):

Kids 3T light blue

4T light blue/pink/navy/red

Long Sleeve Shirts (\$20):

Kids 6/7 Grey/Blue/Red

Sweatshirts (\$20):

Adult M—Grey/Navy/White

Kids 4T Red

Beachtowels (\$20):

Blue Fish or Yellow Butterfly

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Dates to Remember

Feb 13th

Parent Education Coffee Hour 9:30am

Feb 21st

Council Meeting 7:00pm

Feb 22nd

No School-Parent/Teacher Conferences 2's

Feb 25th & 26th

No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences 3's and 4's

Feb 27th

Silent Auction Meeting 9:30am



Classroom News

Here's what has been going on in your child's classroom...



We have seen a lot of changes in the class since returning from winter break. We're hearing lots more conversations and seeing more cooperative play. But we're also experiencing more conflicts, as some children aren't quite ready to share toys and spaces with others. Conflict, however, is not necessarily a bad thing, it can help children understand each other, develop better communication skills and learn to solve problems.

In art, we introduced gluing this past month, first with stickers and then with actual glue and paper with much success. Yellow has been our paint color this past month.

The blocks seem to have grown more popular recently. We're seeing some very elaborate towers and roads. A child even tore up paper to add to the construction one day.

While we did have dirt in the sensory table for a while, pouring water is still the favorite activity. Other popular items in our room have been old keys and credit cards, pom-poms and pinchers and hammering golf pegs into clay—some elaborated on this and started hammering them into the pegboard backs of our shelves.

Thank you to all the parents for your help and donations. And thank you so much for our wonderful winter gifts.



Woodworking has started, which we're sure you've heard all about! They have been very excited about it since the 4s started a few weeks ago. We need parent volunteers to supervise each Tuesday starting at 9:15 until everyone has a turn. We have a handout to guide you. It's easy and fun and the kids love it. The sign up sheet is on the door.

This past month they worked on pre-sewing skills with pipe cleaners, mesh, and beads. Playing grocery store was a huge hit. Then they used the grocery items for box construction. In preparation for woodworking, our little builders practiced hammering golf tees into modeling clay. Based on how many golf tees got broken, they are ready for the real deal. Painting has moved from single colors to the discovery of painting with two colors. Roads are being built from one end of the room to the other with blocks. They are reading to each other and working on puzzles together.

We are collecting round oatmeal containers for a future project. If you have any, please send them in. We'll need 12.



The four year olds have been quite busy over the past few weeks. We have been busy measuring and cooking every Tuesday. We have made pizzas with or without pizza sauce and took home our very own bag of playdough. The children take turns measuring, pouring, scooping, and stirring to create their culinary masterpieces. After cooking we came to the realization the playdough needed color, but what color was yet to be decided. We had purple and red and blue and finally we had them all. The kids got to pick the color they wanted and mixed, if needed, the right proportions of colored dye to create their one of a kind shade of their

choice.

We have also brought out new items for them to use and discover. The block area becomes a magnificent train track that stops for passengers, goes under tunnels, and parks in the garage. After adding packaging peanuts to the sensory table, we had a lot more baking taking place in housekeeping. The glasses were filled to the rim with "milk" and the careful placing and transferring of the freshly baked "food" was a sight. We continue to have lovely paintings to send home and decorate our class and the writing area is just as busy. The children are also working with magnets and seeing what does and does not stick.

The outside play has developed into a lot of chasing and freedom. They have played freeze tag on numerous occasions and sometimes, when it is their turn for woodworking for example, it is hard to tear them away. Woodworking, playing outside, cooking, and creating are just a few outlets for their creativity and we can't wait to see what they think of next.

PIEDMONT PROGRESSIVE



SUMMER DAY CAMPS

for the young mind, body and spirit

Camps will include free choice activities for children to explore and work at their own pace as well as group activities, discussions, storytelling, books and outdoor play.

Magnificent Mudpies, Music and Motion

June 2-5 9:00-12:00 Preschoolers Only \$90

The following camps are for ages 5-9 and run Mon-Fri from 9:00-1:00 at a cost of \$110

Outdoor Explorers	June 16-20
Weird Science	July 7-11
Outerspace Nuts!	July 14-18
Peace Out	July 21-25
Days of Knights	August 11-15
Under the Sea	August 18-22

For more information and registration call
(704) 510-1022

Working with children in the woodworking shop. A story from Open Door School.

Alice was busy helping in the woodworking shop. A child asked her what that was on the floor underneath the vice where he was sawing a piece of wood. She was very busy with another child and did not answer right away. The child continued to saw and watch his work. A few minutes later, he said, "I know, I know, it is the crumbs from the wood." Had Alice answered right away, she would have not given the child the opportunity to really watch, think, and learn from what he was doing.

This is a story that Sue Riley shared with us over the years. It is a perfect example of how to stand back a little and give children the gift of time to learn from discovery. If a child asks a specific question, think about giving them the gift of time, allow them to discover. Ask open-ended questions in response. What do you think that it is? What do you want it to be? How would you do that? It is your work, if I do it, it would be mine. We all want independent thinkers and learners and this is one more opportunity to help them become that. Let the work be their work. Enjoy watching them learn, grow, and discover life!

Guidelines for Woodworking :

Wear Goggles at all times, adult helper and children

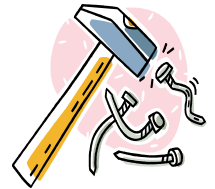
Never leave a child unattended, even for a second

When the child has finished, make sure that their name is on the piece

Additional supplies are inside the woodworking bench, (a teacher has the key)

Start simple: nails, wood, hammer, goggles

Check all nails when children are finished, if loose, give a good "whack" with the hammer and tighten nails



Winter Potluck and Raffle Winners

On Saturday, Feb 2nd, the PPP Winter Potluck continued the tradition of good food and fellowship for the families of PPP. We enjoyed beautiful weather, which gave the children time to enjoy the playground.

Thanks to all who helped set up and clean up.

The 2nd Annual Raffle raised more than \$1,391, after the 1st prize winner, Ken Canavan Sr. (Paula's father in law) donated his winnings back to the school.

The winners are:

1st Prize—Ken Canavan Sr. \$463 (donated back to PPP)

2nd Prize— Heather Hinson \$278

3rd Prize—Ray Jones \$185

Thanks to all who sold tickets—

your participation helps make our school a success!



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Piedmont Progressive Preschool
9704 Mallard Creek Rd
Charlotte, NC 28262

Phone: 704-510-1022
www.progressivepreschool.org

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WELCOME

PPP would like to welcome our newest student Carmen S. to the 4's class. We're so happy you've joined us.

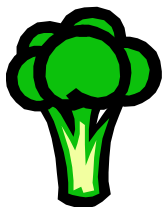
Broccoli Salad

Ingredients:

- 2 heads of broccoli
- 1 small sweet onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup golden raisins
- 8 slices bacon, crumbled
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 2 tbs sugar

Directions:

Cut broccoli florets into bite size pieces and peel and dice stems. Mix broccoli, onion and raisins. Whisk together mayo, vinegar and sugar, pour over broccoli mixture. Let stand several hours to combine flavors. Sprinkle with bacon and serve.



Council Members

Paula Canavan	Co-Chair (Silent Auction Lead)	704-717-0195
Lousie Gammons 9094	Co-Chair	704-719-
Deb Davelka 4656	Advertising Lead	704-455-
Laurel Riesen	Secretary	704-912-2175
Krista Patterson	Newsletter	704-948-5583
Sian Kolozvary 6903	2's Parent Representative	704-302-
Karen Thomson 9229	3's Parent Representative	704-947-
Karen Sidak 4084	4's Parent Representative	704-701-
Suzie Gruber	Parent Volunteer Coordinator	704-688-6879
Beth Clawson 8029	Fundraising Lead	704-717-

Why don't the children exchange Valentine's on Feb. 14th?

We believe holidays are best celebrated within the context of family, home and place of worship, where they can be honored with the respect they so richly deserve. Our classrooms are places where children of all beliefs, cultures and traditions come together to grow and learn while experiencing traditions common to all (i.e. The Candle Song).

In a society where holidays are surrounded by commercialism, let PPP be a respite for children (and adults!) from a frantic world that overwhelms us all.

We are a place where children are encouraged to express themselves using an array of colors and materials rather than colors and decorations dictated by the traditions of each holiday. We are a place where children can sing, tell stories, dress up, build blocks and cook without being confined to songs, stories and recipes of the "season". We are a place where the stories your children tell and the conversations they have about their own traditions will be listened to by caring and nurturing adults.

