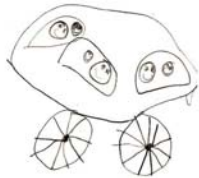


Play is Powerful



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PPP COUNCIL

PPP December News

Scrip Fundraising Program

In January, PPP will begin with a new fundraising program called Scrip. Scrips are gift certificates for a variety of local retailers, that are purchased through the school. Parents purchase a gift certificate for face value and the school receives a percentage of the sale.

It costs our parents nothing extra!

There are hundreds of retailers to choose from.

It's an easy way for parents to raise money for the school without any cost to them.

Look for more information in January!



Thanks for a Wonderful Book Sale

The fall Barefoot Book Sale was a great success! We raised \$209 and \$100 worth of books for the classrooms.

Thank you Suzie, our fellow parent and Barefoot Bookseller, for organizing the sale.

Thanks to the volunteers who assisted, including Deb Davelka, Louise Gammons, Nomy Grant, Karyn Sidak and Sharon King.



Fall Registration

During the month of January, PPP families should pre-register their children for next fall.



An open house will be in February and classes fill. Pre-registration will guarantee your child's space in next year's class.

Look for registration forms to be sent home. It's important to get those forms in as classes will begin to fill during the spring. A deposit of \$75 will be due with the registration form.

Dates to Remember

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dec 13th | Council Meeting |
| Dec 19th – Jan 1st | Winter Break |
| Jan 2nd | Fall Registration for PPP Families |
| Jan 5th | Tuition Due |



Classroom News

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



This past month we really enjoyed meeting with all the parents at conferences. In our classroom, painting is still very popular. We are still using blue paint, but added sponge rollers for interest. It has taken several classes to master the rollers and some children have even found that by squeezing the sponge, it gives their hands just the right amount of paint for handprints. Other popular items in our room have been animals in a barn, old cameras and a pink hat with a loose string.

Snack is mostly inside now. The class is doing great with serving themselves, family style and cleaning up their dishes. We would like to introduce cloth napkins. If you have any old cloth napkins you'd like to donate, please send them in.

As the weather changes, putting on coats, hats and gloves becomes part of our routine. It can sometimes get hectic and clothing can get put on the wrong child. If possible, please put your child's name on his/her things, but we will also be working on clothing recognition as part of our self-help skills.

Thanks to the parents that donated cameras and all those who have assisted this month.



We've been busy exploring paint and glue. We have painted with different brushes, rollers, and even thread spools on different types of paper. The chalk board is popular and one day the class explored drawing with chalk on black paper. We started glueing with blue squares on white paper and expanded to blue triangles, rectangles and red squares. We'll be adding red circles and then plan to move onto fabric pieces and other media.

The potter's clay was a great hit, especially when they discovered adding water to the clay. The return of play dough (this time in yellow) was cheered by those who didn't like the mess of the clay. The sensory table switched from water to potting soil. We started with spoons and small cups and will be switching to small gardening tools and flower pots this week. Who knows what next week will bring? Bugs? Buried treasure?

Dramatic play has increased with the addition of wallets, cameras, bead necklaces, calculators, and other fun stuff. We rooted some spider plant babies in water. Eventually we'll plant them in potting soil and send them home. Outside, we've gone on a nature walk in the woods, started weeding the flower bed, enjoyed a few rain showers and quite



We've had some chilly mornings lately. All the more reason to keep those bodies moving. In no time jackets are being shed while the teachers still shiver! In this chilly weather the best way to dress is in layers. The coats almost always come off. They're bulky and hinder their movement so they just pull them off. So if you have a few layers underneath they will be plenty warm with all the running around they do.

Inside we have been trying new things like painting with 2 colors, sewing on grids and burlap with pipe cleaners, creating things with paper, string, hole punches, pipe cleaners, beads, and paper circles, and of course writing and drawing.

We rearranged the room a bit and created an area for a grocery store complete with all kinds of foods, a cash register and check out counter, bags, purses and wallets with money and credit cards. At first it looked like Harris Teeter the day before Thanksgiving!, but things eventually calmed down and we had some serious shopping. They would dress-up and buy their groceries and then bring them home to the kitchen area and stock the cabinets. One group planned a dinner party and set the table with a silk scarf for a table cloth and dishes, napkins, and silverware. Next we will use all those boxes for box construction. See all the fun we are having with your trash!

Have a Happy Holiday! Make wonderful memories!
Peaceful Wishes!

MORE FUNDRAISING NEWS...

RAFFLE TICKET SALES



Don't forget to keep selling those raffle tickets! Our goal is to sell 1,000 tickets at \$5 a piece. The school will keep 50% of tickets sales and the other 50% will be raffled off in 3 CASH prizes of 25%, 15% and 10%. You can sell them to friends, family, neighbors, people you or your spouse work with, etc.

The drawing will take place at our February 2nd pot-luck. When you are done will your packets of tickets, please return the money and ticket stubs to either Paula Canavan or Beth Clawson. *We ask that you please **do not** give them to teachers or **do not** put them in the tuition box.* For more raffle tickets to sell please contact Paula Canavan at 704-717-0195 or pjcanavan223@yahoo.com

FIFTH ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

Planning for our 2008 Silent Auction will begin in January. The auction is the school's biggest fundraiser and we can use all the helping hands we can get. If you are interested in helping please contact Paula Canavan at 704-717-0195 or pjcanavan223@yahoo.com

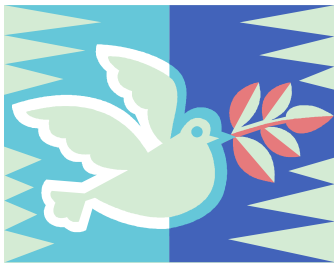
Check your emails in the beginning of January for meeting times and volunteer positions available.



Some thoughts about the Season...

This is a very busy, harried time of the year for a lot of families. The "energy" makes its way into the classroom. Our space is the calm during the rough seas. We keep all the frenzy of the season out of the classroom intentionally. Children are bombarded with commercialism, especially now. This is the opportunity to teach them about giving vs. getting, about others vs. self, wants vs. needs, less vs. more, living simply so that others may simply live.

This is also an opportunity to teach nonviolence through the type of toys or games we purchase.



Busy Box

The holidays can be very stressful and chaotic. Here's an idea to give mom some time to complete all her tasks:

Instead of popping in a video, create a special box just for certain times when things have to get done or phone calls have to be made. In this box put... a box of crayons, colored pencils, scissors, magazines for cutting up, fun paper and envelopes, old stationary, a glue stick, scotch tape (that they can use all of because it's theirs). You can add other interesting things that they don't normally have.....such as buttons, pompoms, stickers, colored paperclips.

This box has to be "special"!

The possibilities are endless and you can change things from time to time to make it even more special but remember—when you're done this box is put away. That way it stays "special".



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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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Council Members

Paula Canavan	Co-Chair (Silent Auction Lead)	704-717-0195
Lousie Gammons	Co-Chair	704-719-9094
Deb Davelka	Advertising Lead	704-455-4656
Laurel Riesen	Secretary	704-912-2175
Krista Patterson	Newsletter	704-948-5583
Sian Kolozyary	2's Parent Representative	704-302-6903
Karen Thomson	3's Parent Representative	704-947-9229
Karen Sidak	4's Parent Representative	704-701-4084
Suzie Gruber	Parent Volunteer Coordinator	704-688-6879
Beth Clawson	Fundraising Lead	704-717-8029
Susan Burns	At Large & Church Liason	704-535-4990
Sharon King	Director	704-948-8293

Inclement Weather

Please remember:

If CMS Schools are delayed or closed,
PPP is closed as well.



Please join us in welcoming our newest student, Gwen Katz to the 3's class.



BREAD PUDDING



Here's a great recipe for cold winter afternoons that will use up that old bread and the kids can help!

INGREDIENTS

- 6 slices day-old bread
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/2 cup raisins (optional)
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups milk
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Break bread into small pieces into an 8 inch square baking pan. Drizzle melted butter or margarine over bread. If desired, sprinkle with raisins.
3. In a medium mixing bowl, combine eggs, milk, sugar, cinnamon, and vanilla. Beat until well mixed. Pour over bread, and lightly push down with a fork until bread is covered and soaking up the egg mixture.
4. Bake in the preheated oven for 45 minutes, or until the top springs back when lightly tapped.



Please use caution and go slow when making the u-turn after drop off. We have recently had large ruts cut into the gravel that required repair.