

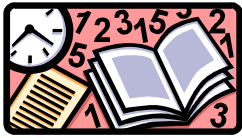


# PPP April/May News



February 2006

Brought to you by the Piedmont Progressive Preschool Council



## Dates to Remember

1<sup>st</sup> of each month – tuition due  
After the 5<sup>th</sup>, \$10 late fee is applied

April 25<sup>th</sup> – Parent Education

April 28<sup>th</sup> – Silent Auction

May 15<sup>th</sup> – Council Meeting

May 20<sup>th</sup> – PPP Family Picnic

May 25<sup>th</sup> – Last Day of School

May 25<sup>th</sup> – Fall Tuition Deposit

Due for 2006-2007



## Silent Auction!

Our biggest fundraiser of the year—The Third Annual Silent Auction—will soon be here with fabulous items up for auction. We have over 70 donated items totaling well over \$7000. Bring your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and people you pass by for fellowship, fun, door prizes, music, food and lots of excitement. Go to the website [www.progressivepreschool.org](http://www.progressivepreschool.org) for a list of the donated items.

Some of the fantastic items available include:

- Biltmore Estate tickets
- Coca Cola 600 tickets
- Wachovia Championship tickets
- Skybrook & Highland Creek Golf passes
- Spa certificates, Jewelry
- Restaurant Gift Certificates and Much, Much More!!!

Soda, Beer, Wine and Refreshments will be served.

Must be 21 to attend!

Childcare will not be provided. This is a parent-only event.

Tickets are \$10 at the door / \$5 in advance. For advance tickets or more information call Paula Canavan at 704-717-0195



## Tuition Deposit Due in May

Tuition deposits for the 2006-2007 year are due in May. This will be the amount of one month's tuition. You will receive a letter indicating the amount due; it will include any discount received for multiple children.

Tuition Rates for the 2006-2007 year are:

2 day class is \$145

3 day class is \$185

4 day class is \$220

The tuition deposit will be held and used for May 2007. Contact Sharon King if you have any questions at 704-948-8293.



### 2006-2007

## New Council

Our next parent council meeting is set for Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be voting in our new council for 2006-2007. We are currently looking for parents who would like to be more involved and would like to help in the monthly decisions made by the parent council. Please remember, our school is only as strong as it's volunteers. If you are interested in holding a position on the council please contact Tracy Hensley at 704-509-9261 or email her at [tracy62668@yahoo.com](mailto:tracy62668@yahoo.com)

Current positions are as follows:

Co-chair: Sharon King

Co-chair: Dana Emery

Secretary: Bryna Callison

Treasurer: George Gruber

Assistant Treasurer: Alice Wilson

Fundraising Lead: Tracy Hensley

According to our by-laws, the council for 2006-2007 must consist of 8 volunteers.

Positions available are:

Parent Representative 2's class

Parent Representative 3's class

Parent Representative 4's class

Newsletter Person

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## "Who's Telling the Stories Your Children Hear?"

A few observations we, as teachers, found interesting that we would like to share.

On a recent Monday morning we had two 4-year-old children sit at the art table with large pieces of newsprint, six cups of freshly poured tempera paint and two wooden handled paint brushes. Typically, this tableau would result in paintings that exhibited the creative, open-ended thinking of 4-year-old children. The usual emphasis would have been on the mixing of colors, often resulting in conversation about discovering "new" colors. Children that age focus on the dripping and swirling of brush strokes and on efforts to cover every inch of paper. Representational work is limited to stick figure family members, the sun, a flower. Much to our surprise, this particular time, both children painted (quite clearly!) a

monkey! The talk among several children that morning centered on monkeys. Upon hearing more of their conversations, we found several children had seen the just released, Curious George movie that past weekend. Mystery solved!

Last week we read a lovely written and illustrated children's book, Each Peach, Pear, Plum. This book mentions several classic fairy tales—all of them written long before the onset of any electronic media. When each fairy tale title was read within the story, children called out, "I have that movie," or "I have that game on my computer!" No one said, "I have that book," or "I know that story!"

On the playground, just the other day, a child was very animated while describing his "King Kong" computer game, even the "creepy" part. Another child commented on having seen the movie, King Kong. (For a five year old?!) Even when children are viewing PG movies, watching PBS and playing computer games recommended for 3-5 year olds, it's passive at best, and any resulting play is often dictated by what they're seeing and hearing on that screen.

Quite often, the conversation and play outside, centers around a super hero or a current TV/movie, prompted by clothing children wear depicting those characters.

While this is disconcerting, and the implications quite alarming, it is not a judgment on parenting! It's easy for all of us

to get sucked into the technical world around us...TV, DVD, computers, video games, movies, ipods, v-casts, and the list goes on!

The anecdotal and scientific research continually warn us of the detrimental effects on the brain development of children over exposed to electronic media, possibly leading to ADD/ADHD, aggressive behavior, delayed social-emotional development and childhood obesity.

Aside from those potential harms, do you want your child's thinking and play dictated by Hollywood, Microsoft and Disney? Instead, consider... making play dough and cooking with your child, putting together a dress-up box with old clothes, shoes, and jewelry. Have them listen to different kinds of music and encourage them to dance! Give them scrap paper and a brand new box of 64 crayons! Let them play "office" with paper, envelopes, and pencils while you pay the bills! READ TO THEM! Take a walk. Teach them to garden. Send them outside to play, to run and jump and climb!! READ TO THEM! Let them paint and play in water. And READ TO THEM! Make the grocery list together. Have them put out birdseed. Make up stories. Sing silly songs. Create rhymes and then, READ TO THEM!

The possibilities are endless! The effort on your part may be great, but the rewards will be greater! You will have children that hear the stories you have told them!



## Play dates

Some of our parents have set up an ongoing play date for every Thursday after school. They meet at Mallard Creek Recreational Park off of Johnston-Oehler Road, around 1:15pm. The covered playground is a great place to connect with other parents and to give your kids more time on these beautiful afternoons. Contact Susan Thompson for more information or directions 704-499-5566.

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## Parent Education

The philosophy workshop we had originally planned will be converted into a coffee hour, with the date to be announced.

For those of you who have expressed an interest in the Pathways book written by Sue Riley, detailing our philosophy, we have copies available for sale. They are \$20 each and if you would like to write a check please make it payable to PPP and note in the memo, "Pathways", so that we may track the correct amount due to Open Door School.

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## 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 [tracy62668@yahoo.com](mailto:tracy62668@yahoo.com), to offer help or to share any ideas you have about fund raising.

Keep clipping those Campbell soup labels and send them in with your children or put them in the envelope on the preschool's bulletin board. We can use them to help support the school.

If you have a used up ink cartridge for your printer or a cell phone that is ready to go into the toy box, consider sending it to the school for recycle. The school will receive funds for cartridges and phones turned in under our name.

Thanks for your help and participation!

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## PPP Family Picnic

PPP Family Spring picnic will be Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup>. Bryna Callison is heading up this event and is looking volunteers to help plan, set up or take down. Please contact her if you are available. More information will be sent out in the beginning of May. Contact Bryna with questions or for additional info 704-606-8521.

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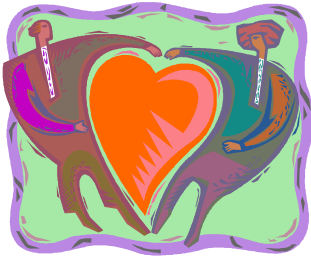


## PPP Classifieds

For sale: Kenmore Washer & Dryer set, great condition. Would have kept, but new house has appliances. Asking \$350 (OBO). Please contact Brinda 704-654-8815 or email [brindayoga@yahoo.com](mailto:brindayoga@yahoo.com)

PPP is proud to announce its new classifieds section. If you would like to sell, donate, lend, purchase or borrow items, list them here. Send your requests to Sibyl Wessler at [swessler@carolina.rr.com](mailto:swessler@carolina.rr.com) by the first of the month to be included in the next newsletter.

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## Council News

Remember, we are all important to the smooth and happy running of our preschool. Everyone holding a position with our preschool is volunteering their time to PPP. 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 availability. 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  
Susan Thompson, Advertising,  
704-499-5566  
Catherine Lutin, Parent Volunteer  
Coordinator,  
704-766-0660  
Angi Calhoun, (4-day class) Parent  
Representative,  
704-948-0196  
Susan Gruber, (2-day class, M/T)  
Parent Representative,  
704-688-6879  
Sibyl Wessler, (2-day class, W/Th)  
Parent Representative,  
704-549-4895

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