

May 2007

Play is Powerful



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PPP COUNCIL

PPP May News

“An Evening Under The Stars” is a Huge Success!!

As you know, Piedmont Progressive Preschool’s Silent Auction is the school’s largest fundraiser and its success only further enriches our children’s curriculum and daily experiences. It is also the sole provider of funds for our Sue Riley Scholarship Fund which assists families that may otherwise not be able to afford tuition.

THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME TO THE AUCTION AND HELPED US RAISE \$5,200 !!!

Thank you to everyone who came out and showed their support. We had **over 150 items** up for auction this year. We hope you enjoy all the wonderful items you won.

This event could not be possible with out the dedication of our parents. We wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Auction Committee who spent countless hours working behind the scenes for this wonderful event.



Chairperson: Paula Canavan

Sharon King

Krista Patterson

Karyn Sidak

Susan Thompson

Decorations: Suzie Gruber

Food: Tracy Hensley

Bryna Callison & Susan Siebert for calling almost 80 places to solicit donations

Kris Jameson for sending thank you notes to all our donors

*Most of all, we would like to thank the families of our fundraising committee, for without their **help, support and understanding** this event could not have taken place.*



Dates to Remember

Wed, May 16th	8:30 pm	Council Meeting— Paula Canavan’s House
Wed., May 23rd Kindergarten	7:00-8:00 pm	Parent Education Event— Readiness
Fri., May 25th Due/Last Day		2007-2008 Tuition Deposit of School

Classroom Notes



The 2's have grown tremendously this year. Most of the separation anxiety that everyone experienced at the start of the year has disappeared. Genuine friendships have developed. The side-by-side play that started off the year has taken a back seat to cooperative play.

The children enjoy and participate fully in Circle time, singing the words to the songs and requesting their favorites.

Self help skills have improved and the class will wash hands independently.

Thanks to all of the parents for assisting in the class and bringing snacks. We hope to see you all next year!



Wow, we can't believe this year is almost over. The children have grown so much, inside and out.

In pre-academics, almost everyone can recognize their name now and many are writing them also. Art has changed from random strokes and blobs, to intentional representations. Block building has become more elaborate and most of the children can sort the blocks for clean up. Most of the class can sit and listen to stories and participate in circle time activities like, "what's the weather today?" or "who's not here today?", counting in English and Spanish and our many songs.

Socially, the class has experienced taking turns and sharing. Friendships have blossomed and we've even observed some children giving up their turn to a friend. At lunch we have enjoyed the many knock-knock jokes and preschool conversations.

We've had some fun extras this year- taking nature walks, planting radishes, hammering and drilling into wood, having a fire drill, visits from the Raptor Center and the Abernathy family band.

Thank you to all the parents for everything you've done this year for our class and our school. You are the greatest. We'll miss everyone who isn't returning next year and look forward to seeing those of you who are in the fall. We hope everyone has a great summer.

Love, Marjo and Nichelle



A Year of Many Questions, A Few Answers, and a Lot of Discovery **Written by Adrienne Emery**

While this year has been one of challenges, discovery and growth for my son, a student in the 4s class, it has been the same for me as a parent. One thing this past year has shown me is that as a parent, I must continue to grow along with my child, and, like him, I must be open to new ideas, as there is always more to learn. I thought I would share a few of my thoughts. Maybe other parents will find they shared similar discoveries, or not, but it is an experience worth reflection, if only to remind us to try not to be complacent in our attitudes and practices when it comes to our children.

I was motivated by Michele's newsletter article around the time of the used book sale to take a hard look at the books in my son's case, and purge it of the character books and others that were not quality literature. We have always treasured books and reading in my house. Somehow, we ended up with lots of character-type books and books based on movies along the way, either through gifts, or because my son chose them on outings to the bookstore, and they piled up. I remember reading them to him at bedtime, and thinking to myself, "This book is terrible. It makes no sense. It is glossing over a (terrible) 2 hour movie in this little book, and there is no logic to it. What junk." And yet, it never occurred to me to get rid of it, and to stop reading it to my son! It was actually a liberating feeling to get these books out of the house, and to focus on "quality" books going forward. My son certainly never missed the old ones. It was a simple lesson in being mindful of how much influence we have over what goes into their little heads and bodies, and trying to make good choices.

I have also learned that our children can almost always handle a lot more than we may expect of them, and when given the opportunity, can rise to the occasion. For example, I hate to admit it, but we never put enough thought into the types of toys my son played with, in that he had amassed a small collection of light sabers and other play weapons over the years. When, this year it became clear that a lot of the play was focused on mimicking good guys and bad guys "fighting," we wanted to take an active role in trying to help the class (and our son) play more creatively and less aggressively. So I took out a plastic bin, and together with my son, we gathered up all of these toys and put them away, while we discussed the reasons for doing so. Not once did my child protest. He knows exactly where they are and never tries to retrieve them. He understands why we think they are not good toys for him, at this point, and that maybe down the road we can take them out. I definitely expected him to put up some type of fight with our decision. We are continuously amazed by his ability to listen to and respond to reason, and we think we now show him greater respect by addressing these issues head-on with him and explaining our decisions, rather than assuming he will not be able to handle any kind of "hard" changes that are meant to benefit him in the long run. We also hope that by showing him this respect through discussion and valuing his input and participation, we are teaching him to make good choices for himself.

This article is truly a tiny glimpse into how this last year has impacted our child, our family, and our parenting style. By no means do I think I have it all figured out. In fact, just the opposite: this year has been one filled with self-questioning and self-doubt, and now, I realize that is a very good thing to have as a parent. I may not know much, but I do know, thanks in large part to Lleyton's teachers and PPP, that I will always question and re-examine the paths I take and the example I set, for my son and all of the children in my life. That is my job, and I am thankful for it. No one ever said it would be easy!

PPP Canvas Totes

Order One Now!

Canvas totes with the PPP logo are available for a limited time, in four colors (natural with black, red, navy or royal) . Only \$12.00. each.

Orders must be received by Friday, May 18th.

If you didn't receive an order form, contact Tracy Hensley at tracy62668@yahoo.com or (704) 497-1659.



SUMMER DAY CAMPS

for the young mind , body and spirit

PPP is offering a variety of day camps for summer.

Each week has its own unique theme.

Weekly camps run 9:00am-1:00pm, beginning the week of June 4th and continuing through the week of August 9th.

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.

For Information, a complete listing of camps or

registration call: 704- 510 -1022 or visit our

website at www.progressivepreschool.org.

Kindergarten Readiness Parent Education Night

Wednesday, May 23rd

7:00-8:00 pm

Mary Coppola, a teacher and founder of PPP will discuss the requirements and expectations of kindergarten in various school settings available in our area.

Everyone is welcome.



This is a child free event,
childcare is not available.

Raptor Center Visits PPP

During May, PPP was visited by some very special friends.

Two owls from the Raptor Center, an Eastern Screech Owl and a Great Horned Owl, came to school and allowed the children of the 3's and 4's classes to learn about their life and that of other birds of prey.

The children heard a story, got to have some hands on experiences with natural items (feathers, skunk fur) and got to see the two live owls.

It was a fabulous morning that was brought to our school through a generous anonymous donation and a scholarship from the Raptor Center, sponsored by Goodrich.

You can learn more about the Raptor center, it's programs and ways to adopt a bird of prey at www.carolinaraptorcenter.org.



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Council Members

Tracy Hensley	Co-Chair (Fundraising Lead)	704-509-9261
Susan Thompson	Co-Chair (Advertising Lead)	704-499-5566
Kris Jameson	Secretary	704-248-6060
Krista Patterson	Newsletter	704-948-5583
Sibyl Wessler	Parent Representative	704-549-4895
Suzie Gruber	Parent Volunteer Coordinator	704-688-6879
Paula Canavan	Silent Auction Lead	704-717-0195
Susan Burns	At Large	704-535-4990



Oops... we forgot to thank Suzie Gruber for all of the hard work she put in during the Spring workday. Thanks Suzie!

Council Positions Still Available

There are several council positions still available, including Parent Representatives for each of the classes.

Parent Representatives play an important role in helping our classrooms run smoothly and require just a few hours of your time.

Please contact Sharon, Tracy Hensley or Krista Patterson, if you can help!



Send Water to School

During this last week, as the weather gets warm, we ask parents to send an extra bottle of water to school to help keep those active little ones hydrated.

There has been lots of fun on the playground but all that action makes the kids thirsty.

Please write your child's name on the bottle to avoid confusion about whose bottle is whose.



2007-2008 Tuition Deposits Due

Tuition deposits for the 2007-2008 school year are due for PPP students who will be returning next year. Please have your deposit to the school by Friday, May 25th to ensure your child's spot.

Deposit amounts are as follows and are used as tuition for May 2008:

2's (2 day class)\$155

3's (3 day class)\$195

4's (4 day class)\$235