

NHCOOP NEWS



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www.northhaledoncoop.com



Spring Clean-Up



SATURDAY
March 19th
9:00 am

Spring is just around the corner and we are planning a **Spring Clean-up** for Saturday, March 19th at 9AM. Bagels will be served in the gym for anyone helping out! *This is mandatory for all Buildings and Grounds committee members. If you are unable to make it, please contact Heather LaCognata at (973)417-1706 to make alternative arrangements.

BOARD UPDATE

The Board has restructured itself. We are pleased to announce that current Board members are now filling these positions:

- * Maria Marano - Co President/
Parent Participation Coordinator
- * Michele Stansfield - Co President
- * Stacy Silvestri - Co President/Fundraising Chair
- * Wendy Sutton - Special Events Chair
- * Jen Panagia - Special Events Chair
 - * Heather & John LaCognata -
Building & Grounds Chair
- * Freddy Stansfield - Building & Grounds Chair
 - * Michele Manning - Secretary
- * Tawnya Stojakovic - Public Relations Chair
- * Jen Decker - Newsletter Editor/Yearbook
 - * Class Parent Captain - Isabel Duffy

The Board is working together to make a positive impact at the co-op. With our **45th anniversary** around the corner, the Board is looking forward to some positive improvements and celebrations next year. We ask that members review the minutes emailed to you each month to keep updated on co-op activities, and board decisions and initiatives.

UPCOMING DATES

- 3/14 Open House
9:30- 1130am
- 3/16 Parents Night
6:30 -7:30pm
- 3/19 Playground Clean-
Up 9:00am
- 3/22 School Closed
Teacher Workshop
- 3/23 New Gym Fitness Starts!
- 3/30-31 School Photos
- 4/1 Tuition Payment #9
- 4/8 Family Reading
Night
- 4/14 Open House
- 4/18-25 Spring Break
- 4/26 School Re-Opens

*Win an Ice Cream
Sundae Party!*

Want to win a **Sundae Party?** Easy! Clip the labels from products you use in your home. See complete list for products on www.labelsforeducation.com There will be a box in each classroom for the labels from **March 1st - May 20th**. The class who collects the most labels will be rewarded with a **Make Your Own Sundae Party!** Each child will also go home with a special gift for winning the contest. 
Continued on page 6.

GREEN FROGS with Ms. Robin & Ms. Marlene

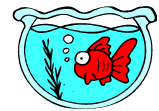


Our class is continuing to have a good time learning and playing together. They are comfortable in Circle Time, and like to count how many friends are here each day. They also beginning to read by checking which friends are sitting where and which friend is having a special day. Circle Time gives us a great time to work on our early literacy and math skills in an authentic environment.

A special part of our Circle Time is Rhyme Time. Ask your child if s/he can tell you some of the rhymes we've been learning together this year. Rhyming is a very important early literacy skill. Recognizing rhymes is one of the first ways that a child demonstrates phonological awareness (an essential part of literacy development). It also helps the child develop the ability to break words into smaller parts and recognize smaller parts in words, a skill that is needed for reading and spelling.

This winter the children have been learning about New Year's, winter weather, winter animals and hibernation and Valentine's Day. Our art projects reinforce the themes we have been covering in circle time. They also allow the children to explore and develop their creative thinking. While working on the art projects each day, the children develop their fine motor skills, which they will need later as they do more writing. We especially had fun with our cardinal and snow globe projects. The children also enjoy science in class. We discovered what happens to water in different temperatures this winter. As spring approaches, we will be talking about taking care of our bodies and healthy habits. Pajama Day is a kid favorite during this unit! We will also be studying signs of spring, weather changes, wind, rain and more. We are eager to get back out on the playground, too.

GOLDFISH with Ms. Robin & Ms. Marlene



The children have settled very nicely in their routines. They are working on social skills – interacting appropriately with children and adults while separating from their moms and dads. At this age, it is very important for the children to develop confidence in a group setting outside of the family. School provides the perfect opportunity for the children do this. This is also a very important time for exploration and vocabulary development. In class, we look to maximize these opportunities, with lots of hands on activities. We also provide opportunities for

physical growth – fine motor skills are strengthened when the children play with play-doh. Gross motor skills are strengthened when the children paint at the easel. This will help our little learners when they begin to write their names!

The children have been working on learning their colors and shapes. They have also been learning about small, medium and large. Ask them if they can point to each size circle on the snowmen they made.

This winter we had plenty of opportunities to talk about snow and winter weath-

er. We worked on art projects related to these themes. We hope you had a chance to admire our snow angles, snow flakes, and snow men hanging up around the room. The children are proud of their work – another great way to build their confidence and self esteem, which will lead to success in school as they grow. The children enjoyed our Pajama Day recently as we talked about day and night. This spring, we will be talking about signs of spring and working on our counting skills.

RED BIRDS with Ms. Rosemarie & Ms. Alice

We are having fun playing and learning everyday. There are some new experiences that the children enjoy in our four day class. Journaling is an exciting part of our curriculum. The children enjoy 'writing' in their very own journals about special things in their lives. Topics have included: I am special; My favorite thing about Lorrimer; What I love; and My favorite birthday gift. Their entries are precious. They also really enjoy the class journal where parents help journal about "Buddy's Weekend Travels." These journal experiences are a great way to reinforce early literacy skills, helping the children make the connection between spoken word and written text. Parents, thanks for doing such a great job with the Buddy journals! The children love this.

This winter the children have been learning about New Year's, winter weather, winter animals and hibernation, the Super Bowl, and Valentine's Day. We have completed many fun art projects to reinforce the themes we have been covering in circle time. Our art projects help the children develop their fine motor skills, while developing their creative spirits, too.

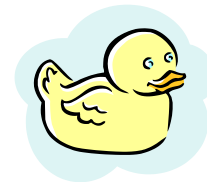
We've also been studying our letters. Parents please help reinforce: Gg, Aa, Ss, Jj, Vv, Pp, and Dd. Like the Letter Box game at school, play games with letters, asking your child if he/she can think of things that start with each sound. Point out letters from their names on signs and pages of books that you read. Remember to keep it playful and authentic. Recognizing letters in the world around them and playing word games will do more to teach and reinforce letters and sounds than a workbook will. Learning should be fun. You should have sent the smiles when the children helped make and erupt our class volcano, when we studied the letter V!

We are looking forward to spring. We will be studying money, signs of spring, weather changes, and more. We are looking forward to our unit on recycling, too. With kindergarten just around the corner, we will also be focusing on our personal information – names, addresses, and phone numbers. Driving in the car is a great time to review this information with your children. Numbers will also be a focus. Remember to check your child's backpack and the board outside the classroom for news and updates.



YELLOW DUCKS with Ms. Rose & Ms. Marielena

The children have been having lots of fun playing and learning throughout the year. They are also very proud of the class books we've been making this year. The children enjoy 'writing' in their very own pages of our class books., and they love to go back to these special books, to read during the day. We now have an ABC Book, *10 Apples Up on Top*, a field trip book, a snowy day book and more. We have also worked on several individual books, including our Brown Bear Color Books and our own Number Books. We use these book-making experiences to reinforce early literacy skills, especially helping the children make the connection between spoken word and written text. It also helps the children become more interested in "reading" – a great first step to learning how to read. Additionally, the children are also learning early print concepts such as right to left and top to bottom as we work on our books. We've also been studying our letters. The children love to add each letter to our own coconut tree as we study them. Recent and up-



YELLOW DUCKS cont.

coming letters include: Hh, Yy, Xx, Kk, and Nn. This winter the children have been learning about New Year's, winter weather, winter animals and hibernation, and Valentine's Day. We are looking forward to spring. We have some fun things planned for March, including our Hat Day, as we study Dr. Seuss, and PJ Day, as we study the human body and healthy habits. Making our vegetable soup is a fun part of this unit. The children enjoy cooking. Thank you parents for your healthy, yummy contributions for our soup!



Building & Grounds

This year Buildings and Grounds had a great start with the donation of new playground mulch thanks to the Antanasio family! The B & G team has worked hard to keep the school & playground clean and safe. New signs (donated by American Traffic & Safety) were placed in the **staff only parking area** at the front of the school: For the safety of all of our children, no parents are to use those spots. Covenant has been hired to do a professional, thorough cleaning of the entire building regularly, and they are doing a great job. We are also very appreciative to all the families who volunteered to take home toys over the holiday break. Everything was returned looking great.

FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all of the families who have participated in the fundraisers to date. Our CPK fundraiser earned \$41.00 for the school and \$15 from Five Below. Our current fundraiser is Gertrude Hawk Candy. It will run until March 14th, just in time for Easter baskets. Yankee Candle will be back for Mother's Day. A few families have inquired about selling candy bars as well as a plant sale. We are currently researching our options. As always we are welcoming any suggestions for spring fundraisers, email us @ fundraising@northaledoncoop.com



Parents Night

Wednesday, March 16th from 6:30 – 7:30 pm

This event is for co-op parents and children. It is an opportunity for the children to share their school day with parents who do not regularly co-op in the classroom. If Mom co-ops, your child should bring Dad; If Dad co-ops, your child should bring Mom; If neither parent co-ops, then your child can bring one of you or both of you!

Because of space limitations, we do ask families where one parent co-ops regularly to send only the parent who doesn't usually get to come into the class - and no siblings please.

In past years, this evening has been a highlight for the children! They love to be able to share their classroom with parents who don't normally get to join us during the day. The parents and children will participate in usual school day activities -- crafts, songs, and play-time.

Read Across America



We are celebrating reading this month at the co-op!

The NEA's Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. On Wednesday March 2, the children had a surprise guest reader. I stopped in each class and read my childhood favorite, Dr. Seuss's "Marvin K. Mooney, Will You Please Go Now!" aloud to the children.

Throughout the month, each of our classes will be spending some time reading Dr. Seuss books and enjoying word play activities. Rhyming is an important pre-reading skill, essential to reading success. Other special events this month to help celebrate reading include Hat Days, Pajama Days, and more. (Each class has its own schedule and special events).

These activities coincide with the National Education Association's (NEA) 14th Annual Read Across America campaign. The NEA estimates that last year almost 45 million children and adults celebrated the joy of reading on Dr. Seuss's birthday. This year they hope to bring a nation of readers together to really drive home the message about the importance of reading. For more information about how to generate excitement for reading among America's children and their families and about best practices for motivating and teaching reading, visit www.nea.org/readacross.com. See also in my email: NEA's Read Across America 6 Keys to Help a Child Become a Good Reader.

The NHCOOP places an emphasis on early literacy skills and helping children develop a love of reading. Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers. Research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school. Watch for coming info on our Family Reading Night. The co-op is eager to help inspire families to read together in March, and every day!

Have fun reading together,
Dana Petrie



NEA'S READ ACROSS AMERICA

6 KEYS TO HELP A CHILD BECOME A GOOD READER

- ◆ Starting Early
- ◆ Surrounding Your Child With a Reading-Rich Environment
 - ◆ Talking With Your Child
 - ◆ Teaching Your Child While You Read Aloud
- ◆ Helping Your Child Develop Critical Thinking Skills
 - ◆ Finding a Good Preschool Setting



Be sure to find the co-op on **Facebook**. You can request to be friends with "North Haledon Co-op". You can also join the group "North Haledon Co-op Nursery School Families & Alum". Invite any friends of yours who are former co-op members to join our group. Also, please help spread the word of our Open Houses by posting it on your **Facebook** page. Thanks!

Questions?

*E-mail the Director,
Dana Petrie, at
nhcoop@optonline.net*



*Where Children
Learn & Grow
Together...*



You will find these labels on many products already in your home - For example: Campbell's Soup, Pepperidge Farm Goldfish and other products, BIC products, and Post cereals. So, start clipping!

You can find a full list of products online at www.labelsforeducation.com

We will be able to redeem the labels for new supplies for the classrooms! You can also help our school by registering your Shoprite card for rewards on www.labelsforeducation.com.



You Are Invited to Join Our New Fitness Program

"Let's Move"



WHO: Preschoolers ages 3-6

WHAT: A preschool physical education program designed to instill healthy lifestyle habits in children ages 3-6.

LET'S MOVE will teach small children all about their bodies and how they work. Topics such as the heart, lungs, muscles, bones, brain, mouth and nutrition, along with fun and games, are a regular part of the preschool phys.ed. classes. LET'S MOVE helps builds confidence through non-competitive activities. Children workout, learn and have so much fun!

WHEN: Wednesday 12:00 - 12:45pm
For 8 weeks starting March 23, 2011

TEACHER: Beth Kurzer, National & Certified Fitness Instructor

COST: \$85 for 8 weeks (you can drop off or stay and watch) \$100 for 8 weeks if you include ½ hour lunch preceding class.

Payment due in full by March 18th (or contact Office Manager Tracey Campana for payment arrangements).