

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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January School Calendar

- 1/4/10 (Mon)
CLASSES RESUME
- 1/13/10 (Wed)
BOARD MEETING
(everyone welcome), 7:00 p.m.
- 1/18/10 (Mon)
NO SCHOOL
(Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday)
- 1/27/10 (Wed)
MANDATORY MEMBERSHIP MEETING, 7:00 p.m.
"Getting ready for the Open House"
- 1/29 (Fri)
PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES (all day),
childcare provided

A LOOK AT MEMBERSHIP

- Becky Widman, VP/Membership Coordinator

We have great news on the membership front! The Kindergarten class will be fully subscribed — at least for January and February — as we'll have two new visiting students for the first two months of the year. A big welcome to our new Kindergarteners – their participation in our school will be a great experience for everyone. The 2s class and the 3/4s are now full and the 2/3s may be fully subscribed in the coming week, as well. We

still have a couple openings in Miss Ann's 3s class, which meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings, so continue to spread the word about CPNS&K. That said, I have never had so many calls from prospective parents at this point in the year! Our website is definitely a huge recruiting tool for us, but so are our wonderful teachers. Everyone who has visited the school thinks it's an amazing place and our growing membership is proof positive of this.



The Terrific Turtles exchange books as part of a holiday gift exchange.



Miss Ann reads a holiday story to her Terrific Turtles.



Miss Joan applies red noses on her "reindeers" following a very successful classroom cleanup!



Miss Joan's "reindeers" in the 4s class sleep in their stables waiting for the holidays.

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WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS!

As you may remember, our region was beset by intense rain storms during the evening of Tuesday, December 8th. The following morning, our teachers arrived at school to find the school flooded. A couple of inches of water had made its way throughout the school and electricity was off, which delayed initial clean-up efforts. But parent and teacher teamwork and fast-acting help on the part of the St. Andrews' Church and its insurers meant that the school wasn't closed for long. Workers toiled throughout the weekend and early the next week dehumidifiers were brought in and the wonderful Mr. Hans stripped and waxed the classroom and office floors. The school reopened on Tuesday, December 15th after a supreme group effort of moving the school furniture and equipment back into place.

Unfortunately, the waters returned after Christmas. Miss Terri and Miss Joan managed to move the furniture so that Mr. Hans could again return and strip and wax the floors. Luckily, the new cabinetry and carpets were not yet installed. Mr. Hans' efforts from the first flood were not in vain, however, as previous waxing seemed to have helped and the floors held up. Additionally, the plastic border that was installed around the edges of walls after the last flood also seems to have protected against more damage. Teachers and dedicated parents returned on Saturday, January 2nd to move furniture and to ready the classrooms for our return to school on January 4th.

Leah Garrett, School Treasurer, says "that it's moments like these that make us grateful for insurance." CPNS&K

had to pay a \$1,000 deductible, but was then able to replace the carpets in all four rooms, six 6-foot bookcases, three little bookcases, food, and some classroom supplies. Leah explains that "while the cost of the deductible was unexpected and not one we could plan for, we are thrilled to make it through this event with the security of insurance and the active involvement of our families."

Thank you to all who came out to help move, push, lift, stack, shove and clean the school in mid December and those who returned to move furniture this past weekend. A special commendation goes to Aaron Visnic (father to Olivia in Miss Terri's 2s) who had stacked all the furniture on that soggy Wednesday, December 9, while wading in water with a baby in a carrier and a toddler by his side!



Everything is topsy turvy as the school is cleaned and the floors are stripped and waxed.

PREPARING FOR PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

(Adapted from articles at *Parenting.com*, *Scholastic.com*, and *DiscoveryEducation.com*)



Some of us never forget the parent-teacher conferences of our childhood and adolescence. Even for good students, they were a nail-biting experience! Years later, as I prepare for my own child's first parent-teacher conference, I realize it's much more nerve-racking to be the parent than the child. What if he's not making friends in class? Will the teacher think I'm a bad parent? Having read advice from parenting and early childhood educators, however, I realize that I'm not alone in my anxieties and that these conferences can provide an excellent opportunity to help our children get the most out of their preschool experience.

As our teachers prepare for the **CPNS&K parent-teacher conferences on January 29, 2010**, remember that these meetings are not meant be frightening evaluations of our children or our parenting. Rather, parent-teacher conferences at the preschool and kindergarten level allow parents and teachers to form a true partnership, strengthen the lines of communication, and provide a

broad view of how a child is doing and the goals of the school. Every parent wants to hear how wonderful his or her child is — and teachers should tell you about your child's special skills and achievements. But one of the main functions of these conferences is to point out areas where your child has room to develop. The point of this meeting is to get an assessment of how your child is doing in school and to look for ways you can help her.

As parenting expert Lonna Corder explains, parent-teacher conferences for preschoolers can also help parents with any developmental concerns they may want addressed.

“Preschool teachers can spot speech issues, fine and gross motor development, social appropriateness and basic learning styles. If parents have an objective understanding of how their child is developing they can go forward and make better choices for their child's future,” says Corder.

As Corder states, “Remember it is preschool. The goal is to expose your child to socialization, rules and beginning education. Set realistic expectations of what the teacher is going to tell you and what you will do with this information once you get home with your child.”

In other words, don't stress too much! CPNS&K teachers are here to help your child. Talk to your teacher about any follow-up discussions you may want to have based on your conference. Work together to address any issues and to celebrate your child's successes.

Parent-teacher conferences also provide an opportunity for parents to ask any questions they may have about their child or the preschool or kindergarten program, such as :

- How well do you think my child is transitioning to your class?
- In what areas has my child grown the most during school?
- Are there any areas of weakness or problems at school? If so, how have you handled these problems and how did my child react?
- Are there any there any areas of concern?
- Talk to your child about her time at school – is she able to communicate any likes or dislikes that your teacher should know about?
- Is there anything we, as parents, can do at home to reinforce the skills that you're working on in the classroom?
- What are the best ways we can be involved in the class and communicate with you in the future?

ABOUT TOWN ...

- Until 1/10/10 *Mulan*, the stage version of Disney's animated movie, at the Imagination State in Bethesda, MD:
<http://www.imaginationstage.org/shows-a-tickets/0910-season>
- Until 1/10/10 *The Little Engine That Could*, Adventure Theatre's musical rendition of the classic story at Glen Echo Park:
<http://www.adventuretheatre.org/09season/mainstage.html>
- 1/9/10 *Twelfth Night Ball* – get a babysitter and join the period-costumed and black-tied guests at a traditional, Regency-style ball at Riversdale House Museum in Riverdale Park:
http://www.pgparcs.com/places/eleganthistoric/riversdale_events.html
- 1/24/10 *Jungle Books*, an adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's classic, performed by CityDance at the National Zoological Park. Dance is accompanied by activities in the Reptile Discovery Center.
<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ActivitiesAndEvents/Celebrations/wildsidestage/default.cfm>
- Until 1/31/10 *Da Vinci, The Genius*, at the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore, exploring the artist's anatomical art, science, and engineering innovations:
<http://www.mdsci.org/exhibits/davinci.html>

AWARD-WINNING BOOKS TO BEGIN THE NEW YEAR

Following the holiday season, you may have an excess of gift cards or three copies of *Corduroy* to return! Here are some picks from the critics that would make great additions to any child's bookshelf:

- *Only A Witch Can Fly*, by Alison McGhee. An illustrated poem about a little girl who dreams of flying on her broomstick on Halloween night. Ages 3 to 7.
- *Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11*, by Brian Floca. In watercolors, ink and acrylics, the story of how the Apollo 11 mission unfolded. Ages 4 to 7.
- *The Odd Egg*, by Emily Gravett. A duck discovers a huge speckled egg — with a baby alligator inside! Ages 2 to 5.
- *A Penguin Story*, by Antoinette Portis. Edna the penguin goes on a quest to discover new colors. Ages 3 to 6.
- *The Lion and the Mouse*, by Jerry Pinkney. This illustrated retelling of the classic fable has only seven words, all sound effects. Any age.
- *The Snow Day*, by Komako Sakai. A bunny child stays home from school when the world is beset by a snowstorm. Ages 3 to 5.
- *Yummy: Eight Favorite Fairy Tales*, by Lucy Cousins. Eight popular fairy tales retold in vivid colors. Ages 3 to 6.
- *White Noise*, by David A. Carter. A surprising and accessible, pop-up romp through cubism and futurism, and a lesson in early-20th-century modernist formalism. Ages 2 and up.
- *All the World*, by Liz Garton Scanlon. A journey in pictures and verse from an unexplored beach to a busy music-filled family room and into a tranquil, moonlit night. Ages 4 to 7.

Comments or
 suggestions for the
 CPNS&K Newsletter?
 Items for submission?

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