



Grayslake Co-op News

February 2012



Join the Board

As we continue with the second half of the school year, we encourage parents of children who will be staying with us through the 2012-2013 school year to think about serving on the GCNS Board of Directors next year. While some of our current board members have volunteered to return next year, there are still plenty of open positions we need to fill. Please contact Kristin Haverkamp at president@grayslake-coop.com for more information.

Public Registration Reminder

Don't forget to get the word out to friends and family that our public registration date is **Monday, February 6th at 12:00 pm**. It will be located at the preschool, 960 Harris Road, Suite 1A, in Grayslake. (3/4 Classroom)

In order to register, we will need to collect the required paperwork (available at registration), a copy of the child's birth certificate and/or adoption certificate (if not currently on file) and a \$75 non-refundable registration fee.

Conferences

The annual GCNS Parent/Teacher conferences will be held in late February or early March. If you haven't already, parents will be asked to sign up to meet with their child's teacher in 10 minute intervals either during the school day, or in the evening. Classes will be conducted as usual on conference days, as GCNS teachers will substitute for each other. Teachers will provide additional information as their conference dates approach.

Dates to Remember: Please mark your calendars!

- Feb 1 – Groundhog Day at Ryerson Woods (4/5 classes only)
AM Class: 10-10:45am, PM Class: 12:30-1:15pm
- Feb. 1, 6:30 pm
Zacharias Center Parent Night at GCNS
- Feb. 6 and 8
Zacharias Classroom Visits (4/5 classes only)
AM Class: 11-11:30am, PM Class, 12:45-1:15pm
- Feb. 6, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Open House and Public Registration
- Feb. 8, 9:30-11am
Children's Neighborhood Museum, (M/W, 3/4 class)
- Feb. 9, 9:30-11am
Children's Neighborhood Museum, (T/TH, 3/4class)
- Feb. 16, 9:30-11am
Children's Neighborhood Museum, (2/3 Class)
- Feb. 20
No school – President's Day

February Board Meeting

The next Board meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 6:30 pm following the Zacharias Center Parent Night. The meeting will be held at the school. Please let one of the Board members know if you are interested in attending the meeting.

2012-2013 News



With our 2012-2013 registration underway, we wanted to remind you about a change to our class schedule for the upcoming school year. As you know by now, next year we will be offering a three-day

class for 3 and 4-year-olds and a two-day class for 3 and 4-year-olds. We hope this class structure will provide consistency for our students by having the same group of children working and learning together with the same teachers. We also hope it will provide more continuity with our curriculum. The Board members and staff are all extremely excited about this restructuring as we feel it will allow us to provide the best programs we can for your children.

In addition to this change, we also wanted to keep you informed about our classroom teachers for the upcoming year.

Mrs. Christy Floriani will continue to work with our youngest students in the 2/3 class next year along with Mrs. Jen Truss. Christy has been with our school for a few years now, first as a parent and, for the past three years, as a teacher. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia where she earned her Bachelor in Arts in Psychology and her Masters of Teaching in Elementary Education. Christy does a wonderful job providing a safe and exciting first school experience to our young students and loves watching them develop and grow throughout their first year at GCNS.

Mrs. Melissa Carnes will continue to educate our 3 and 4-year-old children on Tuesdays and Thursdays along with Mrs. Susan Lawrence. Mrs. Carnes will also continue to teach the Pre-K Enrichment class with Mrs. Margaret Schrimpf. Melissa has a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Illinois State University. Before joining our staff two years ago, Melissa taught early childhood education and kindergarten for many years prior to starting her family. Melissa does a wonderful job creating a child-centered classroom and enjoys the excitement children bring every day as they experience playtime with new friends and participate in learning activities.

Mrs. Peggy Otten will continue to be our educator for our oldest students in the 4/5 room along with Mrs. Jen Truss. Peggy has a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education as well as training in Early

Childhood education from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Peggy has been with our school for many years—first as a parent, then as a director, and now as a teacher for the past twelve years. Peggy does a wonderful job encouraging independence and confidence in her students and delights in watching the social and academic growth of her students.

Finally, we are thrilled to announce our newest staff member, **Mrs. Susan Edelstein!** Susan will be the other 3/4 teacher on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays along with Mrs. Susan Lawrence. Susan (Edelstein) has a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from Northern Illinois University.

She taught both early childhood and elementary education prior to starting her family. And now that her youngest daughter will be starting kindergarten in the fall, she is excited to return to teaching early childhood students. She believes strongly in the importance of social and emotional development of preschool-age children, and is excited to guide our students and provide an environment where they can make new learning discoveries. Please join us in welcoming her to our school! We know she is just as excited to get to know all of you, as you are to meet her.



Spring Clean Up

Due to the storm, we had to cancel the winter toy cleaning. Instead, we will be asking that you participate in our Spring Clean-Up, date TBD. This will be a time for us to spruce up our outdoor space, weed the playground, and take care of any maintenance that needs to be done in order for our children to have a nice, clean outdoor play and learning environment. As soon as a date has been determined, we will let you know so that you can get it marked on your calendars.



4/5 Class Search for Groundhog

Winter just wouldn't be complete without a search for that furry weather forecaster known as the groundhog! So, that's just what the GCNS 4/5 classes will seek out on Feb. 1st as they venture to Ryerson Woods for a pre-Groundhog Day field trip.

The field trip will consist of an entertaining attempt to wake the human-sized groundhog, followed by an indoor presentation on groundhog life. The entire presentation lasts about 45 minutes. Please meet in the Ryerson Woods Welcome Center 15 minutes before the start of the fieldtrip. We will head out to find the "groundhog" at 10:00 am for the morning class and 12:30 pm for the afternoon class. Please dress children appropriately for the weather. Much of this field trip is outside. Ryerson Woods is located at 21950 N Riverwoods Rd. Riverwoods, IL 60015. It's about a 25-minute drive from the school.



Zacharias Center

The classroom session, coming in February, is described as "an informative, upbeat, personal safety program that is designed to emphasize assertiveness skills, not fear." Material is completely age-appropriate and presented in a fun, non-threatening manner. The program teaches children to recognize and deal with potentially dangerous situations by being assertive and relying on peer support and a network of trusted adults. These strategies significantly reduce children's vulnerability to verbal, physical and sexual assault.

Information will be in your 4/5 cubbies soon. The pamphlets are designed to help parents reinforce and expand upon the concepts and strategies children will learn in the Child Assault Prevention program, which will be conducted in the 4/5 classes only.

This is a difficult topic for many people to discuss; however, education and information are essential tools to protecting our children. Zacharias Center (formerly LaCASA) presentations have been conducted at GCNS for many years, with very positive feedback.

Fundraising Opportunity

Mark your calendars for March 3rd. We have a fundraiser scheduled at Buffalo Wild Wings in Round Lake Beach. Good news - It's a Saturday! Hopefully that means more of your families and friends can participate. Details coming soon!



Children's Neighborhood Museum

Imagine a tot-sized replica of a town built especially for kids; a place where they can drive a car to the grocery store, gas up at the local gas station, be a star on stage, or a pizza stand owner! The Children's Neighborhood Museum is all of that and more! Children can practice various roles in a community, challenging themselves to explore, imagine and create, exercising both mind and body. They may even enter the Neighborhood's "backyard" where they can climb, crawl, slide and be busy bodies in a safe environment!

It's located at in the lower level of the Robert W. Rolek Community Center at 814 Hart Road in Round Lake. This field trip is for the 3/4 and 2/3 classes only. Please meet at 9:30 am. Siblings are \$5. You can print a \$1 off coupon on the Round Lake Park District website, www.rlapd.org

- 3/4 M/W Class - Feb. 8
- 3/4 T/TH Class - Feb. 9
- 2/3 Class - Feb. 16



Family Day Reminder

With family day right around the corner, the board of directors and Family Day committee are again busy designing the games and searching for entertainment for the kids. They are also securing donations from local businesses to help create the amazing raffle baskets and silent auction items that are comparable to last year's selection.



But they NEED YOUR HELP. Do you or a family member own your own business and would like to donate something to put in a raffle basket? Does your family want to sponsor a themed basket? Do you or someone you

know have season tickets to a sporting event and are willing to donate a pair of tickets to one game for the silent auction? Do you have a stack of baskets from holiday gifts in your basement that you are willing to donate?

If you said yes to any of the above, please contact our Co-Chairs, Maria Sanborn at sanborn97@att.net or Bridget Chaney at chaney2k1@mail.com. This has been a very fun event for parents and students alike, and a great fundraising opportunity. Let's pull together to make it a truly memorable night for all.

School Closed

Please note that GCNS will be closed on Monday, February 20st for President's Day. Enjoy the long three-day weekend.



Reminders

Helping Hands: Don't forget to check out the helping hands posted in the classrooms. Each hand has an item that the school could use, i.e., cotton balls, paper plates, etc. The teachers greatly appreciate your help in keeping the classroom's well stocked with much needed materials.



Healthy Snack: Fruits and veggies make a great snack for your child's class! Just remember that they need to be prepared in the classroom, and not at home.



Scrapbooking: If you have pictures from field trips or special classroom occasions, please send them to Kim at kim.jensen@actwrite.com so that she can include them in the official school scrapbook!