DEXTER CO-OP PRESCHOOL

Save the Date

- **3/31 –4/7: Spring Break**
- **4/14: No School**
- **4/29: Family Fun Night**
- **5/25: Last Day of School 3's**
- **5/31: Last Day of School 4's**
- **6/1: School Clean-up Day**

Inside this issue:

3's News	*2*
Say Cheese, 3's!	*3-4*
4's News	*5*
Say Cheese, 4's!	*6-7*
Editor's Page	*8*

Letter From the President

Spring 2017

Happy Spring!

I don't know about you, but I for one am very happy for the sun to be out, the snow to be fading, and for kids being able to get outside and play! It is a good thing spring makes us feel more energized, as the wind down to the end of the school year always feels jam packed with activities! Here is a look ahead...

- No school - 3/31-4/7
- No school - 4/14
- Family Fun Night - 4/29 with Gordo the Magician!
- Last day of school for the 3's - 5/25
- Last day of school for the 4's - 5/31
- School clean up day - 6/1

Dust off those bike helmets as we look forward to more balance bike practice, with National Ride Your Bike to School Day happening in May. Helmets are required to ride!

We have a new and improved website to launch soon! Until then, updated information about the school is best found on our Facebook page. You can also find the link to registration "pinned" at the top of the page.

We still need people to join our board for next year. Nominations close at the end of the month, so if you would like to participate in shaping the school, please sign up!

Also in the next two months you are going to receive two important emails from us; an email to vote for board positions and an end of the year survey. Voting will take maybe 5 minutes, the survey just a little bit longer, depending on if you want to provide detailed answers. Full participation in both really help the school.

Thank you for all the hard work you have put into this school year. It is pretty awesome what a group of parents can do for their kids!

Alicia Jensen

Co-op President

Three-Year-Olds' News

Letter From Mrs. Jessica

I found this article about conflict resolution skills recently and thought it broke things down in a manageable way. Whether it is a dispute over a toy, hurt feelings or having to share areas of the classroom, we see conflict each day in the classroom. Teaching and supporting these skills with the children provide a valuable foundation for managing conflict throughout their young life.

Ways Child Care Providers Can Teach Young Children to Resolve Conflicts.

Many preschoolers have problems sharing, taking turns, and negotiating roles when they play together. These day-to-day conflicts are great opportunities for child care providers to help 3- to 5-year-olds practice the skills needed to resolve disagreements. Even the youngest preschoolers can learn the basics of conflict resolution with appropriate help and guidance from supportive child care providers.

Benefits of Teaching Conflict Resolution to Young Children

Learning to handle conflicts in productive ways is an important social skill that children will use throughout their lives. When child care providers help preschoolers practice resolving conflicts, they become more sensitive to the needs and feelings of others. Children also develop self-confidence when they learn how to solve their problems in a positive and assertive way. Conflict resolution involves **good communication, real listening,** and **searching for solutions** that children can agree to. This kind of problem solving teaches children how to think creatively and to evaluate solutions.

Steps in Resolving Conflicts

Child care providers can begin teaching children to negotiate and solve disagreements by guiding them through some simple steps. Remember that children need repeated practice to resolve conflicts. Childcare providers will need to lead children through the steps at first. With repeated practice, preschoolers and school-age children can learn to work through these steps by themselves.

Find a quiet place to talk. Before helping children resolve the conflict, child care providers need to remove children from the place where the conflict occurred. Find a quiet place in the room where everyone can sit and discuss the situation without interruptions.

Set ground rules. Conflicts raise strong emotions in most children. Ground rules will help ensure that children discuss the situation rationally and arrive at a solution that all children are willing to try. Common ground rules for children resolving conflicts include:

- Everyone gets a say.
- Everyone listens without interrupting.
- Everyone gets to propose a solution.
- All solutions must be discussed.
- The group must choose the best solution together.

Give each person a say. Go around the circle and ask each child to tell her side of the story. Use questions like "Amy, what happened?" and "Beth, what happened?" to allow each child to share. Remind children to listen without interrupting. Be sure everyone has the chance to speak about the problem.

State the problem clearly. Based on the information that all children shared, summarize the problem in a few words. You might say something like, "Amy and Beth, it sounds like you both want to be the mother in dramatic play. Is that right?"

Ask each person to suggest a solution. Go around the circle again and ask each person, "What do you think we should do to solve this problem?" Again, remind children to listen without interrupting. Encourage each child to suggest a solution, even if the suggestion is the same as the one proposed by another child.

Help the group choose a solution. Guide the children in discussing the pros and cons of each solution. Ask them to think about how they would feel about that solution, and encourage them to consider how the solution would affect others as well as themselves. For example, you might say, "Amy has suggested that both of you get to be the mother and take care of your own babies. Beth, how would you feel about that solution? Are there any problems with this idea?"

Put the solution into effect. Congratulate the children on coming up with a solution together. Go with the children as they begin trying out their solution. Remind them of the agreement if children are not following the solution chosen.

Observe and check in if needed. Watch the children interact for a little while. Watch the ways that they are playing together, and pay attention to any problems that still seem to be happening. If the solution is not working, or children are unhappy with the solution, bring the group back together to renegotiate a better solution.

With time and repeated practice, preschoolers can learn to use these steps to solve problems without the help of their child care provider. Resolving conflicts helps children learn valuable communication skills and can encourage them to be more accepting of different points of view.

Say Cheese, 3AM!

Say Cheese, 3PM!

Four-Year-Olds' News

Letter From Mrs. Holly

Thank you to the parents who organized the March VIP Nights for our 4's children. The Dr. Seuss theme for the AM children was full of fun activities, and the Space theme for the PM class will be as well. All the children enjoy sharing the evening with their "very important person." They are proud to show their skills of cutting, writing their name as well as being a group member and making choices during the activity time. Thank you to all the VIP's for being a part of your child's early school experience.

CURRICULUM NOTES

March came in "like a lion" and hopefully it will go out "like a lamb." We were lucky to have chilly, snowy weather as I introduced the books of author Jan Brett. The children had a lot of fun acting out The Mitten, pretending to be forest animals trying to squeeze into a lost mitten, and the traditional Goldilocks and The Three Bears. There are definitely some budding actors in our midst. We are also exploring books by Eric Carle: 1,2,3, To The Zoo and The Very Hungry Caterpillar. There are a variety of games and activities to support number recognition and counting.

Spring brings changes in the outside world: snow melting and temperatures rising (we hope), bulbs popping up from the ground, buds appearing on the trees and even some baby leaves. I will bring Spring into the classroom with some forsythia branches. It will be fun to watch them blossom in the warm sunshine. We will learn about wind and weather and make a weather chart. During April and May the 4's will focus on life cycles: creating a worm garden and watching the worms help turn old leaves back into soil. We will plant pumpkin seeds that we saved from last year's jack-o-lanterns to complete the pumpkin cycle. The children will experience the wonder of growth and become comfortable with the words soil, bulb, seed, roots, sprout, blossom and stem as they plant, water and compare seeds and plants that grow.

Thank you to all 4's families for attending the March conferences. It is wonderful to meet with you and share my observations and hear about your experiences at home. By working together to support your child we can provide the security they need to flourish and grow. I am noticing that your children are learning so many skills as they move from four to five years old. Along with turning five come new characteristics. They like to sing, dance and act; want to be like their friends; show more independence but are sometimes demanding and sometimes cooperative. They need the adults in their lives to keep them busy and active as well as offering calm direction and redirection. Enjoy the many active and loving moments with your child during the coming weeks of Spring.

Mrs. Holly

Upcoming Events

3/29: 4PM VIP Night

3/31—4/9: Spring Break

4/21: Pajama Day

4/28: Music Enrichment

5/5: Spring Tea

Say Cheese, 4AM!

Say Cheese, 4PM!

Editor's Page

Did You Know?

…..that St. Patrick was not Irish?

> According to the *Confessio* of Patrick, when he was about 16, he was captured by Irish pirates from his home in Britain, and taken as a slave to Ireland, looking after animals, where he lived for six years before escaping and returning to his family. After becoming a cleric, he returned to northern and western Ireland. In later life, he served as a bishop, but little is known about the places where he worked. By the seventh century, he had already come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland.
>
> Wikipedia.org

Dexter Cooperative Nursery School

Address:

8620 Jackson Rd.

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Phone:

734-426-2491

Website:

http://dextercoop.com

2016-2017 Board Members

President

Alicia Jensen —
dextercooppresident@gmail.com

Vice President

Jessica Deland —
jessica.d.deland@gmail.com

Treasurer

Johnna Coleman —
Johnnadobsoncoleman@gmail.com

Secretary

Julie Olesko —
julie_olesko@hotmail.com

Tuition Treasurer

Marianne Mutschler —
memutschler@gmail.com

Membership

Lindsay Babicki —
lindsaybabicki@gmail.com

About the Kaleidoscope

Our main purpose is to keep you informed about what's happening in the classroom, upcoming co-op events, etc. in a fun, colorful way. We also want you to have something enjoyable to read and share with your kids! What makes the Kaleidoscope really special are the pictures and fun odds and ends you contribute.

Thank you for reading!

Marta Coffer
marta.coffer@gmail.com