



Spring 2019

Little Herald



The Dexter Cooperative Nursery School Newsletter

Letter from the President

Dear Co-op Families,

It's hard to believe that an entire year has passed at the Co-op! Our kids have grown and changed so much, become more confident, and made new friends - as I hope you as parents have as well.

At this point in the year, it is time to start looking ahead to next fall.



Registration is now open. Word of mouth is always the best publicity, so please tell your friends, family, and neighbors to check out the Co-op to see what a wonderful place it is for our kids to learn and grow.

Our newest class offering is our Parent-Tot Class, open for our youngest Co-op kids (2-3 year olds). Parents will attend this class with their child, as Miss. Jessica introduces them to new social, emotional, and learning skills. For more information and to register, see our website.

As the year comes to a close, we are looking forward to our end of the year and spring activities including our Spring Tea for any special family member to join our classes (date specific to each class), to our Bike to School Day (kids bring their bikes for a special course from Tom's Mobile Bikes to learn bike safety and get a tune up - parents can bring their bikes for a tune up for only \$25! Look for more information to come!), and for our end of the year picnics.

May 18th will be our **Family Fun Day: UNDER THE BIG TOP at the CO-OP!** Bring your whole family from 3-5 pm to Peace to enjoy carnival games, snacks, bounce houses, and much more. It will be a great event for our families to come together this spring!

As some housekeeping, look for our end of the year surveys through which we gather information regarding the Co-op in general and our teachers and classes. This will be coming through your email. Finally, end of the year clean up for our 3s parents will take place on Tuesday, May 28 from 6-8 pm. As a member of the Co-op, we all are required to help set up (4s parents this fall) and clean up and put away the classroom for the summer (3s parents this spring).

Thank you again for all of your efforts this year. I wish you and your child a wonderful summer and good luck in the coming year, whether it be back at the Co-op or on to Young 5s and Kindergarten.

Happy Summer!
Jessica DeLand
Co-op

Three-Year-Olds' News

Letter from Mrs. Jessica

Spring is here! Woohoo! As much as it is time for new growth and renewal outside, inside the classroom we are growing and changing as well! I have noticed such growth in all of the children the last couple months. Name writing is clicking for some, others have started to really begin to form quality friendships. All in all, the 3's is a busy and wonderful place to be!

Lately, I have heard from many different assists about the wonders of the sensory table and sensory experiences at school. I thought I would take this time to share some of the benefits and some of the easy things you can do at home to give your child some sensory play.

Tactile/Sensory play allows children a multisensory learning experience. When they pour sand or rice into containers, they finesse fine motor skills that allow children to write or tie their shoes. When they work together to uncover dinosaur bones in the coffee grounds, they are learning turn taking and interpersonal skills. When they are doing any kind of sensory activity, it is made to be open-ended. With there being no right or wrong answer, it allows children to become confident decision makers and problem solvers.

I strive to have some element of sensory material available in the classroom each day. If you are assisting, you can usually attest to the fact that inevitably that activity will have many children crowded around it throughout the day. The "accidental learning" that takes place while children are engaged in these activities is what makes it one of my favorite parts of teaching preschool.

Here a couple ways to incorporate sensory play into your activities at home:

- Place a large tub filled with various sized cups and pitchers out for your child to master the art of pouring. You can color the water as well for some added interest.
- You can buy bags of various types of beans at the dollar store. Mix them all together and it can provide a great sorting and counting sensory activity.
- One of our favorites at school is making slime. This is a great medium to practice beginning scissor skills.
- Set up a "Baby Bath" or "Car Wash" by filling up a tub of soapy water and some toys. This leads to great pretend play as well as clean toys. It's a Win Win for everyone!

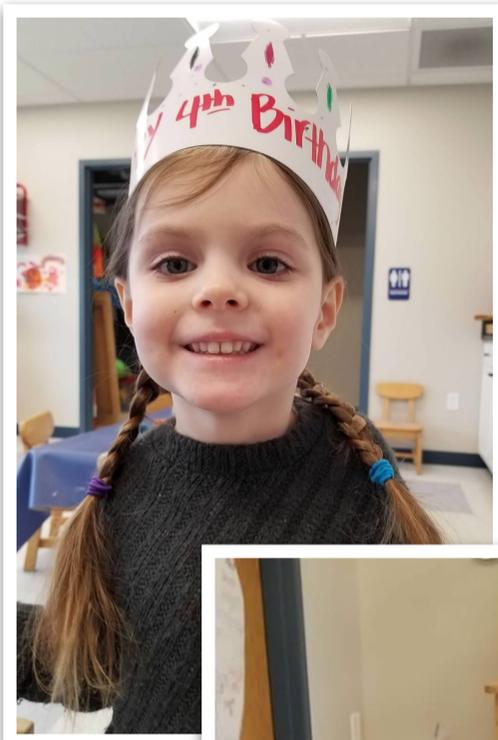
I am looking forward to a wonderful springtime in the classroom and outside! Watching the children learn this year has brought me great joy. You should all be so proud of them, I know I am!



Say Cheese, 3AM!



Say Cheese, 3 PM!



Four-Year-Olds' News

Letter from Mrs. Holly



"The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May." -Edwin Way Teale

Though spring has been slow in coming to Michigan this year, there are lots of blooming young minds in the 4 year old class. Each day I observe evidence of growth and development from their confidence and excitement walking in to the pride and ownership they take in their work. They ask, "What are we learning today?" as we gather in our meeting and move smoothly through the activity rotations. In addition, as they engage in play activities, it is evident that they are learning what it means to be a good friend: using words to ask for a toy and showing compassion when someone needs help.

Thank you for sharing your children. It has been wonderful to earn their trust and listen to each of their unique voices.

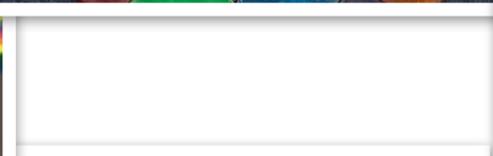
May brings the final weeks of the Dexter Coop Preschool school year. The Spring Tea (May 3) is a delightful event where the children will host a special guest and celebrate the season.

Thank you to all the creative planners. On May 8 we will celebrate Bike Day! Children are able to bring their bike and helmet to school and demonstrate their skills on a track in the parking lot. *Tom's Mobile Bike Service* will be with us to offer repairs if needed for a minor service fee. Our final field trip will be to the Howell Nature Center on May 10. The AM class will meet there at 8:45am and the PM class at 11:45. "Eat Lunch at School" day will be May 15th (AM Class) and May 17th (PM Class). This is an exciting event in preparation for the upcoming school year. In order to accommodate time for eating, the AM class will dismiss at 11:30 on the 15th and the PM class will arrive y 11:30 on the 17th. The last day of preschool is May 22nd. There will be an informal "moving up" ceremony for each class on the playground. Parents can meet us outside 30 minutes prior to our regular dismissal. Whew! It will be a busy month. Amidst all these special events, we will continue our regular routines in the classroom.

"Prepare the child for the path, not the path for the child." I am so proud to have been a part of your children's educational journey. Thank you for your support of the Dexter Cooperative Preschool!

Holly Baker
4 year old Teacher

Say Cheese, 4AM!



Say Cheese, 4PM!



Editor's Page

Save the Date

- May 14 Board Meeting at 7:00pm
- May 18 Family fun day (3:00 - 5:00)
- May 22 Last day of school (4s)
- May 23 Last day of school (3s)
- May 28 Clean up for 3's (6:00 - 8:00)



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About the Editor

My name is Lyndsey Muscarella. My son is Finley from the 3AM class. This is my first year as editor. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

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