

JUNEAU CO-OP  
PRESCHOOL

# newsletter

March 2015

## Looking

Chinese Calligraphy

Mealworms

Planting

Zip Concert

Neighborhood  
Excursions

Birds, Eggs,  
Nests, Feathers

forward  
backward

### Hello Preschool Families

We had our Spring Fling, we have blueberry blossoms and pussy willows adorning the classroom, we have scarlet runner beans, nasturtiums, cosmos and flax seeds growing in the windows, and lots of preschoolers have already been barefoot and dug up worms on the playground. But just as we'd resigned ourselves to not having a winter this year and started gearing up for spring, we're getting inches of snow as we head into Spring Break.

Despite the snow and colder temps our plants know it's spring by the lengthening daylight. It's been exciting for both teachers and students to see our seeds sprout in the classroom. Runner beans are especially fun as they grow so quickly and vigorously. This year we may actually get to see them flower. We sketched blueberry blossoms and pussy willows in both classes and observed mealworms and crickets as well. It's always gratifying to witness a child's excitement and sense of wonder in these encounters. As parents and teachers we have a lot of influence in this area. A child's excitement is often short-lived, they have short attention spans after all. But pointing out natural phenomena and appreciating it ourselves as we go through our daily lives helps cultivate a child's interest and curiosity about such things. It's a cumulative process; we don't have to be scientists or naturalists or be able to answer every question. We just need to be observant and curious and appreciative. Look for bird visitors, eggs and nests in the classroom in the coming weeks.

Our next parent education night is geared toward those families with a preschooler entering kindergarten next fall. We'll have a kindergarten teacher from one of the elementary schools to answer questions and talk about kindergarten readiness. It will be held Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> in the preschool classroom at 5:30 p.m. Please let us know if you plan to come and if you will need childcare.

Last, but definitely not least, is our Zip-a-dee-doo-dah Family Concert, a long-standing preschool tradition scaled down and simplified this year to one hour of music and story-telling for kids. Check out the poster in this newsletter for more details and plan to come if you can. We'd like to have a simple, low-key bake sale at the event if anyone feels up to making a dozen or so cookies. Hope to see you all there.

Thanks for all your contributions,

**Mary, Rhonda and Melissa**

# The board greetings

## Hello Juneau Co-Op Preschool parents!

It's hard to believe that it's about to turn to spring on our calendars and our landscape. What a great year it's been so far! Thank you all for your dedication to our school.

Recently the board appointed a sub-committee to explore options of how to improve the financial stability of the preschool, with specific goals including paying our teachers better and reducing fundraising obligations. We can tell you our teachers are not doing this for the money, but rather for a love of the children. We think it shows them just how much we all respect and look up to them and makes us more competitive as employers who want to keep their teachers!

As a board we have discussed several options and have made the decision to slightly raise our tuition starting next year in the 2015–2016 school year. Tuesday/Thursday classes will see a \$10 a month increase. The MWF class will see an increase of \$30 per month. This change will make the hourly rate for each class nearly identical, as the current tuition has meant that the TR class was paying more per hour than MWF.

Extensive research and discussion has been put into this decision. With this slight increase in tuition we will be able to give our teachers a meaningful increase in pay. We will also see an increase in our revenue that will be able to reduce our fundraising efforts by at least 10%.

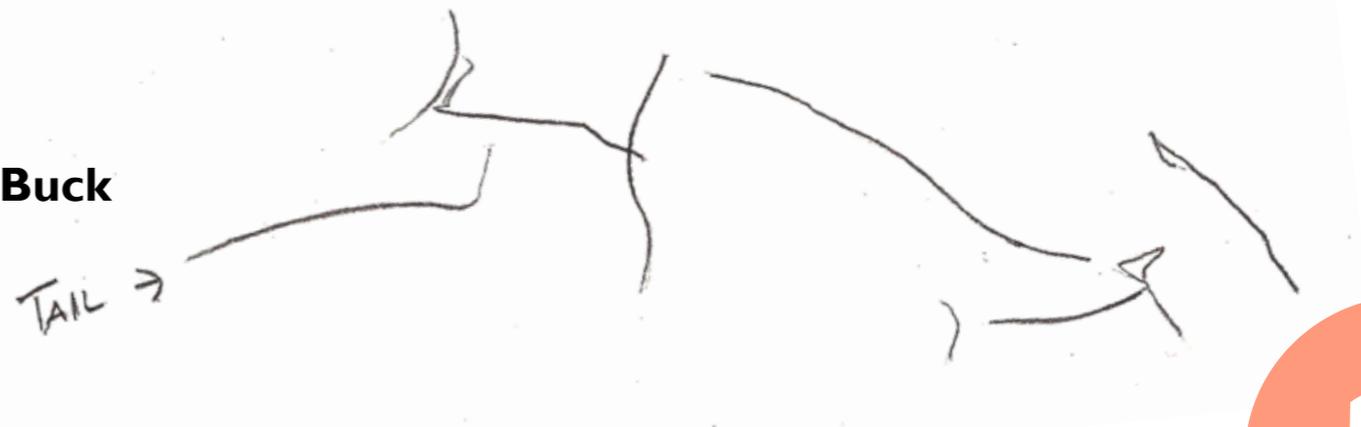
Our goals are to keep our returning students while also continuing to have comparable tuitions when compared to other school and day care options. This increase brings us up to the Juneau average cost for private preschool at about \$5.63/hour, according to our local AEYC.

As a reminder we do offer financial assistance to families! Please feel free to talk to a board member and share your feelings or concerns.

Thanks,

Co-Presidents

**Abbey & Buck**



Mealworms by Mila (top) and by Penelope (right)

# Big thank yous

## Spring fling

Sunshine, flowers and spring was the theme of our new fundraiser, the “Spring Fling” dance. It seems we were not too successful with chasing winter away, but we succeeded in raising \$2,053 for the preschool. YAY!!! Thanks to all of our donors, businesses and parents, who raised \$1,000 with the silent auction. Thank you all who came and paid the cover charge to make \$633 at the door, and for those who bought raffle tickets and donated the prizes that contributed \$420 to the total amount raised. Most of all, a BIG thank you for the band, Susu and the Prophets, who shared their music with us, let us dance into spring, and made this event fun and a great success.

## Krisztina Bury

## thank you gracias merci danke kiitos köszönöm

**Evelyn Bass** (Maddie’s mom) and **Krisztina Bury** (Berci’s mom) for their hard work and unflagging spirits in heading up our Spring Fling.

**Selena Hanvold** (Lincoln’s mom), **Alexis Abercrombie** (Warren’s mom), and **Kristin Lee** (Sienna’s mom) for their assistance in decorating for the dance.

Everyone who contributed silent auction prizes and took tickets at the dance.

**Hangar on the Wharf** for donating use of the ballroom for our dance.

**Susu and the Prophets** (Riley Woodford (Haley’s Dad), Austin Osterhout (Winter’s Uncle), Shona Strauser, Mike Maas and Simon Taylor) for generously donating their time, sound expertise and talent.

**Jen Walker** (Beckett’s mom), for sharing her hens and chicks with the T/Th Class and for sharing her Love and Logic knowledge and skills at our parent education meeting.

**Ben Patterson** (Ginger’s Dad), for seed and container donations.

**Brooke Swarting** (Matthew’s mom), for filling in while teacher Mary attended an early childhood conference.

**Amanda Landvik** (Crosby’s mom), **Emily Ferry** (Caleb and Sunna’s mom) and **Buck Willoughby** (Paxton’s dad), for spearheading the raffle.

**Lori Thomson** (Haley’s mom), **Kirsten Walker** (Freyja’s mom) and **Emily Ferry** for donating precious time and financial savvy to address preschool’s financial picture.



# Ways you can help

## Avoiding power struggles at clean up

There are numerous times throughout our mornings at preschool when what an adult expects and what a preschooler wants do not match up. It's amazing how easy it is to slip into a battle of wills with a child. The power struggles arise as young children begin to assert themselves, learning that they have their own thoughts, feelings and wants that are sometimes different than those of the adults caring for them. And while this is a normal part of their development, we still need them to follow routines and rules.

This is particularly true at clean up. Clean up is a regular part of our preschool schedule and the more practice the children have with the routine, the more they come to expect it and, hopefully, the less resistant to participating they become. **The 5-minute warning** gives them a heads-up notice that they need to finish what they're doing and be ready soon for cleaning up. It is important to remember, however, that some children have had more practice with this type of routine or may have a more compliant temperament, while others require more of our patience and support.

Transitions in general are challenging for most young children, but this is especially true when it interrupts their play. Having empathy is important. Sometimes simply acknowledging their feelings lets them know you understand this challenge, and explaining the reason for the transition makes it feel less arbitrary. *"I know you were having fun making that drawing, but we need to clean up this table so it will be ready for our snack."*

Clean up at preschool is a big job. There are a lot of materials, props and toys available, and this can be both an asset and a drawback. Preschoolers (and many adults) might feel overwhelmed by looking at a big mess left in the climbing room at the end of free choice play. When assisting children in clean up, it helps to keep the jobs specific and manageable. Often just handing a child one thing works, saying, *"Please put these scissors on the blue shelf"*, or asking, *"Do you know where the trucks go?"*

Young children don't have very much power, so offering choices when you can helps them learn decision-making skills and gives them a sense of control. *"Do you want to pick up the ropes and hoses, or take the dishes back to the play kitchen?"*, or, *"Are you going to clean up in the class room or the climbing room?"* I have found that the phrase, *"Can I help you clean up the blocks?"* gets a better response than, "Can you help me

# Ways you can help

## Avoiding power struggles at clean up

clean up the blocks?” The first makes clear the expectation that they clean up, but assures them they can have help. The second question implies that you are cleaning and they have the option to help – or not.

Sometimes it is even possible to make cleaning up fun. Preschoolers often enjoy filling up a cart to drive toys back to their storage locations, tossing stuffed animals into the blue bucket, or working to build the “wood wall” with the hollow blocks. You can often extend the dramatic play into clean up, like having them put baby dolls to sleep in the baby beds or driving toy trucks back to the truck shed. Wiping the snack tables is a particular favorite and can be the incentive for children to clear the tables. *“We need to put away the puzzles first so you can wipe that table with the sponge.”* Many children this age are focused primarily on their friends. For these children, encouraging teamwork allows friends to continue being together during clean up. *“Can you and \_\_\_\_\_ build the wood wall with the hollow blocks?”* For the very resistant, even minimal participation can often be coaxed out of them by asking, *“How old are you? Can you clean up that many toys?”*

Often, children need time to respond. When kids are resistant, there is a tendency for adults to increase their insistence that the child comply. Unfortunately, children often match the increased efforts with an increase in resistance. By stepping back instead, we allow the child to save face and give them the opportunity to ‘choose’ to cooperate.

Finally, children should also hear that adults appreciate when they follow directions, especially when they do so cheerfully. It’s important to understand that all children are uncooperative at times. In any case, it is best to move on and not give the resistant behavior too much attention. While our caring guidance is important, it is the participation and modeling of their peers that will often be the best incentive for children learning this, or any, part of the preschool routine.

# Upcoming events

## For March and April

**Saturday 3/28**

### **Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah Concert**

4:00–5:00 p.m.

Northern Light Church

See next page for details

**Friday 4/3**

### **Registration lottery**

12:00 p.m.

Northern Light Church

The 2015–16 registration lottery for current JCP students and substitutes is quickly approaching! New forms will be available in the hallway at preschool and on the website soon. The lottery will take place on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, and applications must be turned in by noon on that day.

**Tuesday 4/7**

### **Parent Education Night**

5:30 p.m. Preschool Classroom

Kindergarten Info for families with children entering kindergarten in the fall of 2015.

**Monday 4/13**

### **Juneau Co-op Preschool Board Meeting**

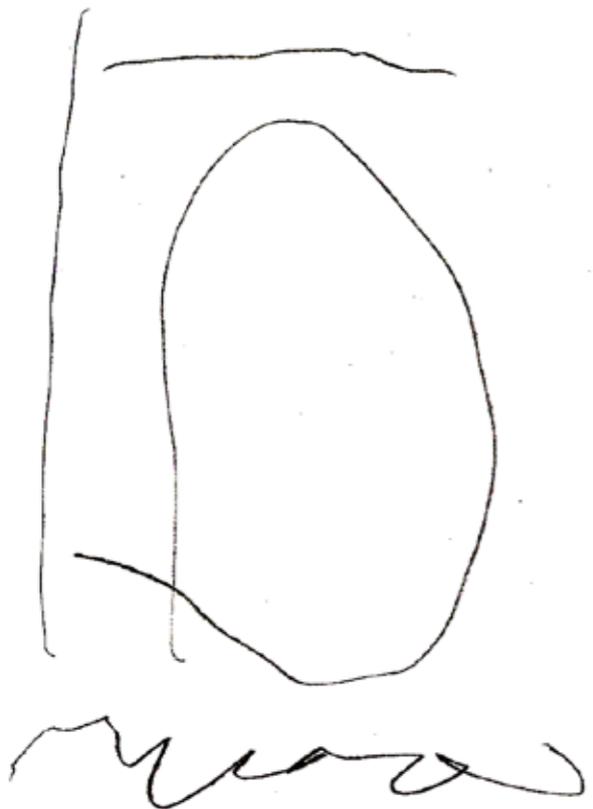
6:00–8:00 p.m. Preschool Classroom

All are welcome. The first ten minutes of the meeting will be an open house for families interested in joining the board.

**Wednesday 4/22**

### **Application deadline for new students**

Applications for new students, including alumni's siblings, are due.



Mealworm by Crosby

# Events



# ZIP-A DEE- DOO-DAH

*fabulous family fun!*

**KIDS CONCERT**  
JOIN US FOR AN HOUR OF STORIES AND MUSIC  
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

**STORYTELLING**  
WITH LILY HUDSON-HOPE AND PAT MCCLEAR

**& MUSIC**  
BY THE PRESCHOOL FAMILY BAND:  
RILEY WOODFORD, TERRY SCHWARZ,  
COLIN OSTERHOUT, ABBEY JANES,  
& TEACHER RHONDA

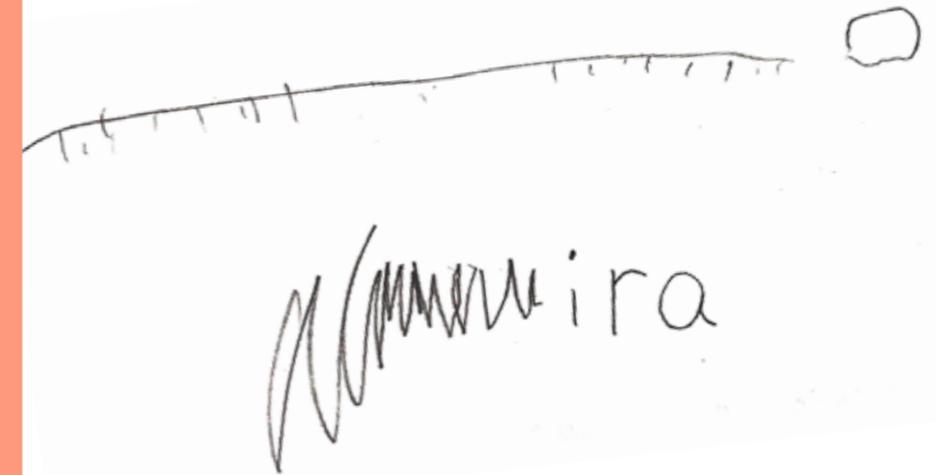
**SATURDAY, MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>**  
**4PM - 5PM**  
**NORTHERN LIGHT CHURCH**  
**SUGGESTED DONATION @ THE DOOR:**  
**ADULTS \$5 CHILDREN \$3**

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE JUNEAU CO-OP PRESCHOOL  
[www.juneaupreschool.org](http://www.juneaupreschool.org)

Mary: “Eddy, I see you’re holding two firehouses. Is one for water and one for chemicals?”

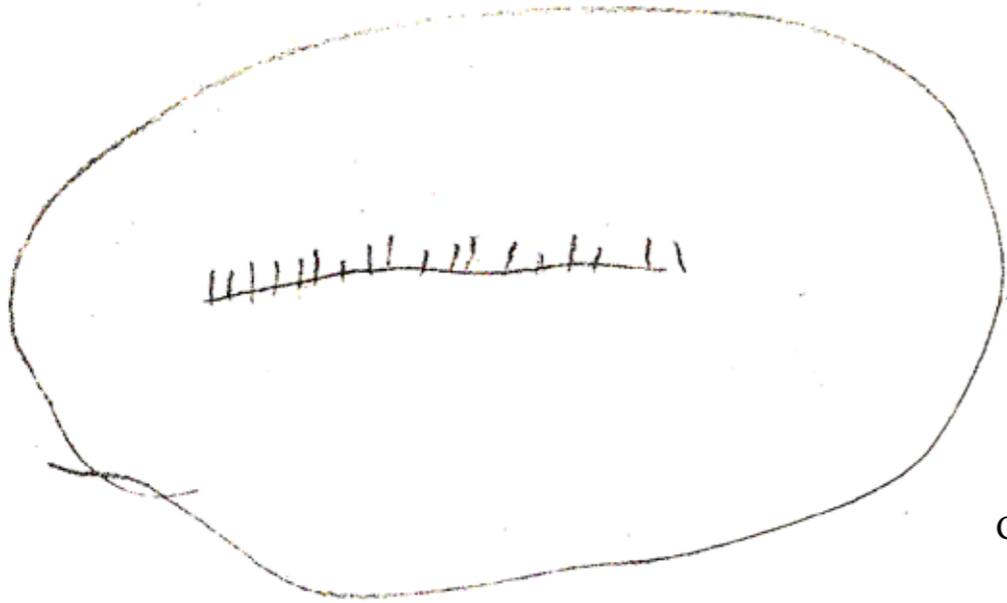
Eddy: “No. This one is an exterminator hose and this one shoots out meat for hungry animals.”

Maddie: “Mary, I think we need to clean the fish tank. I saw some green allergy.”



Juneau Co-op Preschool newsletter, March, 2015. Newsletter publishes important information and keeps all pre-school families up to date to current issues. Published seven times a year. Compilation and design Inari Kylänen. This newsletter is illustrated by drawings of meal worms from both groups. The above illustration is by Mira.

# Mealworms



Cedar



Penelope: "I'm not going to squish them..."

Vincenzo: "I want more mealworms."

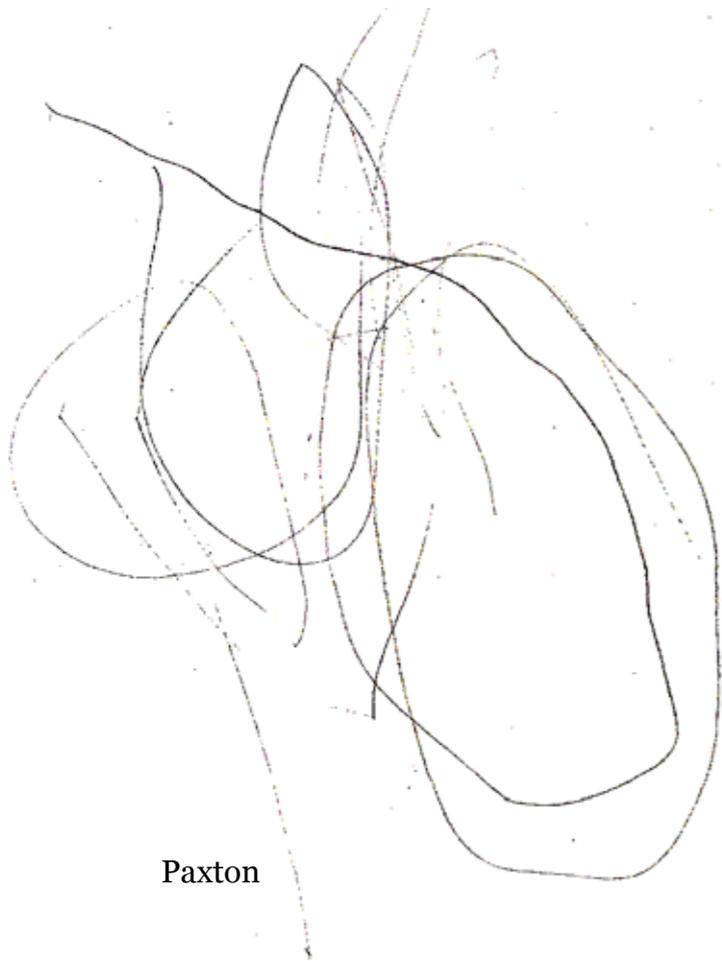
Ginger: "Awww, they're so cute."

Mila: "It tickles!"

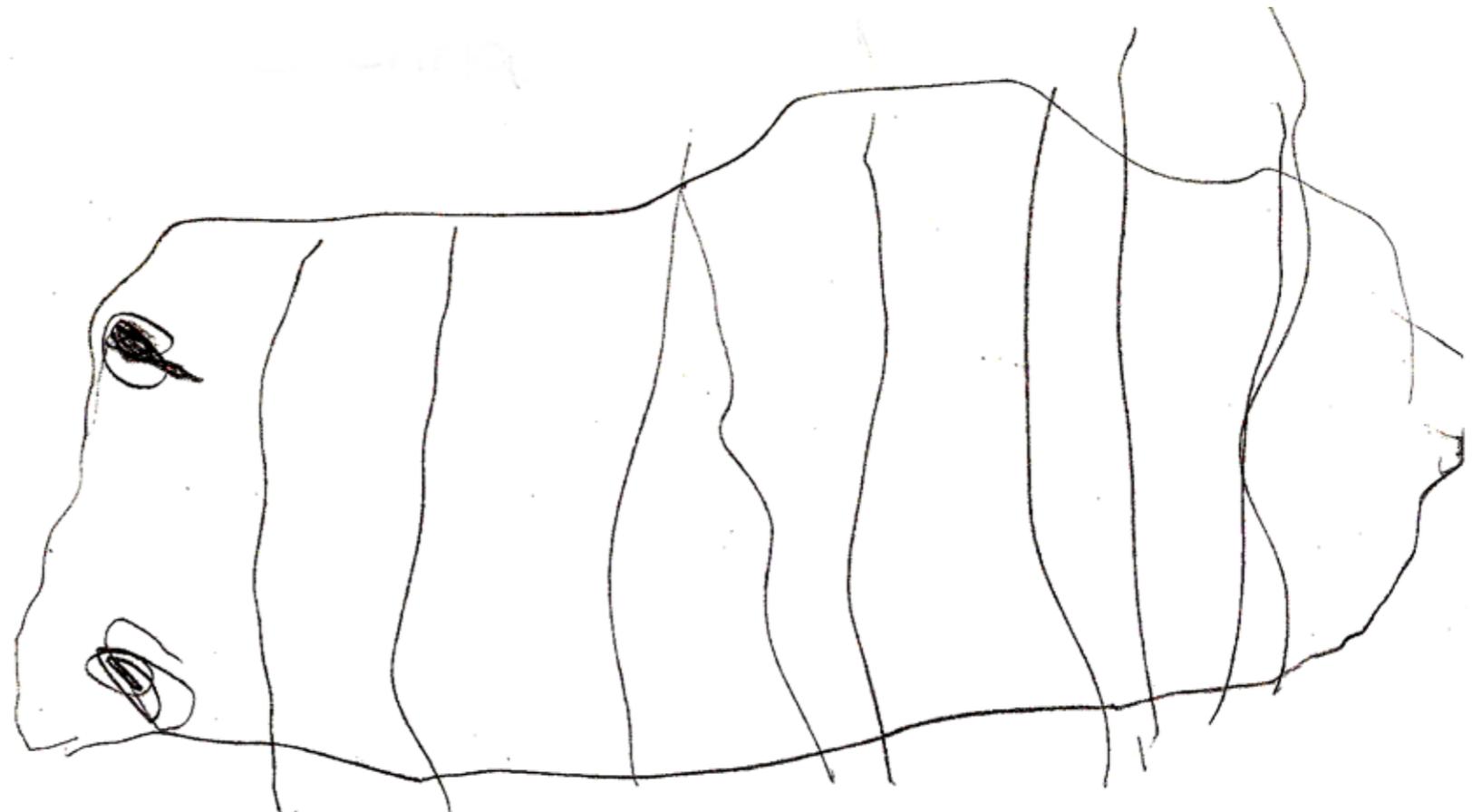
Maddie: "I didn't come here to draw!"



Maddie



Paxton



Sienna

# Preschool lake

Maybe it went  
to California.

- Lincoln

After a few T/Th kids expressed disappointment at the disappearance of the “preschool lake” one day, Mary asked some of them what they thought happened to it:

Maybe the  
wind blew  
it away.

- Beckett

It went  
to the  
swimming  
pool.

- Penelope

It's not  
raining. Now  
it's winter.

- Calvin

The sun  
came out.

- Ryker

It went to  
the ocean.  
In pipes.

- Warren

The lake  
went into  
the road.

- Anwen

It melted  
and the snow  
covered it.

- Paxton

It just sank  
into the  
ground.

- Cole

Yeah, it just  
dried up.

- Saana

