



JUNEAU CO-OP
PRESCHOOL

newsletter

February 2015

Looking

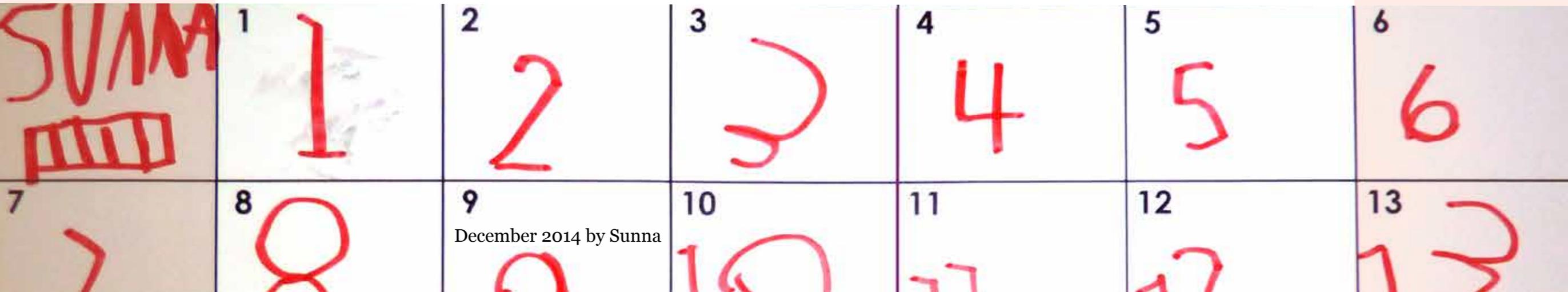
- Lunar New Year
- Pet visits
- Field trips
- Snake visit
- Post office
- Fire station
- Valentines

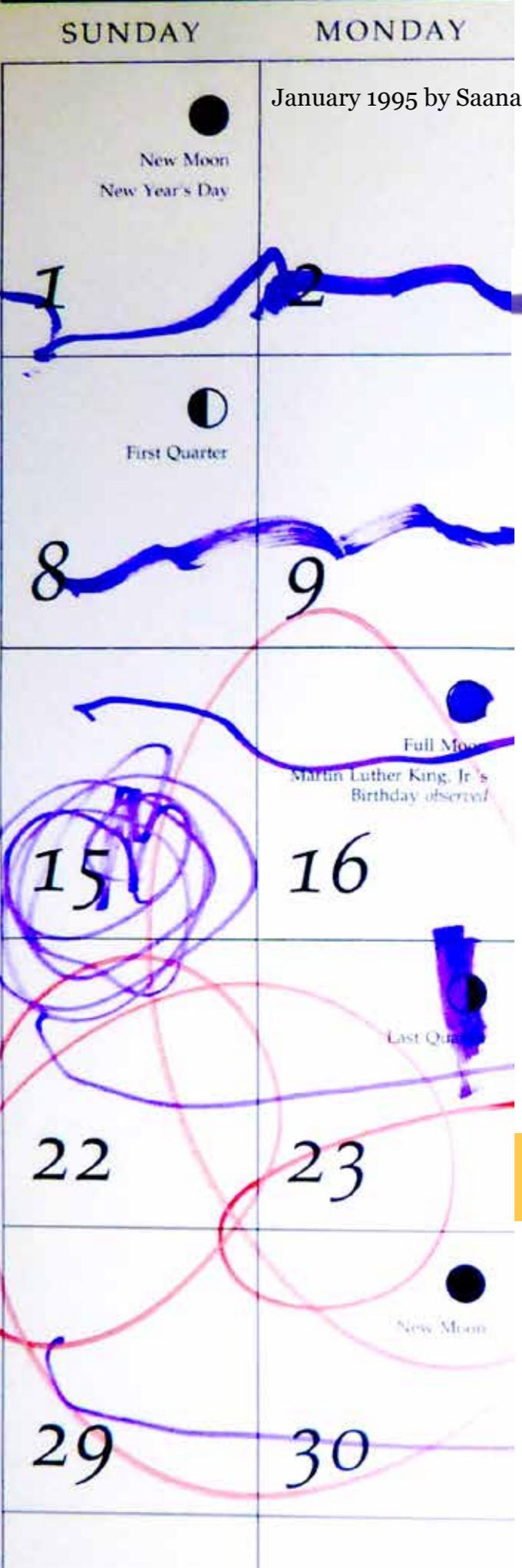
forward prepared

Letter from the teachers

It has been a busy month at preschool with animal guests, field trips and holidays all mixing in with the regular bustle of play. Linda Torgerson brought her snake, Ollie, to visit, sharing lots of information about snakes and thrilling preschoolers with the opportunity to touch or hold a living snake. We have also had fun with cardboard boxes donated by many family and community members, cutting, drilling, taping, and painting them. Much like the boxes in the books "Christina Katerina and the Box" or "Not a Box", one especially large box donated to preschool has morphed itself from castle to boat, car to sleigh, and most recently into a clubhouse. It is a testament to what a child's endless imagination can do with such a simple item. Any time you have an extra-large box to dispose of, please think of preschool.

This past week was especially full as many of us took a break from the whirlwind of valentine preparations and visited the down town fire station. Those in the Tu/Th class who did not go along for this visit will have another opportunity later this spring. On the walk back from the fire station on Wednesday, Mary took several children into the post office to mail valentines home. If you did not get one in the mail, your child may have chosen the more expedient option of putting it in their cubby, or they may have been simply too engaged in other preschool activities. We will have a preschool post office in the climbing room in the next week or two, so there is a chance you will get some preschool mail yet. Thank you to all who supported their preschooler in the making, delivering and reading of their valentines. It is such a good literacy project and we have heard from several proud preschoolers about the many valentines they made. It is lovely to watch their delight as they empty their box full of treats and messages of friendship. >>





There are a few upcoming dates to note on your calendars. There is a fundraiser dance featuring Susu and the Prophets at the Hanger Ballroom on **February 28th**. Details are listed in this newsletter. You will also find elsewhere in this newsletter more information about our upcoming Parent Education night on **March 3rd**. Jen Walker, Beckett's mom in the Tu/Th class, will be sharing some parenting strategies from her Love & Logic classes. Parent-teacher conferences will be offered on Thursday, **March 13th** and there is a teacher professional development day on Friday, **March 14th**, so preschool will not be in session for either of those days. Sign-up information for conferences will be posted at preschool and a reminder email sent out as we get closer to the date. Finally, look in this newsletter for the note from our treasurer, Emily Ferry, sharing some of the financial issues currently being worked on by the board. As a member of the co-op your input is valuable so feel welcome to join the discussion.

Thanks for all you do to support the preschool,

Rhonda, Mary, and Melissa

Juneau Co-op Preschool newsletter, February, 2015. This newsletter publishes important information and keeps all pre-school families up to date to current issues. Published seven times a year. Compilation and design by Inari Kylänen (Saana's mother). This newsletter is illustrated by writings on calendar pages from both groups.

A note from the board



Kade: “Let me tell you something. Those girls in the other room are driving me crazy.”

Mary: “What are they doing?”

Kade: “Just a bunch of girl stuff and it’s driving me crazy.”

Maddie: “I love my teachers and I love my family. Are my teachers my family?”

Maddie's mom: “Well, no. You will know your family forever, but you might not know your teachers forever.”

Maddie: “But I will love my teachers forever.”



At our most recent board meeting we discussed different scenarios for raising tuition next year. Our rates have stayed flat for several years while inflation has caused the costs of running the preschool to go up. Plus, we would very much like to give a raise to our incredibly dedicated teachers. While the sad truth is we, like most preschools, can't afford to pay our teachers as much as we'd like to, we can give them a well deserved, albeit small, boost in pay. And maybe, just maybe, we can drop a fundraising event or two.

We are also trying to figure out how to best structure the classes next year so that each child gets the most out of his or her preschool experience. Different scenarios include offering a smaller class for younger students or finding ways to balance the age range between the two classes.

Basically, everything is on the table right now. If you have concerns, ideas, or opinions, please share them with a board member over the next month — it will help us make the best decision possible.

Thanks!

Co-Presidents: Abbey Janes and Buck Willoughby

Fundraising: Evelyn Bass

Secretary: Lori Thompson

Publicity: Shannon Seifert

Treasurer: Emily Ferry

Class Reps: Kirsten Walker and Kelly Ord



Thank you

thank you gracias merci danke kiitos köszönöm

Many thanks this month to the following:

Colin for H2O table, knife sharpening, solving various knotty problems,

Blues Dancing Event: **Daniel Martin, Merideth Wallace, Curtis Dasher, Abbey Janes** and **Mary Sweeney**

Mask Making Event: **Evelyn Bass** and **Angela Goodhope**

Don Gotchall for donating the large box which became sleigh, dog sled, castle and club house

The folks at the downtown fire station

T/Th fire station chaperones: **Inari** and **Selena**

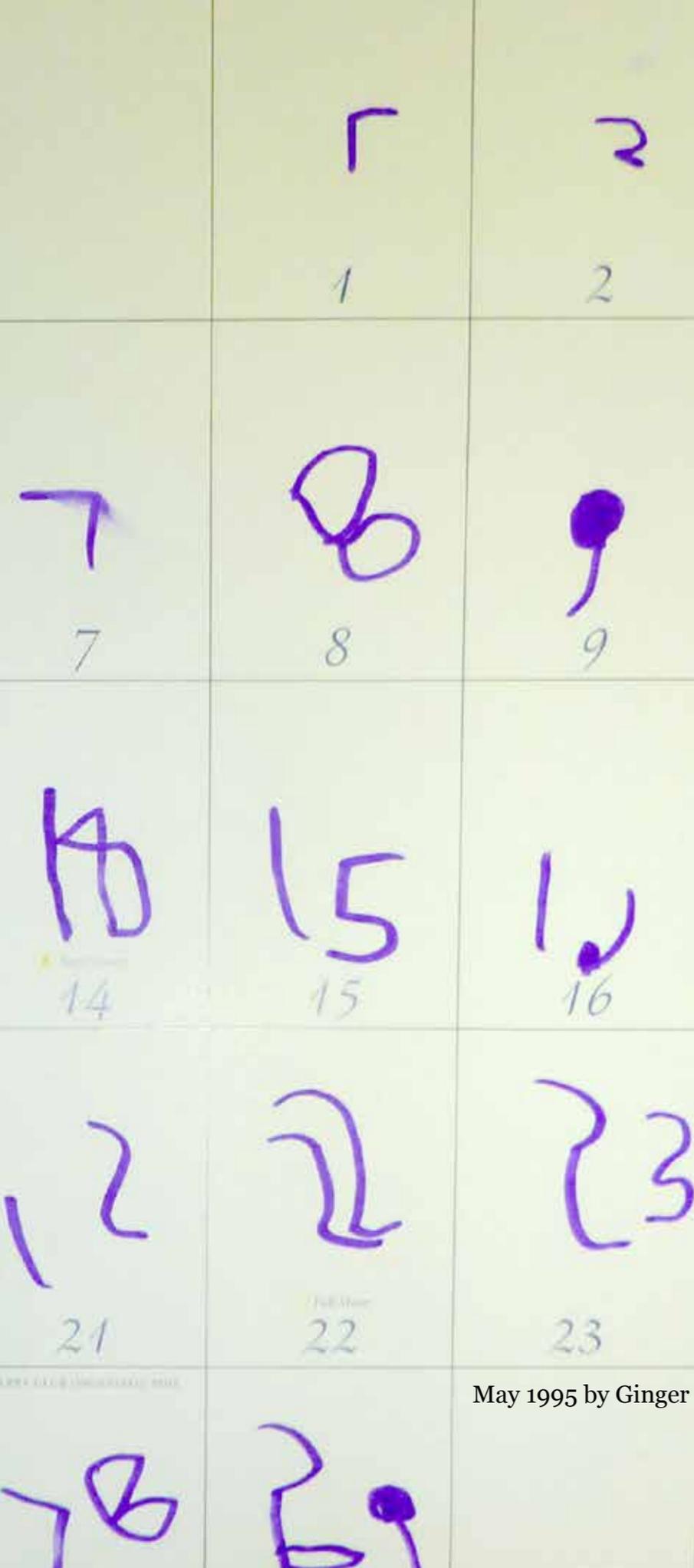
MWF fire station chaperones: **Kirsten, Emily, Kristin, Brooke, Corey, Debbie,** and **Linda**

Krisztina Bury, Jen Walker, and **Monica Robertson** for last minute fill in for parent volunteers

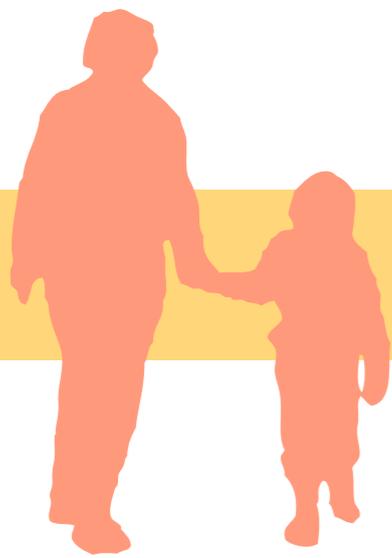
Linda Torgerson for bringing Ollie the corn snake to visit

Marilyn Holmes for again saving her tissue boxes all year for our valentine's boxes

Eddy's parents for the Mardi Gras story, beads and king cake



May 1995 by Ginger



Ways you can help

Sharing vs. taking turns

Many parents have told us over the years that they want their child to learn to share. It may seem counter-intuitive but one of the best ways to help children develop generosity is not to insist that they share on command. For too many preschoolers the definition of sharing is that they have to let go of something they're playing with before they are ready to do so. Usually the sharing is demanded of them by a nearby adult. At preschool we like to distinguish between sharing and taking turns. Food can be shared but when two children want to play with the same toy, it's not strictly possible for both of them to play with it at the same time. It's more accurate (and developmentally appropriate) to talk about taking turns. The child who is playing with the toy is having her turn. And most of the time her turn is over when she's "all done." Noted author and child development specialist Dorothy Briggs put it well in saying, "*Children need to experience owning before they can share.*"

Generally we don't force a child to stop playing or turn over a toy whenever another child wants it. Instead we help the child who wants the toy to ask for a turn. Sometimes this happens after the toy has been grabbed.

"I can't let you grab that away from him. Can you give it back or do I need to help you? Let's ask _____ if he's finished."

"_____ are you finished playing with the truck? Will you let _____ know when you're done?"

"_____, when it's your turn I won't let anyone grab it from you either. You will get to decide when you're done."

We also acknowledge the real and very strong feelings of the child who has to wait. "You really want to play with that. It's hard to wait. Let's see what we can find to do while you're waiting."

It's important to remember that these kinds of conflicts are valuable as well as inevitable. Although hard work for the children and adults involved they provide opportunities for both parties. The child who must wait learns to practice delayed gratification and impulse control, skills that serve all children well. The child who is not forced to give up the toy learns that his play will be protected and that the adults around him can be trusted. Paradoxically it becomes easier to be "all done" when it is not forced. It's also a great opportunity to teach children to communicate clearly and directly with each other which is a huge leap in social development.



Ways you can help

Sharing vs. taking turns

Whenever possible we let the children themselves determine the length of their turn. It might be a few minutes or it may be much longer. When a child is truly finished playing with something they are more willing to let another child have a turn. There are exceptions: we label some spaces and equipment at preschool – the climbers, swings, play dough etc. – as communal, belonging to everyone. “This climber is for everyone.” “We make lots of play dough so everyone who wants some can have some.” “Lots of kids are waiting to swing. We need to take fast turns.” If I see that our hour of free play is almost up and I know a couple of kids have been waiting for the rope swing, I will inform the child who has been swinging for a long turn that the others will need a turn before clean up. “It’s almost clean up so let’s give _____ a turn.” Generally however we let the kids negotiate the turns: “Yes he is having a long turn. You can tell him you’re getting tired of waiting.” This helps the child who is taking the long turn gain awareness of how the other child is feeling.

Since young children don’t have a sense of clock time, saying “you can play with it for five minutes” is essentially meaningless but can nevertheless be effective. Most children like to have the same number of minutes as they are old. It’s better to ask them how many minutes they need than to tell them how many they have. Another method to facilitate turn-taking is a waiting list which has the added benefit of encouraging literacy. At first children may need help in understanding that their name on a waiting list frees them from having to stand and wait for their turn. It may take time for them to trust the system but eventually they begin to suggest the idea as a solution when a lot of children want to use the same toy or equipment.

Sharing toys, equipment and space with 19 other children is hard work. Children who trust that will not be forced to arbitrarily give up what’s important to them are more likely to be generous, friendly, and understanding when they have to wait for their own turn.



Upcoming events

2/28

Carnival of Juneau

Come dressed for spring and dance the winter away to

SUSU AND THE PROPHETS

Hangar Ballroom, 9pm – midnight on Saturday February 28th

\$6 cover

Delicious homemade treats for sale

Costumes encouraged and the most winter-defying outfit wins a prize

3/3

Parent Education Night

Join us Tuesday, March 3rd, 5–7:30 PM @ JCP as Jen Walker gives an introduction to Parenting the Love and Logic Way™. Walk away with practical skills you can use immediately! We'll talk about how to:

Guide kids to own and solve their problems

Get kids to do chores without reminders or pay

Avoid un-winnable power-struggles and arguments

And much more!

Pizza and childcare provided!

Please register by [clicking this link](#) or emailing Jen (paterjen@gmail.com) so we can be sure to have enough food and babysitters!

Maddie: “I have a secret. A special one.”

Mary: “Well, if it’s a secret, don’t tell.”

Maddie: “I won’t. I can’t because I forgot! That’s why it’s a secret!”

