



JUNEAU CO-OP
PRESCHOOL

newsletter

September 2014

thank you gracias

Many thanks this month to the following:

Christie Hendrich (Sigrid's mom), and **Keri Eggleston** (Ryker's mom) for organizing preschool setup.

Andrew Eller (Sigrid's dad), for problem-solving some of our maintenance issues.

Laisne Waldron (alumni treasurer) for hosting the August board retreat.

Kirsten Shelton Walker (Freyja's mom), and **Kelly Ord** (Kalvin's mom), for putting together parent work schedules.

Debbie Gillespie (Seamus' mom), for loving summer care of Pebbles.

Noelle Blanc (Breea's mom), for sharing bear stories and songs.

Colin Osterhout (Winter's dad) for his work on building a playground water system.

merci danke kiitos

Letter from the teachers

Hello Preschool Families,

Midway through our second week, we've spent as much time getting ready for preschool as we have formally meeting. Many thanks to all of you who helped with set-up and came to orientation. It takes a lot of work to get the preschool ready but we feel fortunate in the generous amount of space we have and the support we get from families in getting the work done.

We are getting to know each other and children new to preschool are beginning to learn preschool routines. Returning preschoolers have jumped in with both feet and are often overheard explaining what comes next or where things go. Some of you will have already done a workday by the time you read this but many of you will have not. We'll have a parent led meeting to help new volunteers understand how the co-op works and we encourage you to attend if you're new to preschool or even if you've done lots of workdays but still have questions. It's not rocket science but we'll be able to pass on information we don't have time to convey when surrounded by 16 or 20 children.

Children come to preschool with different backgrounds, temperaments and wonderfully unique personalities. For many, it's their first foray into a social situation with adults who aren't their parents and other children who are not their familiar and trusted playmates. Social-emotional learning is a big part of what happens at preschool and like all learning, it is not a smooth, forward progression. It is beset with bumps, plateaus, and backwards movement as well as progress. Three and four year old are full of very strong feelings: love and dependence on their parents, feelings of smallness and powerlessness, jealousy of siblings, a strong desire for knowledge and competence, confusion about fantasy and reality, and usually some difficulty in mastering impulses. We want preschool to be a place where their feelings are accepted, where they learn trust in adults and each other, where they can make meaningful choices as well as place where they are exposed to literacy, music, dramatic play, art, natural history, and the opportunity to build rewarding relationships. If you have ideas, talents or suggestions you'd like to share we'd welcome them. The whole idea of a co-op is not just to share the work but to increase the richness of what we can offer our children.

Glad to have you all on board.

Mary, Rhonda and Melissa

board members

Abbey Janes

Co-President

Child's name: Mira

Years at preschool: 5

Favorite preschool activity: Centers! Papermaking, sock puppets, painting, Bearded Dragons, Bear hides, oh my!

Book you are enjoying reading with your preschooler: Sally and the Something

Buchanan (Buck) Willoughby

Co-President

Child: Paxton Willoughby

Years: 1st

Favorite activity: Holding/feeding Pebbles and seeing friends!

Book: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

Emily Ferry

Treasurer

Children: Caleb and Sunna Schane

Years: 2.5

Favorite activity: Snack! Second favorite is walking in to see all the different centers and exciting options for the day

Book: The Little House on the Prairie series... Can you imagine a mass of grasshoppers eating your entire wheat crop/life savings?!

Jessy Kidd

Registration Coordinator

Child: Cedar

Years: 6

Favorite activity: Snack!

Book: Weslandia, by Paul Fleischman

Lori Thomson

Secretary

Child: Haley Woodford-Thomson

Years: 1st

Favorite activity: Looking forward to the crafts

Book: The Leprechaun Under the Bed, by Teresa Bateman

Evelyn Bass,

Fundraising Coordinator

Child: Maddie Bass

Years: 2

Favorite activity: I love working with kids at the water table and watching them enjoy each others' imagination. I am so pleased to be part of the amaz- ingness that is the JCP community. I appreciate the environment that the teachers and other parents have created for our children and families.

Book: Mother Will You

Shannon Seifert

Publicity

Child: Eddy

Years: 1st

Favorite activity: Playground time!

Book: Eddie Gets Ready for School

Kirsten Shelton Walker

MWF Class Representative

Child: Freyja Shelton Walker

Years: This is Freyja's first year at school, I enjoyed 2 years at coop preschool back in the 70's, I met the woman who is still my best friend today there!

Favorite activity: Freyja seems as though she will be frequently found with Pebbles or in the climbing area.

Book: Freyja and Emilia (her older sister) and I are currently reading an illustrated version of the hobbit. Also, any of the Frog and Toad series.

Kelly Ord

T/Th Class Representative

Child: Calvin Ord

Years: We first came to the preschool in 2011 where our son, Daniel, attended for 2 years, had one year away and then just returned for the start of Calvin's preschool days.

Favorite activity: I would say that my favorite part of the preschool day is the free choice/play time in the beginning of the day where the preschoolers engage in projects or play that interests them. It is fun to see the social development take place and how each preschooler engages differently with each other, the teachers/parents or even just by themselves. I feel that you can really get to know each child and become introduced to their personalities during this time of the day.

Book: A book in particular that currently sits on our reading table, is, "Harold and the Purple Crayon" by Crockett Johnson.

Parent workday guide



Upcoming events

Parent Education Meeting: Workday Nuts and Bolts

Everything you need to know on how to do a pre-school work day
Place: Preschool
Time: TBA

Leaf Jump

This preschool tradition won't happen until November but we need leaf collectors. Soggy, sodden, slimy leaves will do if dry ones aren't available. See a teacher for more information.

Ways You Can Help: "Where should I be?"

This is a question that often comes up on a parent's first work day. Technically, with 4 adults and 20 children, we make an effort to maintain a 1:5 ratio. In reality, we follow the swarm. Here are some bare bones guidelines for where we need parents during the various parts of the morning. As with everything, there are exceptions to the rule, so use your best judgment.

ACTIVITY CHOICE

During the free choice period for the first hour and a half of the morning, the children move freely between the rooms and we continually adjust. So if you find yourself in a room with 2 adults and 7 or less children, you should probably check to see if you are needed in the other room. However, if you are the only adult in a room with only a couple of children, count your blessings and take advantage of the quality time you can offer those kids.

CLEAN-UP

If you find yourself alone in a room during clean-up and have no idea where things go, ask a teacher for help. Many of the children can also be recruited to help by asking them where things go. They often enjoy knowing more than a grown up.

BOOK TIME/GROUP

For the first part of group, we need all bodies to do reading in small groups. You can read from the books that the children bring to you, but if you have noticed one of your favorites on the bookshelf, you have the option to say, "I am going to read this book" and you will almost always get an audience. If you are the snack parent, you can begin to prepare the tables once the teacher begins the all class group story. Start with plates, cups and water, but wait until the children are being excused to wash hands before actually putting food on the tables.

SNACK

After helping children with washing hands and getting seated, please join one of the tables. It is very helpful to have one adult at each of the tables to assist children in the passing and sharing of food and to facilitate conversation. Their morning activity choices and responses to the group book are good snack table topics for conversation.

OUTSIDE

As children finish snack and head to the bathroom, the non-snack parent can join children in the coat room to assist children in dressing to go outside. When about 5 children are dressed, a teacher or parent can go with that group to the play yard. The snack parent can bring the last of the snack stragglers to the coat room and outdoors. Both parent volunteers are needed on the play yard until children are picked up at the end of the morning. The teachers will let you know when you can go inside to do clean-up.

“Melissa (to Kade who is on her lap attempting to fend off Vincenzo): “Kade, Let's have Vincenzo read with us. He's a friend.”

Kade: “I don't need him for a friend. I have three friends already.”

Notes from

The editor

This is my first year compiling the monthly newsletter. The publication aims to inform parents about the co-op, daily activities, and upcoming events. I welcome all submissions from calendar items, to articles related to the co-op. I am especially happy to publish kids' drawings. The submission deadline is usually the second Wednesday of the month. The newsletter comes out on the third Monday of each month. As a cost saving measure, the newsletter will be distributed only digitally and emailed to every member of the co-op. If you would like to receive a printed copy, let me know.

The next submission deadline is October 15th.

I am looking forward for this year and creating a wonderful newsletter.

Inari Kylänen
ikylanden@gmail.com



The treasurer

As this year's treasurer, I wanted to remind everyone that tuition is due on the first of every month. By the tenth it is considered late. If you have extenuating circumstances and need an extension, please let me know and we can easily come up with an alternative payment plan.

With that said, we all know how hard Mary, Rhonda, and Melissa are working with our little ones - they deserve to be paid in a timely manner, and we need your tuition payments to make that happen.

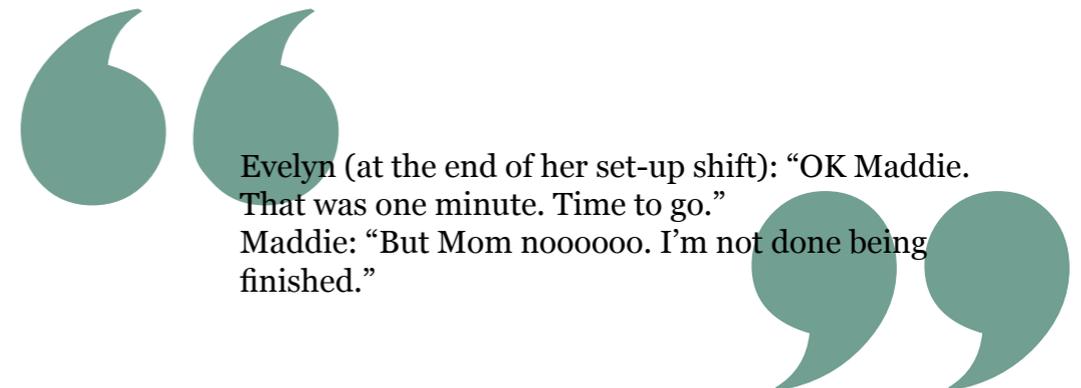
The Monday-Wednesday-Friday class is \$175 per month
The Tuesday-Thursday class is \$125 per month

You can drop your check off in the big yellow "treasurers" envelope in the coat room, or mail it to Juneau Co-op Preschool, 411 West 11 St., Juneau AK, 99801. You can also pay via paypal - just click on the "online tuition payment page" from the preschool's website, juneaupreschool.org. Note that you will be charged an additional \$3.50 service fee for using paypal.

It can be tricky to remember the preschool payment when just getting out the door and to preschool on time seems like a monumental task. Some approaches people have employed to make this a bit easier are to set up an autopay system through their bank or to pay for a few months or more at a time.

You can reach me at emily.ferry@gmail.com (I check this daily) or treasurerjcp@yahoo.com (I check this weekly) or on my cell at 723-6599.

Emily Ferry



Evelyn (at the end of her set-up shift): "OK Maddie. That was one minute. Time to go."
Maddie: "But Mom nooooo. I'm not done being finished."

About bears

MWF Class

Sadie Frances: "Isn't it soft?"

Mira: "I think he's bad. One came in my yard when we were in the house. My mom went out and yelled at it and he went away."

Atlas: "Wha, wha, what is that? It's a bear. Is it alive?"

Mila: "When daddy was fishing by the water and I was sitting up on the beach, a bear came right up behind me so far (so close) and my daddy threw his fish behind a rock and stood up and yelled "You go away!" to the bear and the bear went away."

Sol (Mila's dad): "Mila said afterwards, 'He was probably just hungry for your fish.'"

Matthew: "I saw a bear on my way to preschool today. It was black like this black (pointing to the black bear pelt). He was crossing the road. I thought he was going to meet his family."

Lucy: "Anna Caroline and me were playing in the back yard and a bear came into our yard."

Rhonda: "What did you do?"

Lucy (whispering): "We were very quiet and walked back in the house."

Tu/Th Class

Ginger: "Mary, I think that's the papa bear." (About the brown bear:) "The fur feels soft."

Crosby: "It kinda looks like a little one. What's that inside his mouth?" (Looking at the skull:) "How did he get dead? Maybe someone shot him in the butt with a BB gun."

Kalvin: "Is this a real bear that's in there? My dad shot a bear and he didn't run away. I saw the bear eating the whale and going inside a little bit."

Looking

backward

Set up
First Days
Bears
Mushrooms

forward

Apples
Seeds
Leaves