

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

** From the Chair **

by Yvonne

After a warm and delightful fall spent in many hours outside, children, with the bitterly cold weather setting in are sitting in and mostly hibernating inside. Luckily the weather was thoughtful enough to make the transition inside gradual so children adapted easily from outside to inside. *Feet, hands and heads get very cold in no time*, so those extremities need to be protected as soon as they get out of cars and leave the school. Make sure they have an extra pair of pants and footwear in a bag or backpack: children are NOT adults and react more adversely to changes in temperature. We all know that weather temperature can change within a very short time in Colorado. Health, physical comfort, safety and hygiene are adult responsibilities at school and are not decisions that children can make wisely.

We understand that the fund raiser is getting momentum. We thank you for understanding its necessity, your cooperation and meeting deadlines. At the end of this cooperative effort we all will have a lovely evening and a worthwhile satisfaction of supporting your children's school.

Membership:

It's the time to bring friends and acquaintances to Open Houses.

It's not just a matter of prospective families for the fall, but for families to be educated about what an appropriate early childhood environment needs to be like to serve young children well. The word of mouth seems to be one of the most effective approach. We need to impress on visitors that proximity and convenience may be factors to consider; but the fundamental early childhood educational quality that children deserve for their first autonomous step outside the home need to be a dominant factor. We need your help not just in recruiting but in educating.

We already are beginning the spring semester.

Reflections

By Yvonne & Jim

Schooling and Education

Again, through autonomy and various interactions children have been evolving many facets of their personalities and intelligences. They trust their human and material environments as they come to understand they can get support or positive guidance, therefore they test their limits and freedom; they take risks as obstacles become challenges to try again for further understanding. And thus educate their physical, social and cognitive intelligent competences.



But this is not schooling. For schooling is for students to conform to a system's and society's goal. The teaching of subject matter content from workbooks, homework, texts, tests, the future job market to teaching methodologies reflect the prevalent goals of the nation's time and place. Teachers' training is also mostly a reflection of a society's goals. The latter are implicitly and explicitly dictated for

the survival and stability of the main culture. Is this wrong? No, unless a society is a closed one, rigid, supports social and subject matter prejudices, while injustice and morality fail on universal standards.

Educating children has a different goal. It is an individual pursuit which is relevant to students' genuine interests, talents, and developing personalities. It is for students to acquire awareness of human affairs and undertakings with an analytic and reflective growing ability to critique, adapt or seek positive change in their own learning through a profound understanding of a diversity of worthwhile experiences. It is a creative process of the mind.

Both schooling and educational experience need not be opposites. They can compliment each other to appreciate, balance and open students' learning to a path of challenge and wisdom. To quote John Dewey again, what teachers in all schools need to be watchful for is:

“Experience and education cannot be directly equated to each other, for some experiences are mis-educative. Any experience is mis-educative that has the effect of arresting or distorting the growth of further experience.”

Fundraiser - March 7, 2009

The 2008 Our School Preschool Silent Auction at the Gatehouse is fast approaching! This evening out, with delicious food, deserts, wine and beer at the Gatehouse, is a highlight of the year. It is a great time to reconnect with friends, meet new people, and show your support for Our School.

Spend a week in a condo in Puerta Vallarta... or in Hilton Head, host a Birthday Party at The Little Gym, try yoga at Alaya Yoga Spa, have dinner at Pasta Jays and work off the calories at Flatirons Athletic Club, get the family together for a Basic photo shoot from Alive Studio Photography, and so many more items for you to bid on and win at this year's Auction!

Please check the Spring Calendar (both in this newsletter, and on our website at www.ourschoolpreschool.org) for all Deadlines, and Committee Meeting Dates. Also, The auction easel in the parent's room has items posted (fresh cut flowers, balloons, etc.) that we'd like donated to help offset our auction's costs. If your family is able to donate any of the items, we would greatly appreciate it!

*Please keep those business donations coming,
and Personal Donations are due Jan. 20.*

Thank You!

A big thank you to families that bring extra snacks, things and ideas that can help the children's program flourish.

Reminder:

You need to be available on your back up day. If not possible, switch with someone else in your session. Now that you're getting to know the other parents in your session, you may be able to exchange baby sitting for your co-op day. You may be called on your back-up day to co-op. Be prepared! Arrange with another family -ahead of time- to take care of your child(dren) if this emergency happens and be ready to reciprocate.

2009 Winter/Spring Semester Calendar of Events:

JANUARY

- 5 School Resumes 3-Day & 4-Day
- 6 School Resumes 2-Day
- 10 Open House (Families Welcome!) 10a.m.-12p.m.
- 15 2-Day Session Meeting
- 19 NO SCHOOL ~ Martin Luther King Day
Ticket Money Due - for all event tickets, and half of the minimum raffle tickets. Please keep the checks for the two separate.
- 21 Seminar for all Members & Community
- 24 Open House (Families Welcome!) 10a.m.-12p.m.
- 26 Family/Personal Donations Due - Bring Donor Form.
- 28 Board Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 5 Remainder of Minimum Raffle Ticket Money is Due
3-Day Session Meeting
- 7 Open House (Families Welcome!) 10a.m.-12p.m.
- 11 4-Day Session Meeting
- 18 Fundraiser Meeting- *Silent Table Items & Master/Mistress of Ceremony*
- 21 Open House (Families Welcome!) 10a.m.-12p.m.
- 25 Board Meeting
- 26 Fundraiser Meeting- *Set-Up & Clean-Up*

MARCH

- 4 Fundraiser Meeting - *Cashiers, Tickets & Bookkeepers*
- 5 Fundraiser Meeting - *Tally* 7:00p.m.
- 7 **SILENT AUCTION 2008!** 6-10p.m.
- 9 NO SCHOOL - Day after Auction
- 12-13 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 14 Open House (Families Welcome!) 10a.m.-12p.m.
- 16 -17 Conferences 7-9p.m.
- 20-27 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break, Conferences
- 21 Open House (Families Welcome!) 10a.m.-12p.m.

APRIL

- 1 Board Meeting
- 4 Open House (Families Welcome!) 10a.m.-12p.m.
- 6 Seminar for all Members & Community
- 16 **SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING - REQUIRED**
- 18 Open House (Families Welcome!) 10a.m.-12p.m.
- 21 2-Day Session Meeting
- 29 Board Meeting

MAY

- 2 Open House (Families Welcome!) 10a.m.-12p.m.
- 4 3-Day Session Meeting
- 13 New Family Orientation
- 16 Open House (Families Welcome!) 10a.m.-12p.m. 19
- 17 **ALL SCHOOL PUTLUCK PICNIC**
(Families Welcome!)
- 19 4-Day Session Meeting
- 25 NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
- 27 Board Meeting
- 30 Open House (Families Welcome!) 10a.m.-12p.m.

JUNE

- 4 Last Day of School: 2-Day & 4-Day Sessions
- 5 Last Day of School: 3-Day Sessions

All Meetings start at 7:00p.m. and are at Our School unless otherwise noted. Meetings are for parents only unless labeled as All School or Families Welcome. Required meetings are noted. Seminars and Session Meetings are recommended. Board Meetings are open to all members.