



LANSING CO-OPERATIVE SPIRIT

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE LANSING CO-OPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

News from the Staff

From the Director:

Open Houses

Its time to spread the word to your family and friends! Lansing will be opening our doors to the community for 6 Open Houses starting in January. There will



be an opportunity to: tour the school, meet the teachers and some co-op parents and pickup registration packages. Our Open

House will take place between **9:00 - 10:15 am** on the following dates:

Monday January 13th

Tuesday January 28th

Wednesday February 5th

Thursday February 20th

Monday March 3rd

Tuesday March 25th

Registration for 2014-2015 School Year

Registration packages will be available for pick-up in Gina's office anytime after January 13th, 2014. All returning families may register prior to our pub-



lic registration day which is April 8th, 2014. If you have any questions regarding any of the programs we offer please see Gina.

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Kindergarten Report Cards

The Kindergarten teachers will be sending home the mid-year report cards for junior and senior kindergarten children on **January 30th, 2014**.

Pajama Day!

Both the morning and afternoon classes will participate in the Pajama Party. Please wear your PJ's to school on **Thursday, January 23rd**. Children are also invited to bring along their favourite stuffed animal (please ensure that all stuffed animals are clearly labeled with your child's name). We will be having special activities and pancakes for snack. All children are welcome to attend that day.



Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year (year of the horse) celebrations will be on **Thursday, January 30th**. We will have a special snack and parade. **ALL CHILDREN** are welcome.



January 2014

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January Birthdays

- Kendra - January 9
- Victoria V. - January 10
- Hamza—January 14
- Olivia A.—January 17
- Olivia O.—January 18
- Darren - January 20
- Evelyn Chang—January 22
- Haruto—January 25
- Martin—January 28
- Liam—January 28
- Mona—January 29

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News from the Board

News from the Duty Day Coordinator

Families to test new online sign-up process in February

We're very excited to announce that duty day families will be able to test a new online duty day sign-up process for the March/April period (sign-up starting Feb 3). Online sign-up will allow families to sign up for duties any time of day or night from the comfort of their own computer/tablet/smart phone at home or while travelling. You can access the calendar at any time to view your commitments, and the application will send you email reminders two days in advance of upcoming duty days.

The process is simple and streamlined: once the calendar is posted online, you will receive an email with a weblink to the application. Minimal information is required to register--the website stores only your email address and a phone number. The website we've selected is free of cost to the school and is funded by (unobtrusive, family-friendly) advertising, which will appear on the calendar page and in your reminder emails.

The online calendar will replace the paper sign-up process in the Parents Room. We welcome your feedback after you've tried the new system, as our experience with the March/April sign-up will help us decide whether to adopt the online system going forward. Meanwhile, if you have any questions or concerns about the change, feel free to contact me, Gina or any other member of the Board.

Jodi (Duty Day Coordinator)

News from the President

Welcome back to all. We've had a productive first part of our year, and we are ready to kick into 2014. The board finalized our fees for the 2014/15 school year, and we will be inviting the community into our building over the next few months to observe our program through a series of open houses. If you know of anyone looking for a nursery or preschool program for next year, please encourage them to come and tour our facilities on one of these days. Word of mouth has always been our best form of promotion for the school.

We received excellent news from the City just before the holiday break. The capital grant that we submitted in late October was approved in full. We have received an allowance to spend \$17,905.00 on replacing our two furnaces and our two air conditioners. These units will all be installed in the spring of 2014. This capital replacement is

the final phase of a 6-year strategy to renew the minor capital infrastructure for our facility. The funds from the City have been granted with the recognition that over \$60,000,000 has been raised by Lansing parents and our community to support our capital renewal strategy.

Our current member families have also begun to give back to our school through a few fundraising activities this past Fall. We have already used some of these funds to provide each of the Blue, Yellow, and Red rooms with some minor toys and equipment to support their programs. One family donated a stereo to the Red room; another stereo was purchased for the Yellow room, and the Blue room is finalizing its choice for some educational toys.

Over the next few months you will see a renewed push for fundraising. As a cooperative, and a registered charity we depend on the direct engagement of our community in

raising funds to maintain our facility and the high quality of our programming. Our fees are determined based on the actual cost for operating our programs (salaries, consumables, overhead) with a non-profit mandate. Our fees do not however account for the long-term maintenance of our school and the ongoing upgrading of our educational equipment. While our previous member families have worked very hard to update our capital equipment, expected to last another 20 years; we still have a responsibility to raise funds to continue to upgrade our educational equipment, and to contribute to our capital reserve for future use.

We hope to count on your support as we launch additional fundraising activities over the next several months, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Rob (Esther's Dad)

January 2014

Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3	4
5	6 	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 	31	



Monday, January 6th

Back to school



Monday, January 13th

First open house of the 2014/15 school year.



Thursday, January 23rd

Pajama Day



Thursday, January 30th

Mid year junior and senior kindergarten report cards will be sent home



Thursday, January 30th

Chinese New Year celebration

What's Cooking

Chinese Almond Cookie Recipe (traditionally eaten during celebrations like Chinese New Year)

Makes 5 dozen cookies

- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp almond extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp baking soda



Method:

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. Sift flour, salt and baking soda.
3. Combine all the ingredients and mix till it forms a dough.
4. Roll the dough into balls about the size of large marbles.
5. Place them on cookie sheets about one and half inches apart. Optional: add almond slice to the middle of each cookie.
6. Bake 10-15 minutes till the cookies are just lightly brown around the edges.
7. Transfer to wire rack and cool.

