



LANSING CO-OPERATIVE SPIRIT

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE LANSING CO-OPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

News

February Clean Up

On February 22nd, many of our parents came out to help clean and paint our Blue Room and washrooms. Thank you to Maria Vasconez, John's mother, for organizing a successful day. The next and final clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday May 3rd.

Fairy Tale Puppet Theatre

On Thursday March 6th, a children's puppeteer will come to perform and entertain the morning Nursery school children. Please note that all children are welcome to attend this day.

Afternoon Theatre Trip

On Thursday March 6th, the Kindergarten and Preschool children will be going to the Vaughan City Playhouse to see a performance of "Red's in the Hood", a groovy new spin on the story of Little Red Riding Hood, performed by Juno Award winners Judy & David. Permission forms were sent home in February.

Open Houses

On Monday March 3rd and Tuesday March 25th, Lansing will be hosting the last two scheduled Open Houses for the 2014-15 school year. Don't let your friends and neighbors miss this opportunity to visit our school.



Registration for 2014-15

Enrollment for the 2014-15 school year has started actively for all programs. Register early to secure your desired program days

and cooperative job of your choice. Enrollment remains open exclusively to returning families until April 3rd. Registration will be open to the public on April 7th.

Chick Hatching Program

Lansing will once again participate in a Chick Hatching Program with Green Acres Education Centre. On Wednesday March 19th, the teachers will set up an incubator with chicken eggs. During this 21 day incubation period the children will have a hands on experience with the hatching process as well as the care of the baby chicks. Lansing is very excited to have the opportunity to offer this popular school science project. We know this will be a valuable and memorable learning experience for our children.

Beach Day

We are having a party...at the beach! Put on your beach gear, bring your towel, and soak up the sun! We celebrate the coming of warmer weather by celebrating beach day on Wednesday March 26th. All children are welcome to attend this day.

Look Ahead

On Wednesday April 9th, NICE Photography will be at Lansing to take class and individual photos. Please have nursery school children at the school by 9:00am sharp. Please have Preschool and Kindergarten children at school by 1:00pm sharp. Say CHEESE!

March 2014

In this edition:

- ★ News from the Staff
- ★ News from the Board

SUMMER CAMP

REGISTRATION BEGINS MARCH 19th.

Session 1—July 7-18

Session 2—July 21-Aug.1

This Month's Birthdays

Naomi - March 2rd

Daniel - March 5th

Linji - March 23rd

Victoria—March 30th

Kenan - March 28th

Reach us at
www.lansingnursery.org
 80 Church Avenue,
 North York, ON
 M2N 4G1
 (416) 225-4581



News from the Board & Teams

News from the President

Let me first say a big thank you to Ceinlys and the parent volunteers who prepared our Valentine cookies. The fundraising effort brought in \$380 for our school. A significant amount of volunteer work goes into preparing these cookies, which most people never see. This is one of many examples of how the dedication of parents makes our school a success.

Fundraising will continue to be a big part of our community efforts over the next few months. We've raised about \$1,000 from fundraising activities to date, but we're far from our goal of an average \$5,000 per school year. Another important note in this regard. The commitment to fundraising is a mandate that we as parents take on as part of the co-operative. Our teaching staff are mandated to spend 110% of their time on educating and nurturing our children. While they have generously volunteered to assist with some of our fundraising efforts in the past, this is not their job. It is ours. Let's all work together over the coming months to see if we can reach our goal for this year.

**The fundraising events
this year have raised
\$1000
towards our
\$5000 annual goal.**

Mark your calendar's for our Parent's Open House on Thursday May 29th, 6:00-7:30pm. I introduced this idea in last month's newsletter, but to briefly recap, it's an opportunity for parents to visit the school with their children to see what they are doing on a typical day (especially those parents who typically are not at the school and those who don't participate in our duty day program). Our teachers will be there to give you the opportunity to speak with them directly about our programs.

As part of our Open House, we will also be running two fundraising activities, which we are actively looking for volunteers to support. The first activity







will be the sale of dinner vouchers (pizza or something simple - still to be finalized). Given our event is over the dinner hour, this sale will help all of us to get fed, while also raising some funds for the school. The second activity will be a silent auction. We are beginning a campaign to solicit donations of "interesting items". If you have ideas or connections, then we are interested to hear. We will post items in advance in the parent's room, but the silent auction will take place during the open house. You must be present to win.

We'll be engaging with members of the fundraising team over the coming weeks, but if you are also interested to support in some manner, please let any of the board members know. Looking forward to an exciting next few months.

Rob (Esther's Dad)

March 2014

Calendar of Events

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



Monday, March 3rd & Tuesday, March 25th
Open House



Thursday, March 6th
Puppet Theatre & Theatre Trip



Friday, March 7th
P.A. Day School is closed



Wednesday, March 19th
Chick Hatching Program



Wednesday, March 26th
Beach Day

March Break Activities

As March Break is approaching fast, here are some suggestions around the city that are fun for the entire family!

Ontario Science Centre

Sesame Street Presents: The Body

January 28 to May 5

<http://www.ontariosciencecentre.ca/Sesame/>

Indoor March Break Extravaganza

Better Living Centre

March 9-16

<https://www.wizardworld.ca/toronto/home>

Young People's Theatre

Where the Wild Things Are

<http://www.youngpeoplestheatre.ca/shows-tickets/where-the-wild-things-are/>

Disney on Ice - Let's Party

Rogers Centre

http://www.rogerscentre.com/events/article.jsp?content=20131226_203544_15768

Legoland Discovery Centre @ Vaughan Mills

<http://www.legolanddiscoverycentre.ca/toronto/?qclid=CPPt08608bsCFbA7MgodK1kA4Q>

Art Gallery of Ontario

March Break Drop-In family fun

<http://www.ago.net/march-break-drop-in-family-fun2>

Black Creek Pioneer Village

March Break Mystery Fun - Sherlock Holmes and The Mystery of the Golden Egg

<http://www.blackcreek.ca/v2/events/march-break.dot>

Toronto Zoo

<http://torontozoo.com/Events/?pg=MarchBreak>

Fantasy Fair

<http://www.fantasyfair.ca/>

Featured Article

COME ON! WE'RE LATE!

Getting Out the Door Without a Hassle

You're running late. Again. A harried rush down the stairs while dodging mounds of strewn boots and backpacks reveals the six-year-old is already stationed in the kitchen in her plaid pajamas and bumblebee raincoat. Munching cookies for breakfast, she has decided to pack her own lunch: more cookies. Your wildly coiffed son shoves a fistful of papers at you as the older son runs into the room, squinting. (He's dropped one of his contact lenses into the toilet.) You haven't even had coffee yet and already the morning pandemonium is surrounding you like a bad pair of mom jeans.

Morning preparations are generally best started the day before. A little planning and a sound mind (even if it's not an entirely sane mind at dawn) will keep your mornings running more smoothly.

Reduce the stress

- Handle school paperwork as soon as it comes in the door. Place important forms and required items into backpacks immediately so the kids won't be left out of the field trip.
- Keep an organized communications area complete with bulletin, chalk- or whiteboards to stay on top of events, important dates, lists and schedules. This 'memory jogger' should be placed somewhere you'll see it before you leave. Even sticky notes on the door to remind everyone of the things they need to take and what they need to do, makes them accountable instead of you always organizing their lives. Barbara Coloroso, parenting expert and author of the bestselling book, *Kids are worth it! Giving your child the gift of inner discipline* reminds parents that nagging and tracking their kid's every move makes a child too dependent. "They think, 'Why should I go through the hassle of remembering when I have someone else to do it for me?'"
- Get kids into the habit of laying clothes out the night before to ensure needed gym shorts will make it through the laundry at least once a month! Backpacks, shoes and umbrellas (or other appropriate seasonal apparel) should be in an easy-to-locate place assigned to only those items. Getting children into the habit of preparing their own clothing fosters responsibility and independence (while encouraging them to occasionally change their underwear). Coloroso says, "Let kids make decisions and choices. Hold them accountable and allow them to experience the consequences. You know the other kids will laugh if they have those crazy clothes on. Well, guess what. So what? You know, she's developing her own personality."

Make healthy choices quick and fun. "Breakfast is critical," says Coloroso. "We should make the time to have it with them in the morning. I say it is good to have at least one meal a day with your kids."

- Leave the television out of the picture to help maintain a steady stream of conscious activity.
- Set a timer to accomplish morning tasks. This is an effective way to motivate kids. (Don't rush kids through eating - the Heimlich should not be a necessary skill on a daily basis.) Coloroso set the stove timer. "They knew that when that alarm went off there was only 15 minutes before they had to be out the door."
- So now you're set to start another day. Grab your keys and count the children (you don't want to leave any at home alone with the pet trimmer again). Perform a quick visual check for shoes, backpacks and lunch boxes. Those faces might not beam up at you as you herd them out of the door, but you've graduated into a parent who can continue your day without the need for sedatives.

Failure to Lunch

Pre-preparing some lunch items can make packing it up a breeze.

- Dip apple slices or banana chunks in lemon juice to keep from browning when preparing ahead of time.
- Enlist your children's help once a week to prepare portions of snacks and finger foods to make lunch assembly easier.
- Remind your child about that dentist appointment by attaching a note to that bag of cookies.

Efficient Departures

On the reminder board, make lists visual, with picture tasks for pre-schoolers.

- Older kids can assemble most of their lunch the night before.
- Give kids a watch to help them get YOU out of the door on time (fun and empowering).
- Reminding kids of schedules en route to school helps memory retention. Having them repeat plans helps even more so.
- Give a star for every morning you're out the door on time. At a set number, reward with a special outing or a lazy weekend day just for them. At a set number, reward with a special outing or a lazy weekend day just for them.

Article by Jamie Van Eaton. Originally published in Parents Canada.