

FRAMINGHAM CENTRE NURSERY SCHOOL
24 Vernon Street 508-875-8260
www.framinghamcentrenurseryschool.org
March, 2009

CALENDAR REVIEW

March 10, Thursday -PM PTO meeting – 7:30pm in the entry room, Rescheduled!
March 25-27, Wednesday - Friday - Scholastic Book Fair from 9am - 12:30pm in the Music Room
March 28, Saturday - FCNS Family Fun Day from 1 - 4pm in Scott Hall (Book Fair in the Music Room)
April 10, Friday - School closed - Good Friday
April 16, Thursday - PM PTO meeting - Wine and Cheese Thank You - 7:30pm in the entry room
April 20-24, Monday through Friday - School closed - April Vacation - school reopens Monday, April 27

FCNS TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER – 20-5296806, listed under Framingham Centre Nursery School, Inc.

SUMMER PROGRAM 2009

Applications for the Summer Program have been distributed to all of our children. We will be offering Stay Day (1-3pm). We would like to offer Extended Day (3-4pm or 5pm) and will make a decision based on need by Monday, March 16. In order to offer Extended Day we need to have a minimum of 4 children signed up and paid in full by March 16). As with the 9am-1pm classes, acceptance of applications for whole weeks of Stay Day and Extended Day will be first come, first served. Drop-in Stay Days and Extended Days will be offered on a space available basis once the Summer Program begins. If you have any questions or need another application, please contact the office. Applications are due Monday, March 16. Payment is due Friday, May 1.

Please share Summer Program availability with play group friends, neighbors, faith community friends, etc.

THE FAMILY GIVING MITTENS – donations 2/6 – 2/27/09

Our deepest appreciation goes to the many families who have donated items on the Family Giving Mittens. Your generosity is making a difference! Thank you to these families:

Anonymous - paper towels Rothstein - doilies, foam stickers Norris - paper napkins Gillis - Clorox wipes

10th ANNUAL FAMILY FUN DAY – Saturday, 3/28 from 1-4pm in Scott Hall

We need lots of volunteers to make this day a success! Moms, Dads, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Older Siblings and friends interested in volunteering time to staff booths, etc. should call/email Lisa Callahan, 508-877-1032 or LisaCallahan02@hotmail.com or fill out a blue Family Fun Day interest sheet that went out in Thursday/Friday folders, and leave it in the Gold PTO box in Kay's office. If you'd like to bake for the bake sale, call/email Martha Ziba at 508-877-8399 or marthaziba@comcast.net. We also still need items for the raffle. If you have a talent, if your "Aunt Sophie" would like to knit a doll sweater, if you own a business and could donate a product/service or gift certificate or if you know someone who would wish to donate, all contributions will be gratefully received. Please call/email Beth Goldfarb, 508-735-0961 or BethGoldfarb@hotmail.com to make a donation or to help collect raffle items from the local community. Raffle tickets will be available soon for those who wish to purchase them in advance. They will also be available during the event.

Heather Bace and her team have organized a Scholastic Book Fair that will be open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 25-27, from 9am-12:30pm and also Saturday during Family Fun Day from 1-4pm. Scholastic Books is supplying award-winning titles appropriate for children preschool through early elementary age. One lucky child from each class will win a Scholastic gift certificate! We need your assistance for an hour to staff the book fair. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the PTO board in the entrance room.

Plans for the day are coming together in a way that will guarantee lots of fun for the whole family - there will be ice cream, a craft table, sand art, face painting, a cookie decorating table, music/gym classes sponsored by My Gym, and more! See you there!!

DO YOU KNOW? – Progress Reports, Conferences and Information for Parents

Progress reports are completed three times a year at FCNS:

- 1) The early fall report was about transitioning into school and the general skill level of the child. A brief checklist along with an overview of the goals for the different ages forms the basis. It was sent home to give you time to read it and decide whether or not you wanted to discuss it with the lead teacher at school or over the phone. We posted times for short fall conferences to make it easier for you to be able to talk with teachers.

- 2) Very detailed progress reports are completed during the late fall-early winter and again in the spring. Parents are invited in during gym or music class for the spring conference to discuss how their child's progress has changed during the year in specific skill areas. Copies of the progress report are provided to parents in the spring and at other times if requested. Teachers are very glad to talk with you about your child's progress at any time you wish.
- 3) Of course, whenever you feel the need you are always welcome to call the school office (508-875-8260) to arrange a meeting or to talk to a teacher. Please be assured that we will always contact you if we have any concerns. Your child's teachers should be touching base with you weekly by note, phone call or at drop off and pick up if possible.

The first few months of the school year require both teachers to be actively engaged in helping children settle into a new situation and in helping all the individuals come together into a cohesive classroom group. Observation of a child and assessing him/her to determine the current and detailed level of skills attained requires teachers to be able to work one-on-one with that child. With teachers responsible for as many as 27 children in a single morning or afternoon classroom over a week's time, this is a time and labor intensive effort that is much better left to a later date than early in the year while teachers are still helping children feel comfortable in the classroom.

Teachers recognize parents' understandable desire for more communication about their child throughout the school year. Unfortunately, it may be difficult to talk as children are entering the room at the beginning of classes, and at the end of classes most teachers are either immediately needed in a Stay Day or Extended Day class or have only a brief time to eat lunch and set their rooms up for the afternoon session. During a class period, teachers are actively engaged with the children and are unable to write a description of what your child has done (please see the lesson plans posted outside the classroom and the class newsletters). What we try to do is to share with you a bit of your child's experience each week. We ALWAYS pass on to you important information about concerns, an injury or an event that you need to know about in order to support your child. Please, please call the school and leave a message for your child's teacher if that is not working well enough in your case. The teacher will be glad to call you back to talk with you about your child when she is not responsible for other children. She may not be able to get back to you until the evening or the next day, but she will certainly return your call as soon as she is able.

We hope your greater understanding of how conferencing and our days work will help us all to better meet your need to know as much as possible about your child's school experience.

CLASSROOM NEWSLETTERS

We hope you have been enjoying the newsletters written by your child's teachers. Of course, lesson plans and snacks are posted in the hall outside each room (our use of wall space in the building is limited by the facilities use agreement in place), but the newsletters will give you a better idea of the goals of activities and how they fit into both the larger picture of our curriculum as a whole and the conceptual learning described by the MA Frameworks. As you can see, there are many benefits from and a definite point to all this "play" we do and the fun we have!

Our thanks to those of you who have taken the time to let us know you appreciate this effort by the teachers.

PARENT EVALUATION

Within the next couple of weeks we are again going to be asking all FCNS parents to complete the annual evaluation of our nursery school program. This is part of what the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) requires of accredited schools and we need a substantial percentage of our families responding in order to be in compliance. We are required in each annual report to show progress in improving specific areas as well as continuing to think about improving the FCNS "big picture". We want to know what you think about of the experience you and your child have had with us and changes you would like to see, including programmatic ones. The information you can provide is critically important to our ongoing examination of how well we are accomplishing our goal of providing the best school possible for children. You do not, of course, have to identify yourself. We would very much appreciate it if you would spend a few minutes completing the questionnaire and then return it to the box that will be in the entry room. Thank you for sharing your feelings about things with us!

REMINDER – Melting snow and mud season is almost upon us. It's important to be sure your child has a fresh change of clothes (top to bottom) daily. Please wash and return any school clothes your child needs to borrow.

WISH LIST

- Computer keyboard (nonfunctioning is perfect) for the Dolphin Class house corner
- Our mitten box needs renewing if you have outgrown or mismatched pairs you could share with us. We welcome lonely single mittens whose other half is lost because often a child at school may be missing only one.
- Our supply of socks and other clothes for bigger children (size 5-6) is becoming very limited. If you have outgrown clothes from an older sib and can't use them for your younger one, we will gladly take them.