



Handprints



"Working Together for Children"

Greetings Co-op Families,

The weather is changing fast. I cannot believe we just trick or treated in the snow! This is a great time for winter clothes reminder. Please dress your kids for the weather and when that time comes, remember to pack the winter gear. If they do not wear them into school, make sure they have hat, mittens, scarves, snow coat and pants, and boots when needed for outside time. And remember the same for yourself since we do go outside with them. Unless it is raining or is too cold, they always go outside to play. The staff gets a workout pulling the kids around on sleds! ☺ Also, this is the time of the year that lost and found tends to grow rapidly. Please label all outdoor clothing with the child's name on it; we will then be able to return lost items.

We have had such a fun year so far: exciting field trips, new projects, and fun activities. We have a few upcoming events at the preschool that I would like to mention. This Saturday, November 8th is Dad's Day. If Dad cannot make it, we have had grandpas and uncles come in the past. It is such a special time for the children with their loved one – don't worry, moms get their special day at the end of the year!

The Lions Club will offer free vision screening Tuesday, November 11th through Thursday, November 13th starting at 8:30am at WSEC. It is for ages 9 months and up, so siblings are welcomed to be screened.

We will be running the craft booths at Santa's workshop during Hometown Holidays the first weekend in December. If you would like to help at a table, please let Jenny Bollinger (Co-Vice President) know.

We will also be starting a collection for Faith in Action. Each class will be given something to collect (past examples: canned meat, laundry soup, hot cocoa, soup), and there will be collection boxes for each class. When we have the item list from Faith in Action, I will let you all know. One of the amazing things I love about our school is all the activities we have for our community and how we try to give back to others.

I will start posting community family events in the Facebook page. We live in a great community with so many events and activities for children. Many of them are free and a great treat for our little ones. Also, if you order Coop shirts from the sale (ends November 12), wearing them out in the community and at events helps to let others know about our great preschool! These shirts are sold at cost and are offered just for a little keepsake for you and your child (The publicity for the Coop is an added bonus)!

Warm wishes to all of you,
Shasta Grifka
2014-2015 President

November 2014

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The Gift of Giving

As the holiday season approaches, we have a wonderful opportunity as parents to teach our young children about giving. In a world that focuses so often on getting, it is important we take time with our family to recognize values such as sharing, empathy, and generosity. At what age is it appropriate to begin teaching this concept? According to Susan Crites Price, the author of *The Giving Family: Raising Our Children to Help Others*, as soon as a child says the word “mine.” Price explains, “being charitable does not require money. It just requires a generous heart, something we are born with but need to nurture.”

At preschool age, children are operating from a center of self, so a great way to start teaching generosity is by connecting their experiences and actions with the effect it has on others. “When you were two, you got this toy and it made you feel really happy. Now that you are too old for this toy, what would happen if you gave it to a two-year-old? How would they feel?” You can also use the familiar concept of sharing as another great way to start a conversation about generosity with your child. “Do you remember how good it felt when your friend (sibling, neighbor) shared their toy (snack, game) with you? You can help other kids feel that way by sharing your toys (food, games) with them.”

Once this discussion begins, keep it rolling by asking your children how their actions will change the way they feel inside. “If you made another little kid feel really happy, how would that make you feel?” or “Imagine how you would feel if you gave this blanket to a dog who needs a bed?” At this point, a meaningful conversation about giving is just as valuable as the act of giving itself.

Continue to bring this topic up regularly during your daily routine. Dinner conversations are a great time to have these talks since other family members can contribute ideas and share stories about giving and getting to reinforce the concepts. You can also try acting a giving scenario during playtime, whether with toy figures or playing dress-up, where you and your child take turns giving and getting. Finally, there are many children’s books geared to this topic as well (see list below). Use these experiences to connect with and continue your earlier conversations.

If your child becomes enthusiastic about giving, go ahead and try a few of the following activities. However, please follow their lead in this process. If they become resistant, gently remind them of the reasons for giving that you covered during your earlier conversations. It’s important not to force acts of sharing or giving because when it isn’t a choice for your child to give, the experience has only turned into confiscation and can be associated with negative feelings.

- **Pass-Along:** Find a child younger than your child. This could be a neighbor, family member, or friend. Ask your child to look through their belongings to find things they liked to play with when they were that age. Gather these items and have your child pass them along in person.
- **Fill-A-Box:** Select reasonably sized boxes (it’s OK to start small) and challenge yourself and your child to fill them with toys, games, books, and clothing you have outgrown or no longer use. Modeling the act of giving is a great way to relate to your child the importance of giving as they pick up on your enthusiasm. Once the boxes are full, you and your child can take them to donate at a local donation station.
- **Shelter Wish List:** With your child, look at a wish list from a local animal shelter or rescue organization. Choose a few items your family can spare, such as old blankets, towels, or stuffed toys. Gather these and take them together to the shelter.
- **Share-A-Plate:** Head to the grocery store together to gather supplies for some of your family’s favorite meals. Take the grocery bags directly to a local food pantry.

After an act of giving, talk about the effect your child's actions may have on the people who benefited. "I bet a little kid will feel so excited to get the toys you gave. They might be playing with them right now!" or "Can you imagine a family enjoying the meal we gave them? I hope they like it as much as we do!" Ask your child how the act of giving made them feel inside. "Isn't it amazing how we feel great by helping another person feel great?"

The concepts of generosity, sharing, and giving may seem overwhelming and complicated when you first think about approaching your child. However, these values are surprisingly simple when you remember that we are just as capable of giving as we are of getting. Start small, and soon giving will be a fun and exciting family tradition.

-Claire

Children's stories about giving and sharing:

- One Winter's Day by M. Christina Butler
- Have You Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud
- The Berenstain Bears Think of Those in Need by Stan and Jan Berenstain
- The Mine-O-Saur by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen
-

Faith In Action
603 S. Main St.
Chelsea, MI 48118
(734) 475-3305
<http://www.faithinaction1.org>

Jackson Inter-Faith Shelter
414 S Blackstone St
Jackson, MI 49201
(517) 789-8735
<https://www.facebook.com/jackson.interfaith>

Goodwill
1167 S. Main St.
Chelsea, MI 48118
(734) 433-9380
<http://www.goodwill.org>

Humane Society of Huron Valley
3100 Cherry Hill Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 662-5585
<http://www.hshv.org>



Hazel Baushke (2) and Leo Baushke (4) with their first toy donation.

WAYS & MEANS

The Cheesecake fundraising numbers are in and I am absolutely delighted to announce that as a group, we have collectively raised \$1,540 – *smashing* our target of \$1,200!

Fundraising is not an easy task, especially when you are trying to juggle work, family and other commitments, so thank you again for all your hard work...and congratulations!

CHEESECAKE PICKUP INSTRUCTIONS

WHEN: Wednesday, November 19th between 11:00am and 7pm

WHERE: At the preschool outside of the young 5's classroom

I will send a reminder email as we get closer to the delivery date--and again THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT:)

Tess Eastment
Ways and Means

Publicity Notes

Hello Co-Op Families,

I recently ran across this article as to how our social media use can affect the future of our children. I'm including some portions of the article and hope you find it as interesting as I did.

– Jocelyn Webber

Excerpts from:

“Does sharing photos of your children on Facebook put them at risk?”

by Linda Geddes, *The Observer*
Saturday 20 Sept 2014

Read the full article at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2014/sep/21/children-privacy-online-facebook-photos>

When it comes to posting pictures of kids, parents are often the worst culprits. A recent US study found that 63% of mums use Facebook; of these, 97% said they post pictures of their child; 89% post status updates about them, and 46% post videos. I do it myself, though sparingly – and admittedly this is more to cultivate the image that my life hasn't been completely swamped by my kids, rather than because of any safety fears. But there are photos that I probably wouldn't share; naked photos of my kids; snaps where I or they are captured in unflattering poses; and shots that might clearly identify where we live (just in case someone decides to sneak over and attack us in the night). I have never really thought these rules through, they are more instincts.

I do it because I want to share the growth and development of my children with friends and relatives who don't necessarily live nearby. It seems harmless, as my privacy settings mean that only my friends can see them. But is that good enough?

“There are two things to be careful about,” says Victoria Nash, acting director of the Oxford Internet Institute. “One is the amount of information that you give away, which might include things like date of birth, place of birth, the child's full

name, or tagging of any photographs with a geographical location – anything that could be used by somebody who wanted to steal your child’s identity. The second issue is more around consent. What type of information would children want to see about themselves online at a later date?”

As Sonia Livingstone, professor of social psychology at the London School of Economics, and an expert on children and the internet says, the nature of what is being posted is important: “I think we should start with the question of cost – if you post a picture of your child with the mark of the devil on their arm, or in a temper tantrum, perhaps that will have a future cost. It’s not all pictures, but certain pictures that are problematic.”

According to the online recruitment site Career Builder, around a fifth of employers use social networking sites to research job candidates, and close to 59% say they would be influenced by a candidate’s online presence. University admissions tutors are also rumoured to Google candidates, although the extent to which this occurs is unknown.

“If you put information out there, you are a possibly putting your child at risk in the present, and you could be putting them at risk in the future,” says Livingstone. “We don’t really have a good sense of how likely this is, but both are only likely to increase.”

Many experts point out that even if you lock down your privacy settings to prevent strangers viewing your pictures and posts, that doesn’t stop others from uploading pictures of you or your kids. “In reality, there’s lots of other people posting information about you without your control and it is fairly difficult – if not impossible – to police the social media circles of everyone you know,” says Alice Marwick who lectures on social media and digital culture at Fordham University in New York.

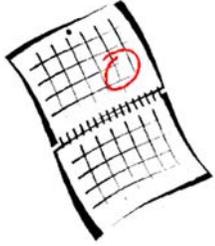
It appears to be phenomenally difficult to have no digital footprint – even if you have not yet learned to type. Even Webb found herself caught out; in the process of trying to integrate her many social network and digital accounts, a couple of baby photos that she had edited using Instagram’s mobile editing tool somehow became public.

Whatever the future holds, it is likely that our children’s digital footprint will look very different from our own. We grew up with the luxury of not having our lives documented in pictures online. Those embarrassing baby photos remained firmly locked up in albums, unless our parents decided to air them to potential romantic suitors.

“It’s hard to know what Facebook will look like 15 to 20 years from now, and I suspect that they don’t know either,” says Sarita Yardi Schoenebeck at the University of Michigan, who researches mothers’ relationships with social media. Right now, Facebook and other sites use the personal data they collect to help advertisers reach their target market; it is how they make money. But that business model could change, and new tools are being developed to capture personal information all the time. But security concerns aside, perhaps it is also worth pondering just what our children will think about our posts when they grow up. “Ten years from now, almost all the next generation of teenagers will all have baby photos on Facebook; it’s not going to be something that stigmatises them,” says Schoenebeck.

AM 4’s at the Discovery Center





Mark your calendar...

Order your Newly Designed Co-op T-Shirt



Deadline is **November 12th**
Two design choices!

Library Events for Preschoolers

Thanksgiving Evening Storytime

Meet a real live turkey at 6:15pm in KidSpot, and then move to McKune for a special Thanksgiving storytime at 6:30pm, complete with stories, songs and Thanksgiving crafts.

Tuesday, November 25, 2014

6:15 PM - 7:00 PM

Chelsea District Library - McKune Room

'Twas the Week Before Christmas Storytime

Join us for lively stories, songs and crafts to celebrate this festive season.

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Chelsea District Library - McKune Room

Registration Required

Preschool Calendar

Date Changes/Additions

March 10

Art Show and Musical

March 26

Picture Day

Community Events



December 5-7, 2014

Visit or Eat Breakfast with Santa, Decorate Cookies, Shop at the Bazaar, Decorate a Gingerbread House

Complete Activity Schedule is online at chelseafestivals.com

Fall Leaf Turkey

Source: <http://www.dltk-holidays.com/thanksgiving/mleafturkey.htm>

Materials:

- Fall leaves
- pinecone
- eyes (wiggly or paper)
- paper,
- glue,
- scissors

Craft Instructions:

- Go outside and collect autumn leaves and a pinecone (this is LOADS of fun, especially if it requires a trip to a park!)



Optional: You can press the leaves for a few days before making the craft. This will help keep them from getting crunchy. We didn't do this for ours (we've had it about 2 weeks now and it still looks fine)

- Glue the leaves onto a piece of paper in a fan shape. Younger kids won't get a nice fan, but they'll still have lots of fun gluing
- Glue the pinecone onto the bottom of the fan (use lots of glue)
- Make eyes from a scrap piece of paper and markers or use wiggly eyes. Glue them to the pinecone.
- Make an orange beak and a red wobbler from felt, construction paper or white paper and markers. Glue them onto the pinecone.
- Let dry and hang up!

Chelsea Children's Cooperative Preschool

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chelseacoop.org

PLAY. LEARN. GROW.

At Chelsea Children's Cooperative Preschool, we believe it our responsibility to provide multifaceted opportunities for preschoolers to explore, experiment, and grow in a safe, nurturing, and age appropriate arena. Valuing the family as a unit as well as the individuality and worth of each of its members is our philosophy and practical approach to preschool education.