



Central Co-Op News

Volume 1

PO Box 142 • Chelmsford, MA 01824 • 978-256-3033 • www.centralcoop.org

October 2009

Dear Parents:

The 2009-2010 school year is finally in full swing and we are off to a great start. We've already had a special event in Ruth Scruton's Traveling Barnyard on September 29th, as well as a special family field trip to Parlee Farm in Tyngsboro on October 1st. And, we've only just begun. The month of October should bring us several more very special events. Children's class pictures are scheduled for 10/15 and 10/16 this year, and we will send home "sitting slips" very soon. It is really fun to see the class pictures and actually see how fast the children grow, even just over this school year. At the end of each year we usually have a class video put together by Kristen Flynn, a former mom at the school. Most parents and children just treasure these videos that chronicle the kids growth over these ten months. Just a "heads up", that now is the time to start taking the pictures for this great video when it is your parent helper day.

Other events during this month include a visit from Firefighter Nelson and "Pluggie" the animated fireplug. We also celebrate Halloween with a special costume parade on October 29 and 30 and I promise to send you more information as this event gets closer to reality. At the beginning of November, we'll look forward to our annual Spaghetti Dinner and the Scholastic Book Fair, which is held during that week. There will be a lot more about this sent home in the near future as well.

During September and October, I truly enjoy watching your children get acclimated to their new school environment. They are all doing a wonderful job, learning about the other children in their class, understanding the new rules, and being away from mom and dad. These are truly major steps for 3 and 4 and 5 year olds, and it is such a pleasure watching it happen right in front of my eyes.

CENTRAL CO-OP BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009-2010

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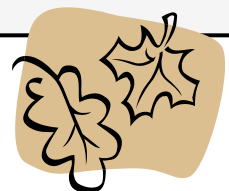
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Dear Co-Op Parents,

It's October already and by now parents and children have settled in to school routines and new activities. For kids we have playdates with new friends, carpools, backpacks and eating snacks in class. For parents, you might be lucky to go to the gym, run errands or get in some quiet work time during those precious three hours.

And for parents school time also brings volunteer opportunities and fundraisers. I want to encourage you to take part in the activities that Central Co-Op has to offer this fall, whether it's working at the book fair or the Spaghetti Supper November 12 (and attending with your family!), participating in the Tracy Hamilton Fall Fundraiser or buying pies through the Co-Op on Thanksgiving. We hold these events not only to raise funds and bring enrichment programs to the school, but also so your children feel like they are part of a school community that is bigger than the classroom. If you are too busy this fall, there are more opportunities in the winter and spring!

That said, it is easy for we as parents to get overscheduled, too (believe me I know!), so when you are tempted to take on one more thing, we understand when you have to "just say no"....but we hope that volunteering at preschool makes it on to your "to do list."

One last reminder...don't forget to bring your camera on your parent helper days. At the end of the year we put together wonderful DVDs of each class for you to purchase. It's great to have pictures from the beginning of the school year...on the playground, in the classroom and creative room, eating snacks and making friends...the children grow so fast!

On behalf of the Board, welcome (or welcome back!) and enjoy this new year at Central Co-Op.

Sincerely,

Holly Prees

Board President

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED BUILD THE NEW PLAYGROUND

Central Co-op would like to express our gratitude to all the volunteers who helped to construct the new playground. We truly appreciate the time and effort that our volunteers took to help build a wonderful playground for the children. In particular, Rich Gray has been in charge of the playground set up, and with his father in law, Bob Trudel, built the sand box and headed up the tear down and build up of the climber. A special thank you to Jill LeMasurier's father, brother and husband. Her husband Steve loaned the "bobcat" to ready the site. Jill's father and brother brought the sand into the playground and distributed it around in the right places for an adequate "fall zone" around the new climber. We also thank Mrs. Hamilton's cousins Steve & Joanne from Lagasse Removal for giving us the "family rate" on the dumpster at a HUGE savings. In addition, thank you to Bob and Pat Hamilton for buying the cement needed for the project. Thank you to the following people for their time and help:

Breakdown Crew: August 15

Pete Dionne	Chris Dorsey
Rich Gray	Pat and Bob Hamilton
Ian Prees	Roger Plaisted
Steve and Jill LeMasurier	

Construction Crew: September 3

Chris Adams	Eric Busalacchi
Pete Dionne	Deb Dorsey
Rich Gray	Bob Hamilton
Carol Hokana	Ian Prees
Bob Trudel	



And of course, many thanks to the Playground Committee, the Co-Op Board and staff for all the planning and the many individuals including New England Biolabs for their generous grants and donations. We will be thanking donors and volunteers with a plaque here at the school at a later time! We couldn't have done it without you!

School Pictures

Thursday, October 15

Friday October 16



TRACY HAMILTON FUNDRAISER

Our first official fundraiser, Tracy Hamilton, will be running Oct.1-16. We had great success with this last year and are sure this year will prove no different. The early kick off date will ensure that we can collect orders and have them shipped in plenty of time for the holidays. The Hoff's Bakery flyers will be going out late October. These yummy pies/cakes will help you save time in the kitchen for Thanksgiving so be sure to give them a try. The orders will be delivered to school the Tuesday before Thanksgiving to ensure freshness. Fundraising plays an important role at the Co-Op in helping keep our special events free and tuition costs low for our families. We strive to provide a diverse array of fundraisers so that everyone can find something they will enjoy. Also slated for this year are annual Co-Op events such as the spaghetti dinner, Scholastic book fair, pancake breakfast, yard sale, and ice cream social, as well as sales-based fundraisers including Square One Art and Butter Braids pastries, and more. One of the things that makes the Central Co-Op special is a strong sense of community and a commitment to working together towards the common goal of supporting our school. Everyone plays a vital role in making this another great year at the Co-Op. If you can help out with our fundraising events (we need plenty of volunteer hands on-deck), please contact vice presidents of fundraising Michelle Srebnick and Tara Adams. You'll find one or both of them around in the halls during drop-off and pick-up times, Michelle with Mrs. Rousseau's class Monday through Friday, and Tara with Mrs. LeMasurier's class on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. You can also reach Michelle and Tara at fundraising@centralcoop.org.

Easy Granola Bars - A great recipe to make with preschoolers. They will love helping to mix the ingredients with their hands. "Use any combination of chocolate chips, dried fruit, coconut, pecans, almond slices, or any other tidbits you'd like in a granola bar." **from Allrecipes.com**

INGREDIENTS: 3 cups quick-cooking oats; 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk; 2 tablespoons butter, melted; 1 cup flaked coconut; 1 cup sliced almonds; 1 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips; 1/2 cup sweetened dried cranberries

DIRECTIONS: 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9x13 inch pan. 2. In a large bowl, mix together the oats, sweetened condensed milk, butter, coconut, almonds, chocolate chips and cranberries (or any other combination of ingredients that you choose totaling 3-4 cups) with your hands until well blended. Press flat into the prepared pan. 3. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes in the preheated oven, depending on how crunchy you want them. Lightly browned just around the edges will give you moist, chewy bars. Let cool for 5 minutes, cut into squares.

2009-2010 Fundraising Calendar

October

Tracy Hamilton Fundraiser October 1 - 16
Hoff's Pies Fundraiser - October 21 - 28

November

Book Fair - November 9 - 15
Spaghetti Supper - November 12
Toy Shop of Westford Night - November 18
Hoff's Pies Delivered - November 24

December

Papa Ginos Night - TBD

January

Winter Festival - January 9

February

Pancake Breakfast - February 6
Butter Braid - February 22 - March 8

March

Butter Braids delivered - March 24
Yard Sale - March 27
Square One Art - TBD

May

Ice Cream Social - May 5

We still need chairs for many of these events. If interested, please contact: Michelle Srebnick or Tara Adams at fundraising@centralcoop.org

TRAVELING BARNYARD

The Traveling Barnyard proved to once again be a hit among the children. There were many wide eyes and gentle patting hands as the children walked around with the sheep, goats, ducks, chickens, cow, donkey, and alpaca. Thank you to our volunteers who helped to clean up the area afterward: Betsy Hebert, Lauren Stagnone, Michael Sexton, Holly Prees, Karen Storey, and Michelle Srebnick.



October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Tracy Hamilton fundraiser Oct 1 - Oct 16	1 Apple Picking at Parlee Farm 12:00 pm	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day No School	13	14	15 School Pictures	16 School Pictures Tracy Hamilton fundraiser due back	17
18	19	20	21 Hoff's Pies fundraiser Oct 21 - Oct 28	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Hoff's Pies fundraiser due back	29 Halloween Celebration	30 Halloween Celebration	31 Happy Halloween

November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	6	7
8	9 Book Fair	10 Book Fair	11 Veterans Day No School	12 Book Fair Spaghetti Supper	13	14
15	16	17	18 Toy Shop of Westford Night	19	20	21
22	23	24 Hoff's Pies Delivered	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

