



Central Co-Op News

Volume 3

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

February 2009

Upcoming Events

February 11-14

Classroom Valentine's Day parties.
Check your class calendar for details.

February 16-20

Winter vacation; no school.

March 4 and 5

Explore the Ocean World enrichment program

March 18 and 19

Pajamas and Pancakes Days

March 28

Rick Goldin concert at 10:30 a.m.
Tickets will cost \$7 per person, with a \$25 family cap. All proceeds will go toward a new playground structure at the Co-Op. Please join us for a morning of songs, puppets, and fun children's entertainment.

April 4

Annual yard sale

April 20-24

Spring vacation; no school.



Rick Goldin to perform at Co-Op on March 28

Children's performer Rick Goldin will perform at the Co-Op on Sat., March 28. Goldin has been a performing songwriter since 1980 and has released two children's albums: *Family Concert Live* and *I Like to Read*.

His performances feature movement and child participation, as well as his singing puppets Henry the Horse, Quackleberry Duck, Frieda the Frog, Al the Alligator, and Caroline the Cow.

Tickets will be \$7 per person, with a family cap of \$25. Concert proceeds will go towards the construction of a new playground structure at the Co-Op. Look for more information in your child's cubby later this month.

You can read more about Rick Goldin, listen to music samples, and download song lyrics at his website, www.rickgoldin.com.

February Update

by Pat Hamilton, Director

Snow? Anyone? Wow, this year is presenting us with a very brutal winter, and we are all definitely ready for some sunshine and warmth. Spring has got to be here sooner than we think. We all celebrated the cold with our annual Cocoa Days last week. The children really enjoyed seeing a few very short videos based on familiar books together in the music room. The highlight was *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, a book I'm sure you know. The children then drank hot chocolate and ate popcorn in their classrooms.

We also enjoyed a visit from Andy Rega, father of Owen. Andy is the Co-Op's own Music Man, and along with wife Sandy, owns and operates The Music Academy of Chelmsford. He brought several different instruments for the children to hear and try

out. The children really enjoyed this musical day.

Despite our busy schedule, it seems as though we are always planning ahead in the school office. During winter, we always have our registration period for September, and I am happy to say that we are now FULL for both the five-day class and all the three-day classes for the fall. We currently have openings in the Tuesday-Thursday classes for September, as well as wait lists for both the three- and five-day classes because changes on our lists are totally inevitable.

I have appointments for daily tours through our school for people who are new to us. Please feel free to let our tourists know how you feel about parent helping in your child's classroom.

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February Update, continued from p. 1

Progress Reports will be in the cubbies on February 10 and 11 and our Valentine Parties will be held in the classrooms next week, on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 12 and 13. The following week brings winter vacation for the Co-Op kids. We are looking forward to a busy March, with the Special Event "Explore the Ocean World," Pajama Days, and the Rick Goldin concert.

Finally, on March 26, we will have a visit from Beth Dillon, our EEC (Commonwealth of Massachusetts) licensor. Our license renewal occurs every two years, and so this is the time to take care of it.

If being busy makes the time go more quickly, then April will be here before we know it.

Fundraising Update

As we write this, the children have completed their beautiful works of art for Square 1 Art, and you should have received a free 2x2 magnet with your child's artwork. Thank you to all the teachers for their help with this project. If you would like to order anything, check out the brochure that came home with your child's magnet to see what type of Square 1 products are available—ornaments, tote bags, key chains, and more. Order forms are due back by Friday, Feb. 13. The final products will arrive in time for Mother's and Father's Day; however, you are not obligated to order anything.

We realize how the economy has affected everyone these days. Fundraising at the Co-op depends on the entire Co-op community to be successful. We offer a variety of different fundraisers in order for everyone to find something they are comfortable with. While our hope is that each family will participate in fundraising at some point during the year, it is never required to buy and/or sell anything or to volunteer goods or time at any one particular fundraiser.

Our fundraiser profits do cover the costs of our spring field trip (with bus ride) and on-site field trips such as the fall Traveling Barnyard and the upcoming Explore the Ocean World event. As well as providing these events for free, fundraisers help to keep tuition costs down. And, of course, participating in our traditional Co-Op events like the Pancake Breakfast and the April Yard Sale is truly priceless, and a fun way to meet other Co-op parents. We consider these events to be social occasions just as much as they are fundraisers.

Special thanks to Amber Moody and Maryellen Robert for their great work in chairing the Pancake Breakfast, and to Kelly Holden for running a successful Silent Auction.

We look forward to seeing you at the Co-op!

Thank you and warm wishes,
Cindy Bruetsch and Danielle Evans

CENTRAL CO-OP BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2008-2009

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Fundraising@centralcoop.org

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publicity@centralcoop.org

Newsletter

Deb Gere,
Newsletter@centralcoop.org

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Interested in placing an ad? You can purchase ad space to help promote your home business or service.

Co-Op Member Rates

Business Card size: \$5/month
3 ½ X 5 in: \$10/month
½ Page: \$15/month

Non-Member Rates:

Business Card size: \$10/month
3 ½ X 5 in: \$15/month
½ Page: \$20/month

Please contact Deb Gere at
newsletter@centralcoop.org

Spring Soccer and T-Ball for Three- to Five-Year-Olds

Chelmsford Youth Soccer: Games once a week on Saturday mornings beginning in March or early April, depending on field conditions; Eligibility: U06 – Ages 4 to 6; (Born 8/1/02–4/30/05); Registration deadline has passed, \$70 fee includes late fee; Phone: 978-251-3302; www.chelmsfordyouthsoccer.com

Chelmsford T-Ball: Program runs April 13 to June 20; Eligibility: Must be 5-years-old on or before March 31, 2009; Registration: Feb. 28, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Chelmsford Youth Baseball Building, Rt. 110; fee \$90; players registering for the first time must bring birth certificate to registration; phone number not available; www.chelmsfordyouthbaseball.org;

Lowell Youth Soccer: Games once a week on Saturday mornings beginning in early April; Micro – Ages 2 to 3 (Born 8/1/04–7/31/06) \$50; U06 – Ages 4 to 5 (Born 8/1/02–7/31/04) \$60; Register by March 1, \$10 late fee after March 1; 978-399-8764; www.sportsmanager.us/lowellsoccer.htm

Lowell T-Ball: Highlands, runs April 18; to June 30; Eligibility: Ages 4 to 7 (Born 5/1/01–4/30/05); Register by March 19, fee: \$50; 978-551-8527; www.sportsmanager.us/LHLL.htm

Pawtucketville, runs April 25 through July 4; Eligibility: Ages 5-6 (Born 5/1/02–4/30/04); Register by Feb. 28; fee \$40, \$10 late fee after Feb. 28; 978-502-8352; www.sportsmanager.us/pyoball.htm

Callery Park, begins April 18; registration Fridays, Feb. 20, March 13, 20 from 6 to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, Feb. 7, 21, March 14, 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.;

Sunday, Feb. 22, 1 to 3 p.m. at Callery Park Concession Stand; Eligibility: Ages 5 and 6; Bring birth certificate; www.Leaguelineup.com/Callery

Billerica Youth Soccer: Leagues for ages 3 and up; register by Feb. 15 to avoid late fee, \$60; register online at www.billericasoccer.org

Check Out Your Local Library for Great Children's Programs

Local libraries offer plenty of great children's programs, including story-times, crafts, and family movies, throughout the year. Visit the following websites for more information on

Special Thanks!

Thank you to Amber Moody, Maryellen Robert, and all of the wonderful volunteers who made this year's annual pancake breakfast a success, as well as to Kelly Holden for a phenomenal Silent Auction.

what's being offered at libraries in the area:

Chelmsford: www.chelmsfordlibrary.org
Lowell: www.pollardml.org
Billerica: www.billericalibrary.org
Westford: www.westfordlibrary.org

Annual Co-Op Yard Sale Scheduled for April 4

Please mark your calendars for a Co-Op tradition: our huge, annual indoor yard sale on Saturday, April 4, from 8 a.m. to noon. You may bring in your yard sale donations beginning Monday, March 30, and leave items on the stage in the big hall. Clean, shiny, fresh-smelling items sell the best! Kindly sort any children's clothing by size and gender, placing them in separate bags or boxes that are clearly labeled. Donations from one and all are greatly appreciated and are tax-deductible.

The yard sale is a big project and lots of helpful hands are needed prior to, during and after the sale:

Pricing: Tuesday, March 31 through Friday, April 3, from 9 a.m. to noon each day
Set-up: Friday, April 3, tentatively scheduled for 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Yard Sale: Early shift from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., late shift from 10:30 a.m. to noon, and clean-up from noon to 2 p.m.

Sign up sheets will be posted on the Co-Op bulletin board in mid-March. We will have a lot of fun working together.

Look for more information in your child's cubby in early March.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Rosenthol at publicity@centralcoop.org or Deb Gere at newsletter@centralcoop.org.