



# The Monthly View

## *President's Letter*

It may seem early to prepare for the 2010-2011 school year, but that's exactly what the Parent School Board has been busy doing. Part of those preparations includes finding families interested in serving on the board. Volunteering on the school board is a great way to hear the ins and outs of what's going on with the school. It's a way to be involved with the decisions made about how the school is run. The board meets for 2 hours in the evening once a month (unless we're snowed out!). Being on the board fulfills all your family's volunteer points. You can share the position with your partner; some families have 1 person come to the meeting when able and when schedules at home change, the other person comes. It's also a good way to gain solid experience with a specific skill; Community Relations, for example, translates well into marketing and communications experience.

Let me know if you want to hear more about any of these open positions. I can give you a better idea of time commitment and details about the responsibilities.

**President:** Preside at all meetings; prepare and distribute agenda prior to meetings; appoint special committees as necessary; assist with licensing standards as set forth by DCFS; be the spokesperson and official representative of A Child's View Cooperative Preschool.

**Vice-President:** Preside in absence of President; chair the Fundraising Committee.

**Secretary:** Keep minutes of meetings; be custodian of the records; give required notices.

**Registrar:** Keep records of students applying to the school; send out registration packets; notify parents of acceptance into the school; provide teachers with frequent updated class lists during the school year; compile class lists; keep names on waiting list to fill any vacancies.

**Class Representative:** Each class has one representative to provide sign-up sheets for parent teacher assignments; prepare monthly calendar for their class with input from the teacher; contact and orient new families throughout the school year; plan and coordinate support for school families at such times as the birth of a new child, loss of a loved one, etc.

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## Calendar

**2/25:** Parent Night, 6:00 p.m.

**Ongoing:** Registration for 2010-2011 school year

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February/March 2010

# A Teacher's View

## *A Note from Miss Mary....*

The school year has been just rolling along. I can't believe we are already up to learning about the letter "T". The children have been learning in so many ways. They are beginning to recognize beginning sounds, writing more words, and communicating with friends. While we play with manipulatives we are learning to sort, count, and graph items.

Structures in the block area have really become more elaborate. The blocks in our classroom are one of the most valuable learning materials we have. They come in exact sizes and shapes. When children build with blocks they learn math concepts such as the number of blocks that fill a certain space. They compare the height of their building and learn about geometric shapes. They explore weight and size when they lift, stack and shove the blocks. To promote language development we encourage the children to talk about what they are doing.

You can encourage your child to learn through block play by asking if they played with blocks at school. Provide blocks for them to play with at home. Also, when you are out and about in the neighborhood, point out roads and interesting buildings. I hope you enjoy the many interesting structures your child will construct.

*Miss Mary*

## *A Note from Mrs. Jennings....*

Dear Friends,

It is early late February! This is a glorious season of changing weather and new possibilities! As the weather warms and our bodies look forward to being outside we can become anxious when the weather is noisy and very wet. It is easy for children to be frightened of storms and lightning. You can encourage your child to acknowledge their fears and help explain the noises that may frighten them. It is often helpful to explain the reason behind the noise. Some helpful phrases include: Thunder cannot hurt you, but it is the sound we hear when lightning has occurred. Lightning does not often strike, but we don't play outside when it is near. Some children respond well to the fact that Spring is wet and sometimes noisy so that the flowers and trees will begin to grow again soon. As the weather warms we will be able to be outside more frequently. Our playground will need some time to dry sufficiently so that we can play safely. Our preschool is very actively involved in registration for the next school year. We really appreciate all the referrals. You are our best advertisement. We have brochures available for distribution if you would like some. Please let me know if you can help. We are looking for Parents that wish to be on the Parent Board for the next school year. Your careful consideration of these positions is appreciated.

I hope that you and your family enjoy the weather! I am looking forward to some puddles and rainy weather with my boots and a favorite book!

*Mrs. Jennings*

## President's Letter continued

**Human Resources: Committee Coordinator:** Coordinate and supervise the formation of committees and their chairpersons; stimulate participation in committees; delegate tasks designated by the Board of Directors to specific committee chairpersons or their assigns; suggest potential changes with current committees to the Board of Directors in March of each year.

**Community Relations Chair:** Coordinate overall advertising strategies; purchase community advertising with Board of Director's approval; organize a school booth at community related events; track advertising effectiveness through student record reviews.

### Terina Carter

*President, Parent Board, Mom to Antonio, 3s class and Ella, alum from last year.*

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### Parent Night

February's Parent Night will be at 6:00 on Thursday, February 25. The topic is Positive Guidance and Positive Discipline. Mrs. Jennings and Ms. Mary use methods in the classroom that help children learn self-control, how to make good choices, and how to interact successfully with others. These are skills that help them in a learning environment the rest of their lives. Beverly Jennings, Director and Teacher, will share with us ways to use these same methods at home. It will also be a great opportunity to share what works in your home. Plan to join us on February 25 at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall at the school. And bring a friend!

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### ENROLLING FOR 2010-2011

Enrollment is underway for the 2010-2011 school year. Many interested families came to the open house in January and many more have been stopping by for school tours. If you know someone who is interested in seeing what a cooperative preschool is all about, we can arrange a tour during class hours. The best way to see if the school is a good fit for your family is to bring your family into the classroom! Applications can be downloaded from the school website at [www.achildsviewcooperativepreschool.com](http://www.achildsviewcooperativepreschool.com). Paper copies are available in the school office. And remember to have your friends mention that you referred them to the school. Your \$50 referral fee is waiting!

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### THE WAY WE PLAY

Number play is important for young children. Some ways that we help children learn about numbers at preschool can be used at home. Children are naturally curious about their environment. You could ask them to find out which group of items has more(or less) and then help them count. A trip in the car could have children searching for numbers on buildings or counting the number of blue cars. "Do you think we will see more red cars or more blue trucks?" Have them count to find the answer.

At school we play board games, vote on class decisions, and set tables for snack with one cup, one napkin per chair. We also count people in a line, count items as we play, take turns during a game and see how many items were in the letter box. We often count groups of items by touching each one in turn as we say the numbers.

As your child builds with blocks important number concepts are developed. Some blocks only work in short stacks while others will make large towers. Comparing items by graphing involves more complex ideas. Even songs and finger plays use counting as a learning tool. "Five Little Ducks" is an example of this.

Be sure to use words that describe numbers often. Some of these words are: *most, some, fewer, pair, none, enough, less than, many, etc.* Most of all-- have fun!

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Marketing is gearing up for the Sustainable Living Expo on April 10, 2010 from 9 am to 5pm. A Child's View will man an informational table and provide a craft for children featuring recycled products. If you can spare an hour or two to help out, please let us know. We continue to keep brochures in the Marketing mailbox. Please feel free to help yourself and distribute to friends and kid-friendly spots around town. Let's spread the word about our wonderful school!