



Dentonia Park Co-operative Nursery School October Newsletter



Busy car centre

Upcoming Dates

Halloween Party: Friday October 28th

Auction: Friday December 2nd

Christmas Party: Friday December 23rd

School Closed for Holidays:
Last day Friday December 23rd
School opens Monday January 9th

President

Welcome to all our new and returning families. What a great way to start off the school year - a full roster, in a great space!

I have enjoyed meeting all the new faces at drop off/pick-up and at the AGM. If you ever have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to ask me. Any co-op member who would like something discussed by the executive board can bring it to my attention and I'll add it to the agenda of the next meeting. Our meeting minutes are always posted on the bulletin board if you'd like to see what has been discussed.

This year's Live/Silent Auction looks like it's shaping up to be a great success. I'm looking forward to doing some Christmas shopping!

Andrea (Hazel's Mom)



Welcome to our new and returning executive board members for 2011/12:

Andrea Nichols Egan, President

Nicola Young, Registrar

Nicole Fortin, Treasurer

Lexi Etinger, Food & Maintenance

Lisa Atkinson, Duty Day Coordinator

Jackie Elliott and Julia Malcolm, Fundraising

Jessica Lundeen, Communications

Registrar



Myra working on shapes

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our families at Dentonia Park Nursery School, both new and returning. I'm really looking forward to the upcoming school year. This is my son Jack's 2nd year at Dentonia and my 4th (wow)! Since we moved to our new space last year our little nursery school has grown very popular in the community. As I mentioned at our AGM, we are full for the current year. But.....its never too early to start thinking about next year. If you know of

anyone with preschool aged children, who are interested and might be a good fit for the school, please have them email or contact me. I'm always available to answer any questions regarding registration.

In the meantime I look forward to getting to know everyone better! Let's have a great school year!

Nicola (Jack's Mom)

Duty Days

Thank you all so much for your dedication to our school. Your time and efforts spent at our school not only help our teachers but help our children. Duty days are such a great way to watch your child learn, grow, play and socialize not only with other children and our teachers but with other adults as well.

Although we have more families to contribute to duty days this year, we also need more hands-on-deck for duty days due to the number of children we have. Please make sure that you sign up for your required number of days each month. I've noticed many changes on the calendar - thanks so much for working this out amongst yourselves as it seems things are running very smoothly. Please make sure that if someone fills in for you that you reciprocate within the month or make arrangements between you to make that day up the following month.

Let's remember that duty days are not only our obligation to the co-op they are also our privilege. I want to ensure that everyone gets an opportunity to enjoy this special time with their child - these days go by quickly.

Please remember to ask Mary and Debbie should there be any

additional duties that they might need your help with on your duty day (i.e. book repairs, toy cleaning, additional set-up etc.). I must also take this time to remind you that when cleaning up on paint days to remove and clean the lids as well as the brushes - these can get really caked up over time.

Halloween is just around the corner. Don't let it sneak up on you....and boo!..boo-hoo...you have a child without a costume. Great spots to check out are Value Village and Ages and Stages - lots of good and inexpensive choices. Also, if there's something in particular you're looking for, post a note at the school and someone might have it for you.

Thanks for continuing to contribute to all of our children's experience at Dentonia.

Lisa (Callum's mom)



Lila P's drawing



Hazel and Callum at play

Communications

It's been great getting to know all of the new families and reconnect with the returning families at Dentonia. It's my son Austin's first year in nursery school and he already loves it as much as his sister Chantal did.

October is one of my favourite months of the year. The kids are getting settled into their school routine and we looking forward to lots of fall fun, like apple picking and Halloween. This website has a listing of farms where you can pick your own apples, pumpkins and much more:

<http://www.harvestontario.com/>

And here's a link to some family friendly Halloween activities happening in Toronto:

<http://www.toronto.com/article/699750--family-friendly-halloween>

Finally, if you need to get a message out to other parents, to members of the board or to the teachers, I am the person to contact. Please feel free to send me an email at jessicalundeen@gmail.com.

Jessica L (Austin's Mom)



Treasurer

Welcome back to another great year at Dentonia. I'm excited to be the schools' Treasurer again. Some tips for parents who are new this year. Although all the cheques are post-dated for the 1st of the month, they are not deposited until the 4th. This has been a tradition at Dentonia for a number of years and one I'll keep using.

The acronym for any cheques is DPNS - I put that out there as I'm sure everyone has lots of donations for the upcoming auction! I'll be preparing the financial statements each month and presenting them to the rest of the board at our monthly meetings. Aside

from the AGM, where the full year financials are discussed, there is no formal setting for discussing financial results. However, if anyone is interested in learning more about the school's results, I'm happy to share them either via email or at school.

I haven't been around much as of yet but Isaac is getting ready for his first official day on November 1st so I look forward to seeing you all on a more regular basis.

Nicole (Isaac's Mom)



Navo with Spiderman

Audrey paints a masterpiece



Fundraising

Hello Dentonia Families:

Happy autumn to everyone, it's definitely fundraising season! With our auction approaching on December 2nd, 2011 the fundraising committee has been hard at work approaching corporations and businesses for donations. **Just a friendly reminder that each family is responsible for generating \$100 of cash or auction items. Many hands will make for light work.** It should be a really fun night for everyone so mark your calendars!

Firstly, we have big news to share: **WEST JET** is our **Gold** sponsor for the auction night! West Jet gave our school 2 return tickets to fly anywhere that West Jet flies (charters exempt) to use within the year. This is a very exciting gift for the Dentonia community. We will be giving out the gift of flight tickets as a **door prize** at the auction. Tickets for the auction will be sold for **\$10 each of 3 tickets for \$25 (advance sale not at the door)**. With the ticket, the holder is eligible for the door prize. The ticket holder does not need to be present at the auction to win the West Jet tickets, they will be notified by phone. We would like each family to try to sell at least 10 tickets to help us meet our fundraising goal this year. We will be placing packets of 10 tickets in your child's cubby in the next few weeks. Please notify us if you need more tickets to sell. Thank you for your support with this initiative.

Secondly, thank you to everyone who has signed up for a few local businesses to contact, we do still need more families to fill in the sign up sheet in the school entranceway.

Thirdly, the auction will be a fun social night and we want the food to be terrific. In November we will be posting a food sign up for the auction with menu suggestions to help you know quantities. We are recruiting high school student's requiring volunteer hours to volunteer at our auction and serve the food to the guests. If you know of any willing high school student that needs his/her hours please let us know.

Thanks for your support,
Julia (Lila M's Mom) and Jackie (Keenan's Mom)



Max building

Food & Maintenance

Hi everyone! It has been great meeting all of our new families and catching up with last year's folks. I know we are in for a great year.

A word about birthday treats: any treats brought in need to be completely nut-free. Home baked treats are fine as long as the ingredients and utensils have not come into contact with nuts (no bulk-store ingredients please!). Betty Crocker boxed mixes and frostings are safe, with the proviso that you **check the package every time** – ingredients can change due to product reformulation. If a Betty Crocker mix contains nuts or has been in contact with nuts it will be listed

in bold at the end of the list of ingredients.

Another nut-free (gluten-free, dairy-free) brand to try is Cherrybrook Kitchen. They make cake, cookie, and brownie mixes, as well as frosting, and are available at Whole Foods Market.

Lexi (Sarah's mom)



Lila M washing dishes

Moving Along the Same Path... If a Little Faster

Tales of the Mott/Dann Clan — By Eshun Mott



We were 6 years in at DPNS and we are 2 years out now... and still talking about and thinking about Mary & Debbie even if we never find a way to come by and visit. So where are we now? And how to talk about my kids without feeling that I'm bragging? They amaze me daily, so please excuse my pride at who they are becoming. All three kids are in French-Immersion at Gledhill - conveniently only a few blocks away. Max is 10 now, long-haired and super cool. I suspect he's trying to participate in every school sport this year, presently cross-country, slow-pitch and ball-hockey, on top of which he's also started playing squash. When he's not out practicing maneuvers on his Ripstick he's sitting with his head in a book, and I'm sure he'd like me to add that his soccer term went on to win both

the league and cup finals this fall (for the second year in a row!). Rory is 8 and can't sit still. He's got the same wonderful teacher for a second year in a row and is completely blossoming with an increased confidence from knowing what comes next and where he stands. He is silly and loving and hasn't yet realized that kids follow his lead. He's doing advanced gymnastics this year and amazing us all with his strength. If there could be a trampoline under his feet at all times he'd be set. If he could both jump and play Wii at all times he'd be ecstatic. As to the rest: "cross-country is boring mummy... it's just running." Moira turned 5 today and keeps saying "Mummy, can you believe that I'm 5?" I hardly can. She is suddenly displaying a confidence that amazes me. Last year she wanted to do ballet and I could not peel her off the bench to attend a single session. This year she is the first one into the room, beaming and waving from the front of the class. The same with swimming lessons. Amazing. I continue to question whether she's learning much of anything at school (such a shame but I think the kids know more coming out of DPNS than they do after JK, and possibly SK), but her social skills are certainly building and any afternoon that does not include a play-date is wasted in her books.

As to us, the parental units... I continue developing recipes and doing a bit of food styling for Food & Drink Magazine, Canadian Family, Chatelaine, Glow, and The Globe & Mail, and may have a blog in the works with the co-author of my book Whining & Dining: Mealtime Survival for Picky Eaters & the Families Who Love Them for the re-launch of a popular magazine's website coming this fall (shhhh... top secret). The increased time ferrying kids to and from their activities is making a serious dent in my own time for extra-curricular activities, but I'm spinning and running and fully intend to do a triathlon this coming year (and now that I've said it, I'll have to stick to it). James is still working for the City managing the Waterfront Parks and Islands. Working for our current mayor is not making things easy and he shakes his head at a lot of what goes on, but he's keeping his head up and hoping that there's no monorail or equivalent to deal with in his immediate future. James plays hockey, squash and beach volleyball (thankfully not all in any one season), bikes everywhere in all weather - yes even in snow, and still wishes that chopping wood and paddling were a part of every day.

We're still friends with a great number of the families we met during our years at Dentonia. I don't know who it was who said "Start as you mean to go on," but it could be DPNS's motto. It gave the kids and me both a sort of springboard to where we find ourselves now. We miss Mary & Debbie and swear that one of these days, we really will stop by.



Some New Faces



Kerem Knar with bugs



Jacob washing dishes



Austin plays with a fire truck



Xavier playing with Caillou



Cameron plays in the sand

Classifieds

Andrea Nichols-Egan is selling her 2000 Subaru Outback. \$3,900 - It's great family car with tonnes of cargo space. Call her if you'd like more info! 416-686-4518.