



the downey upBEAT

50 years of learning
through play



October 2014

Downey Cooperative Preschool



Inside

Tadpole Tidbits.

Polliwog Post. Frog

Newsflash. Teachers

write about classroom
activities with an eye to
what's next!

2

Board Meeting

Update. Doors, buzzers
and a hex key.

3

*"...Now we are a part of Downey as
much as Downey is a part of us..."*

-Mindy Dant-Gordon

We have finished a whole month of school! I feel like my kids are just starting to get the hang of this new schedule and I'm just beginning to understand what is expected of me for classroom participation. Both the boys and I are feeling comfortable and at home with Downey, but I know it was a slightly different story for us last year.

At this point last year, I was prying a crying, pleading Malachi off of me so I could escape the classroom. I also had no clue about what I was supposed to do in the classroom. We were both a little overwhelmed, tentative, and confused by Downey. If you are a new family this year, my hope is that you are not feeling that



Follow me to Page

4

TADPOLE TIDBITS

Well, the tadpoles are starting to settle into their classroom routine. It has been very busy exploring the classroom and discovering new things. Both classes are migratory groups. They start at the art table, next play dough, water table, and then they branch off onto the carpeted side of the classroom. The carpeted side is whole new adventure of dress-up clothes, baby dolls, kitchen fun, building blocks, trains, books, puzzles, and the slide. It is easy to see why they are so busy.

September we explored apples and leaves. We had our first cooking project-- applesauce.

October will prove to be another fun-filled month. Fall will be our focus. We will paint and dissect pumpkins, watch how nature changes and make a fall nature collage.

Thursday and Friday, October 30 and 31 will be Spider Days which means we will do a spider craft. (We do not dress up for Halloween at school.)

As it starts to get chillier, please bring in a warm change of clothes. Thanks for getting to school on time, especially on your participation days. We've already had to use an alternate and the alternate was prepared to stay. What a good start to the new school year. I'm so grateful that we have two tadpole classes. I'm enjoying getting to know all of our new families. Thank you for choosing Downey Cooperative Preschool!
-Melissa Egan

POLLIWOG POST

The Polliwog classroom is off to a great start! We have all thoroughly enjoyed the first few weeks of school! So far we have gotten to know the routines of preschool, which we will continue to build upon daily. We studied our bodies and five senses. We enjoyed tracing our bodies, graphing our eye color, making puppets, and many other things. This week we focused on families and how each one is different, but they are all the same in that we all help each other. The children enjoyed making family trees, washing babies, and shopping in our class grocery store!



In the coming weeks, our thematic studies will focus on fall, apples, and pumpkins. We look forward to making nature collages, learning how apples grow, and exploring the insides of pumpkins. We are also thrilled to attend our first field trip to Pleasant View Apple Orchard on September 30th. I look forward to spending an exciting and beautiful fall with your children!

-Julie Kitley

FROG NEWSFLASH

I hope everyone has enjoyed the start to the school year as much as I have. It has been so much fun getting to know each of your children a little better these last few weeks. They are all doing a great job adjusting to our daily routines.

We spent our first few weeks learning about one another. The children completed several activities involving their names and even tried painting some self-portraits. Our curriculum this month also focused on our bodies and ways we can stay healthy. I think everyone enjoyed exercising their muscles while on our field trip to Gymnastics Unlimited.

If you've spent any time in the classroom, I'm sure

...follow me to the next page



FROG NEWSFLASH (continued from page 2)

you've noticed the incredible fascination a large number of our Frogs have had with marbles. I decided we should embrace this fascination and shift our focus from the originally planned 5 senses to learning about, and with, marbles. So far, we've created our own marbles, done some painting with marbles, explored how some marbles can be magnetic, as well as talking about different forms of energy causing our marbles to roll and the various types of friction that can slow them down. We'll finish up the remainder of September creating our own marble mazes, building large marble runs and exploring the concept of "marbling".

When we return from Fall Break, we will delve into the world of fall and things related to harvest. I'd like to try some baking with the children and will need an extra helper on Friday, October 31. The Class Representatives and I are working together to plan another field trip and that date will be shared as soon as it's been confirmed.

As cooler weather approaches please be sure that your child's extra clothes are appropriate. If you ever have any ideas or things you'd like to share with the class, feel free to let me know. Thanks so much for all of your help so far this year.
-Staci Lovold

Board Meeting UPDATE

Board meetings are a critical part of the success of Downey. Please feel free to join the board meetings on the second Monday of the month at Downey. Watch for reminders. If you are unable to attend, you can always catch up with the board meeting agenda and minutes. They are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway between the two classrooms.

At our last board meeting, the board voted to instate the following procedure for Downey: On preschool days the front door of Downey will be **unlocked** for arrival from 8:45 am - 9:20 am and **locked** during preschool from 9:20 am - 11:05 am unlocked for pick up 11:05 am - 11:45 am locked as the last family leaves.

If you need to enter the school during the locked times you can use the buzzer to the left of the doors. When you push the button it rings the phones in the building. Sheryl, the church secretary, can let you in. She is normally sitting at her desk Monday - Thursday starting at 9:00 am. She does not work on Fridays but David, the church's property manager, may be able to answer the phone somewhere in the building.

Another important part of this new procedure is making sure to follow through with locking and unlocking the door. If you are a parent participant, you may be asked to lock or unlock the door. Please ask if you don't know how to lock and unlock the door.

Teachers are responsible for opening the door at 8:45 am and locking it at 11:45. We decided that Tadpole participants will be responsible for locking the door at 9:20 once all Tadpoles have arrived and Polliwog/Frog participants will be

[...Follow me to the next page](#)



It's *POINSETTIA* time.

During October, all Downey families will be selling poinsettias to benefit the school. This is the biggest fundraiser of the school year and requires all families to participate.

Three sizes and colors of plants are available, and prices range from \$10-\$30. Poinsettias come from *Heartland Growers* and make a beautiful addition to any home, church, restaurant or business for the season. Payment required at the time of order.

Deadline to order: Friday, October 31. Delivery: December 1. Bulk orders greatly appreciated! All families will receive their "poinsettia packet", complete with order form, in their school mailbox.

For any information or help, please contact Mary Sparks at (765) 479-3853 marydsparks@gmail.com or Leslie Young at (317) 691-8541 lesliebyrneyoung@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Board Update (continued from page 3)

responsible for unlocking the door at 11:05 (or right before heading outside to play). The exception to this is on Mondays the frogs will be responsible for all locking and unlocking of the door.

If you arrive at a time when the door should be unlocked but isn't, please unlock the door once you are buzzed in and visa versa. Everyone should learn how to lock and unlock the door. The hex key is hanging on the door frame accessible to those who need to use it.

Letter from Mindy (continued from page 1)

way. My second hope is that if you are feeling that way, you are reaching out to your Downey mentor, teacher, or someone you feel comfortable with. Make sure to ask questions (there are no dumb questions) and share your ideas for the classroom. It took me some time to reach out to others and to feel a part of Downey, and I'm so glad I did. We love Downey! *Now we are a part of Downey as much as Downey is a part of us.*

Last week on Monday, September 22, Anna Jascot emailed the most updated rosters to everyone. If you need a paper copy, please let me know. I have found over the last year that it is quite helpful to put many of these numbers and emails into the contacts on my phone. This has come in handy for me many times. As the year goes along and depending on your family job, you will need the contact information of families from other classes as well as yours. The list of family jobs is another very important Downey resource. A few family jobs have changed so the family job list is attached with the newsletter email.

Cooperatively yours,
Mindy Dant-Gordon

FAMILY JOBS

Executive Board Jobs		Family
President		Dant/Gordon
1st Vice President - Membership		Leaumont/Manuel
2nd Vice President - Parent Education		Trent
CPT/ICPC Delegate		McDonald
Secretary		Jascot
Treasurer		Lloyd - Hostetter
Fundraising		Young
Board Jobs		Family
Publicity		Miller
Church Liaison		Robson-Hunot
Newsletter		Heeter
Class Representative - Frog		Stephens
Class Representative - Polliwog		Minzlaff
Class Representative - Tadpole T/TH		Hornsby/Troyer
Class Representative - Tadpole W/F		Rich/Thomas
Teachers		Class
Staci Lovold		Frog M/W/F 9:00 - 11:30 am
Julie Kitley		Polliwog T/TH 9:00 - 11:30 am
Melissa Egan		Tadpole T/Th 9:15 - 11:15 am
Melissa Egan		Tadpole W/F 9:15 - 11:15 am

Job	Family
Art Chair - Tadpole Classroom	Hutson
Art Chair - Frog/Polliwog Classroom	Nolan
Art Material - Tadpole Classroom	
Art Material - Frog/Polliwog Classroom	Roell
Clean-Up Coordinator - Tadpole Classroom	Thompson
Clean-Up Coordinator - Frog/Polliwog	Quasebarth
CPT/ICPC Delegate Assistant	Belge
Events Chair	Wilkinson
Event Chair -Halloween	Patterson
Field Trip Coordinator - Frog	McKinney
Field Trip Coordinator - Polliwog	Conway
Fundraising Chair -Poinsettia	Sparks
Health and Safety	Oberg
Hospitality	Straub
Indoor/Outdoor	Eby/de Jung
Inventory	
Librarian	King
Membership Assistant	Devore
Science Table	Distelrath
Website	Mitchison
Worknight	



MENTOR LIST

New Families	Mentors			
Andrew & Sarah Distelrath	Andrew Gordon & Mindy Dant-Gordon			
Colin & Julie Patterson	Dustin McKinney & Elizabeth Kuonen			
Amy & Joel Davis	Shellie Rich & Tim Thomas			
Abby & Joel Thompson	Erik & Anna Miller			
Jen & Lewie Wilkinson	Nicholas Hunot & Erin Robson-Smith			
Alexandra & Travis DeVore	Staci & Nick Lovold			
	Judith de Jong and William Eby			
Timothy & Brittany Oberg	Andrew Gordon & Mindy Dant-Gordon			
Holly & Ben Sample	Leslie & Andy Young			
Roy & Mary Sparks	Leslie & Andy Young			
Annie Straub	Nicholas Hunot & Erin Robson-Smith			
Windi Hornsby & Joe Troyer	Robert Mitchison & Lisa Gauthier Mitchison			
Sarah & Matt Begle	Candice & Brandon McDonald			
Bryan & Angie Conway	Lori Leaumont and Nicholas Manuel			
Ricardo & Danielle King	Candice & Brandon McDonald			
Eric & Rebekah Nolan	Leslie & Andy Young			
Matt and Stacy Quasebarth	Katie Lloyd-Jones & Demian Hostetter			
Jennifer & Brandon Roell	Lori Leaumont and Nicholas Manuel			
Alethia and Thad Minzlaff	Pat & Anna Jascot			
Alicia and Jeremy Stephens	Pat & Anna Jascot			
Lisa & Chad Heeter	Christina Trent			





IRVINGTON HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

SATURDAY
25TH OCTOBER 2014

Contact Julie Patterson for
Downey booth details and
participation:

jkwallman@gmail.com

DOWNEY
COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

Where kids and
parents LEARN
through
PLAY

111 South Downey Street
Indianapolis, IN 46219

<http://downeycoop.com/>



Celebrating 50

It's Downey's 50th ANNIVERSARY!

Our school could not have been around for 50 years without the hard work of each and every member. Thank you in advance for the great things you will contribute and are currently contributing to Downey. Everyone's input regarding all aspects of the school is valued.

Every child, family and job is important to a productive school year. It is your school and it is what you make of it.

We look forward to finding ways to
celebrate Downey throughout this
school year!