



the DOWNEY upBEAT

*50 years of learning through
play*



March 2015

Downey Cooperative Preschool



**Newspieces from the
Pond.** A flower shop. A
box den. And circle stories.

PAGE 2

parent ɛdʒu'keɪʃn.

Rainstorm science.

Frantic families. (Add up
your 4 hours of fun!)

PAGE 4



An exciting, earth-friendly activity coming up this month is the installation of gardens. The church will be making raised garden beds and the preschool has the opportunity to be in charge of one of them. The teachers will be using the gardens as another learning experience for the children. Have any ideas to share? Let the teachers know. The gardens will be located on the Hibben St. side of the church. Keep your eyes open, they will be here in March some time.

Follow me to Page 3

TADPOLES



POLLIWOGS

In February, the polliwogs enjoyed Valentine's Day by having a pretend flower shop, writing letters to family members, practicing AB patterning, and of course delivering valentines to our friends! We also enjoyed learning all about dental hygiene. We practiced "brushing teeth" with shaving cream in our sensory table and "flossing plaque" out of our egg carton teeth. We discussed how making healthy food choices will help us maintain a healthy smile! During the month of March we will celebrate Read Across America week with our literature focus on Dr. Seuss books. We look forward to celebrating the arrival of spring in the Polliwog class by starting our classroom garden!

-Julie Kitley

FROGS

The Frogs spent most of February talking about that silly groundhog and other animals that hibernate. Everyone had fun exploring the den that Mr. Dustin helped us create out of cardboard boxes! We also had a good time creating mailboxes for the valentines our friends brought to share.

We finished the month with a focus on the works of Mo Willems and all of the amazing characters that he's created. In March we will celebrate the birth of Dr. Seuss by spending a week delving into some of his books. We'll continue with our Author's Study theme by exploring "circle stories" and the works of Laura Numeroff and will finish up the month with a focus on fairytales

If you did not receive the "Downey Frogs 2014-15" share page invitation from Shutterfly, please let me know. I finally got all of the pictures that I've taken over the course of the year uploaded so that you can view them as slide shows and can copy/print whatever you'd like. When you join the page, feel free to add any of your own pictures to the site. This site will hopefully give you a glimpse of what your children are doing after you drop them off at class each week.

-Staci Lovold



Downey OPEN HOUSE

Open House went fairly well this year. Last year we had two visitors and those two families are registered as current families.

This year we had about five guests and two of those guests either registered for next year or this current year.

We have also had about half a dozen inquiries, 3 more tours, and 1 family register since open house.

Keep spreading the word!

We continue to gain NEW MEMBERS

In January and February we gained four new families!

Please make sure to **welcome** these new Downey friends:

Lighty Family - **Everette** is in the T/Th Tadpole Class

Dow/Mobley Family - **Natalie** is in the T/Th Tadpole Class

Jackson Family - **Ava** is in the Polliwog Class

Cline/Dowell Family - **Gigi** is in the Polliwog Class

Please look for composting and recycling signs in the classrooms.

The signs list what should be **COMPOSTED**, **recycled**, and **trashed**. A small composting can has been put on the counter in both classrooms.

The church has made a big effort to **minimize the trash** and we can help! The preschool should easily be able to recycle or compost most items that we were previously putting in the trash.

parent edʒu'keɪʃn

Each co-op family is required to attend 4 hours of Parent Ed a school year. I have had a chance to tally each family's parent ed attendance— some families have reached or exceeded the number required and some families still need to fulfill theirs.

With that in mind, Downey has a parent ed coming up in April and here is another opportunity:

Meridian Hills Cooperative would like to invite all co-ops to our final parent education event.

Mark your calendars! The final parent education will be May 13th from 7:30–9pm. The topic will be Prioritizing your family life based on how your family is unique (based on book "**Three Questions for a Frantic Family**" by Patrick Lencioni).

Please join us!

7171 N Pennsylvania St
Indianapolis, IN 46240

<http://meridianhillscoop.org/>

RAINSTORMS. POLLUTION. INSECTS.

A few hands-on science activity packets are available for you to take home. Find and take a packet from our hallway bulletin board. (Thanks for making them, Mindy!)



VALENTINE'S DAY 2015

Positive Discipline 7-week Course

Hello Parents,

It was so nice to meet all of you during the Downey parent education session back in January. I hope you have all had a wonderful start to the year.

I will be offering a 7-week course at Downey on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 beginning April 7th. Please see the details for the course below. All Downey parents get a 20% discount.

Positive Discipline 7-week Course

Location: Downey

Day/Time: Tuesdays 6:30-8:00

Dates: **April 7-May 19**

Each week's class covers Positive Discipline concepts, topics, tools and techniques.

Includes the book Positive Discipline by Jane Nelsen and accompanying workbook.

Fee: 7-week classes: \$100 per person/\$150 per couple (includes SO, grandparents, nannies, relatives, etc.)

20% off for Downey Parents: \$80 per person/\$120 per couple

Please let me know if you'd like to sign up and feel free to invite others.

Thanks and have a great day!

Kristi Gmutza

Positive Discipline Parent Educator

art4healing@gmail.com

UPCOMING DATES:

Thursday, March 12

BOARD MEETING, 6:30 pm, Downey

Thursday, March 19

WORK NIGHT, 6:30 - 8:30

attendance is required by all members

Monday, March 23 - Friday, April 3, SPRING BREAK

Saturday, April 4th - EASTER EGG HUNT at Downey

Monday, April 6th - CLASS RESUMES



Where kids and
parents LEARN

PLAY

111 South Downey Street
Indianapolis, IN 46219

<http://downeycoop.com/>

