



CCCNS NEWSLETTER

President's Notebook

Hip hip hooray! With close to 400 people in the audience, and a happy mosh pit full of little dancers, our third annual Justin Roberts concert was our best yet. Many thanks to Dair Brown, Bettina Kehoe, and Joleen Minton for the dozens of hours they each devoted to the concert, as well as to the other board members who helped solicit sponsors and attend to other details of the concert. Great work! And a special thanks, also, to our sponsors, for their crucial financial support of the concert.

I hope those of you who attended the concert noticed our new logo posted in a couple places. A lot of time, thought, and parent input went into the process of designing our logo. I am grateful to Adam Beaver for spearheading the project and donating his time and expertise, and have high hopes that our eye-catching logo will help us promote an increased community awareness of our school.

Although our recent snow days complicated the process, you should all have had an opportunity by now to meet with your child's teacher during the parent-teacher conferences, and receive an application for next year. Applications have started to stream in. Remember, applications from current members have priority until March 10th, after which time students will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't wait to turn your applications in to Tammy Berger. I'd also like to point out, as mentioned on the application, that classes next year will run from 9:15 to 11:45, to better allow families with school-age children to juggle multiple drop-offs and pick-ups.

Several important dates to note:

- On **February 23rd** we will host our **Spring Open House** from 9:30-11 a.m. This is a great time for your friends and neighbors to come and see CCCNS. Our best publicity is by word of mouth. To have a successful Open House, we all have to be involved. So spread the word!
- Our next **board meeting** is **March 5th** at 7 p.m. If you would like to attend, we'd love to have you!

I encourage anyone with questions, concerns, or ideas to contact me, either by phone at 323-8636 or by email at evaallen@indiana.edu.

Eva Allen, Acting President

February 2007

Inside this issue:

President's Notebook	1
Announcements, Thank You	2
Garage Sale	2
Featured Teacher	3
Classroom Updates	3-5
Parent's Corner	5

Upcoming Events

- February 20:** Monthly Cleanup.
 - February 23:** Open house.
 - February 26-March 2:** Teacher Appreciation Week!
 - March 5:** Board meeting.
 - March 12-16:** Spring break.
 - March** (throughout month): "Healthy Me" month.
 - March 28:** Spring session of our new Little 2's class starts.
-

This newsletter is published monthly. Members are encouraged to place personal ads (such as birthday greetings) and business advertisements in the newsletter, at a cost of \$15 for one month or \$40 for three months. Submissions may be sent directly to the editor, Eva Allen (evaallen@indiana.edu), or left in the communications mailbox at school.

Our Justin Roberts concert sponsors have supported us. Please consider offering your support in return.

Membership Announcements

Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week has been **rescheduled to February 26-March 2**. Room parents will be organizing special activities that involve our preschoolers, so be on the look-out for details and requests for participation and ideas!

Family Portraits

Small World Photography will return to CCCNS in late March in the early evening to take individual and family photos (including several generations, pets, and close friends). We must assure SWP at least 10 sittings, so please help us gauge the interest in this opportunity by adding your name to the sheet in the hallway. A sign-up sheet with specific appointment times will be posted in March. Appointments will be scheduled in 10-minute increments. More details will be sent home in the children's bags when a date is set.

Tax Time

If you are claiming a child care deduction, please note that the CCCNS Federal Income Tax ID number is 35-1120002.

Summer School

We will again be offering a Summer School program at Children's Corner this year. The session will start just after our spring class session ends. Class will meet from 9:00 – 12:30 each day with Lunch Bunch included as part of the program. Children ages 3-5 may enroll; the maximum number of children in the class will be 25. The application and more information will be coming home soon in your child's bag.

Thank You's!

Notes from Bettina Kehoe, publicity chair

To all at Children's Corner: Thank you so much for all the efforts that helped make Friday Jan. 26th Open House such a fun event. I came away from that morning realizing why this school is such a special place. At one point in the morning, Mrs. England's music lesson included all three MWF classes and at least eight visiting families! It was wonderful. Many of the youngest visitors felt very comfortable mixing with the older classes. I believe that our visitors went away sharing some of our energy and enthusiasm. Thank you all for such a successful morning!

And, special thanks to all:

- in the classrooms, a mom and three dads and a grandmother were participating!
- the parent who spruced up the classrooms the day before just so it looked perfect!
- the parents who provided goodies for our visitors!

- the parent tour guides who shared their experiences with interested visitors!
- the parent who created the very professional logo designs and coordinating outfits for teachers and participating parents, too!
- the parents and children who made the beautifully colored playdough last weekend!
- Mrs. England's class who helped bag the playdough as gifts for our perspective new students!
- the students for making invitations to give to friends to come to the school!
- the teachers for planning their activities around our visiting families!
Well done!

Thank you also to the team helping with publicity: Adam Beaver, Leslie Kaiser, Kathleen Plucker, Joleen Minton, and Elizabeth Irwin.

All About the Garage Sale...

Volunteers Needed for our Garage Sale!

We need 10 volunteers to help us put together our garage sale. This year, to make things simple, we will be participating in the IU Credit Union's Member Sale to be held on Saturday, April 28 from 8:30am-1pm (set up at 7:30am) at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. Interested volunteers can sign up on the list posted at school or contact Dair Brown (macybrown@prodigy.net or 339-0848). We will need volunteers to help prep (4/26 and/or 4/27) and on the day of the sale.

Schtuff Needed for the Garage Sale!

Go with that urge you have to sort, organize, and purge the clutter at home! We are still accepting donations for our Garage Sale Fundraiser. Let us convert your Spring decluttering into money for the school! Please contact Adam Beaver to arrange for storage of items (abeaver@smithville.net or 876-6328). On a related note, see the notice below about our new "Classified Ads."

Win-Win-WIN!

You know that huge thing in the corner of the garage or at the bottom of the basement stairs that you know needs a new home, but you just can't be bothered to have a garage sale and running it over to your favorite charity always seems to get bumped off your To Do List? How about putting it in our new CCCNS Newsletter "Classifieds." Here's the twist: "Sell" your item to another member with the proceeds going to CCCNS. You get the thing out of your basement (win), someone else gets that thing they've been desperately needing (win), and our school gets some extra money in the coffers (WIN)! Please email Eva Allen (evaallen@indiana.edu) with a description of your item and suggested "price." All ads are free, of course!

Are you an IUCU Member?

Have an account at IUCU? We need as many entries as possible for spots at the IU Credit Union Sale. Please consider submitting an entry for each of your accounts. All entries are free. For more information, see your IUCU February Newsletter or contact Katie Smock, IUCU Marketing Specialist directly (856-5873 or ksmock@iucu.org).

Thank You's! (continued)

Justin Roberts rocked!

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the Justin Roberts concert and made our biggest fundraising event of the year a resounding success.

Cleaning Nights

Big thanks to the January cleaning crew: Crowe (team leader), Sparks, and Edwards/Everitt. The February cleaning crew will be: Cano (team leader), Wang, Soltis, and LaPointe.

Logo and promotional video

Two huge rounds of applause for Adam Beaver, who designed the many options that resulted in our new logo (see president's note), and who also directed, filmed, casted, edited, and produced the special effects for the new promotional "short" video that is now posted on our website. A longer version will be posted in a couple weeks. Check them out at: www.bloomingtonchildrenscorner.org.

Featured Teacher: Mrs. Nancy Sparks article by Adam Beaver

Using an iconic English description, Mrs. Nancy Sparks says, "We like to think our backyard is like a secret garden." The English gardening influence even transcends generations, revealing itself as a family practice, immigrating with Mrs. Sparks's English paternal ancestors.

"When I think back, I guess I really began to love flowers as a child in my great-great aunt's backyard garden! She had beautiful marigolds and pretty roses. She, too, came over from England with my grandfather's family, so she had a small pretty English garden." Roots were literally transplanted, as Mrs. Sparks's great-great grandfather and his son made the trans-Atlantic trip, settling their families in Monroe County to start a limestone quarry business, that industry being a commonality between both sides of her family.

Yet, she explains it wasn't until her husband, a dentist in Martinsville, began to enjoy gardening that her own dormant interest arose, which was after Emily, their youngest, was born. Mrs. Sparks's grandchildren also participate, "...which is fun. They love to help out by pulling weeds that sometimes turn out to be a flower!"

Their residence showcases several garden areas, but Mrs. Sparks points out, "Our shade garden is my favorite, with lots of hostas and ferns and a pretty fountain." She adds, "I love all kinds of plants, but perennials and grasses are my favorites! My husband starts a lot of our annuals from seeds in the early spring. We have very sunny area in the dining room where he starts them and then takes them to the basement to put them under grow lights for a few weeks." They also plant heirloom tomatoes from seed, initially acquired years ago as a gift from an elderly patient to Dr. Sparks.

As a professional nurturer, Mrs. Sparks identifies the parallel and complimentary missions of teaching and gardening: "You start out by taking a little seed and planting and nurturing it, then watch it grow and begin to bloom into a lovely flower. It takes a lot of time energy and love, but when you invest that into it you find so much joy in the end. Now isn't that a lot like teaching young children? I definitely think so, and that is why I love my job at CCCNS: taking the youngest children and giving them the best start I can with their first school experience!"

Mrs. Sparks' Class Update

Thanks to everyone who braved the cold, snowy weather to come in and share information with me during conference time. It really is beneficial to touch base and discuss your child's progress. It is wonderful to work with so many concerned and involved parents.

By the time you read this I hope we have had our Valentines Party. With the

weather predictions it may have been postponed again! Thanks to everyone who signed up to bring in treats!

We had lots of fun cooking with Mrs. Minton! The cinnamon bread the children helped prepare was yummy! We are still taking volunteers for cooking simple things on your participation day, the kids love it and it doesn't have to be hard.

Kudos and a big thank you to Tamara Hallett for bring in new kitchen dishes and utensils, they are great and so colorful.

I have been having lots of fun getting the Little 2's room ready, thanks to Mrs. England and Miss Lora and Miss Rachel for helping me! I am really looking forward to teaching it!

Keep warm!!

Miss Lora's Class Update

Thanks for taking time out to meet with me for conferences. I enjoyed the feedback that I received and will use that information to help improve our class. I will also use the feedback to restructure the 3's class schedule for next year, so our Fridays aren't so packed.

We've been busy this month celebrating Valentine's Day! Your child brought home their newly

adopted bear and I hope they are settling in nicely. We will look forward to making potato pets for P week and watching their hair (grass) grow. We will also be making finger paint and playdough pizzas. We will finally start performing short plays. Our first will be The Three Pigs.

The week of Feb. 26th will be one of my favorite. We will celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and the 50th

birthday of The Cat in the Hat. Watch out for some red and white hats coming home. The week before Spring Break will be our beach week. Send your child in their beach clothes (under their warm weather clothes) for the 5th of March - I will send another reminder home on the 2nd. We will be on the lookout for Spring!

Mrs. England's Class Update

The parent-teacher conferences were very valuable this year; thank you for the extra time and effort and for sharing information about your child. I really appreciate all the positive attitudes; how wonderful as a teacher to be able to work with so many concerned and involved parents. A special thanks to the parents who helped with the child care during the conferences

By the time you read this, our class will have had a week of celebrations –

Valentine's Day, our one hundred day of school, and the Justin Roberts concert. (Yes, we had two parties in one week with not-so-healthy food, but that doesn't happen very often!) It seems like it wasn't that long ago that we started putting those fish in the bowl to count the days of school. (The children have told me that they want to keep counting days until the last day of school; we may need a bigger bowl!)

A very big thank you to all of you parents who worked so hard on making

the Justin Roberts concert such a success; it was an afternoon enjoyed by all of us. And while I am thanking people, I need to say thank you to everyone – children, parents, and teachers – for patience and tolerance during these past few weeks with school delays, no heat, rescheduling conferences, etc. We all had to be very flexible during these times.

Miss Rachel's Class Update

Well, I finally got what I wished for... winter weather, and boy did we feel it in the classrooms on the Tuesday before conferences. Thank you for your support in our decision to cancel classes for that day. I'm afraid we would have all been shivering, blue-lipped snowmen by the end of the day. We would, however, have fit perfectly with the décor of our classroom, which has become quite the Winter Wonderland.

It's been a rather hectic few weeks in our classroom. We've been getting ready for conferences, open houses, Valentine's Day parties, and our 100th day of school celebration. Our conferences were a great success, and I thank everyone for their participation. Conferences are such a great way to communicate about your children, but are also a great time for teachers to assess what direction our teaching needs to go, both individually and as a whole class.

We're growing in leaps and bounds with respect to reading and writing, and will spend a lot of time exploring math and science activities in the next few weeks. Our reading center will include lots of simple books that the kids will be able to read independently or with minimal help, and journal writing will begin to take on a more consistent approach. The kids loved being scientists during our dinosaur unit, so we'll don our lab coats again to study other science-related themes like weather, senses and health. Add to the mix

plenty of time for play and free time, and we're in for another busy month!

Sponsor Advertisement

Express Grooming With Pick-up & Drop-off Service!

Professional dog & cat grooming without the hassle – We pick 'em up dirty & drop 'em off clean & happy!

Our Door-To-Door service includes:

- Warm bath with all natural shampoos
- Hand blow drying – no cage drying!
- Ear cleaning & nail trimming
- Brushing, thinning, and dematting
- Clipping, trimming, or shaving
- Pick-up & drop-off service to home or work
- Individual attention – including outdoor walks!
- Convenience for you - lots of TLC for your pet!

www.ExpressGrooming.com

876-5681

*Thank you for supporting local family business!
Serving the Bloomington & Ellettsville area.*

Miss Loni's Spanish Update

We've been learning words and expressions pertaining to El invierno (Winter):

Hace frío (ah-say free-oh) – It's cold
 Hace viento (ah-say bee-ayn-toh) – It's windy
 Nieva (nee-ay-bah) – It's snowing
 Lluve (yoo-ay-bay) – It's raining
 Hielo (ee-yay-loh) – ice
 Muñeco de nieve (moo-nyay-koh day nee-ay-bay) – Snowman
 Pala (pah-lah) – shovel (noun)
 Abrigo (ah-bree-goh) – coat
 Sombrero (sohm-bray-roh) – hat
 Mitones (mee-toh-nays) – mittens
 Bufanda (boo-fahn-dah) – scarf
 Botas (boh-tahs) – boots
 Jugar (hoo-gahr) – to play
 Patinar (pah-tee-nahr) – to skate
 Esquiar (ay-skee-ahr) – to ski
 Dormir (dohr-meer) – to sleep

We like to play games, including several on our feltboard, to help us learn our words. In one of our favorite games, we dressed a snowman.

We've also been learning words that are opposites:

Grande / pequeño – big / small
 Alto / bajo – tall / short
 Arriba / abajo – up / down
 Adentro / afuera – inside / outside
 Rápido / lento – fast / slow
 Gordito / flaco – chubby / skinny

To practice these words, we've been singing this song to the tune Mary Had a Little Lamb:

Esto es grande y esto es pequeño (3x)
 This is big and this is small
 Canta conmigo Sing with me
 Esto es alto y esto es bajo (3x)
 This is tall and this is short
 Canta conmigo Sing with me
 Esto está arriba y esto está abajo (3x)
 This is up and this is down
 Canta conmigo Sing with me
 Esto está adentro y esto está afuera (3x)
 This is inside and this is outside
 Canta conmigo Sing with me
 Esto es rápido y esto es lento (3x)
 This is fast and this is slow
 Canta conmigo Sing with me

We use a book with photos that illustrate these opposite concepts. You might consider pointing to objects around you or using gestures for visual support.

Two more new songs that we've learned are Don Fernando Baila (Don Fernando Dances) and Brincan y Bailan (They (the fish) Jump and Dance).

We enjoy reading books and have become especially fond of a Mexican folktale about a little ant named Telma, who slips on the ice and hurts her leg. She goes to the local judge and blames her injury on the snow, who then has to report to the judge and subsequently blames the incident on the sun. The story continues as several characters enter the courtroom, each one stating that someone else is responsible for Telma's fall. This charming and beautifully illustrated bilingual book is written by Dr. John Nieto-Phillips and is available for just \$8.95. Several of you have expressed interest in purchasing a copy – please contact me with your orders.

On our feltboard, we're enjoying new stories, including La ardilla (The squirrel) and El Príncipe Rana (The Frog Prince). Through these stories, we reinforce vocabulary words, internalize grammar structure and memorize words and phrases. Most importantly, we have a lot of fun.

In the coming weeks, we will be talking about Amigos y Familia (Friends and Family) and will focus on people in our lives, including members of our community that help us like doctors, firemen, teachers, etc.

Stay tuned!

Parents' Corner

Reading Together

(reprinted from *Growing Together Newsletter*, Oct 1998.)

Here are some suggestions that will help you and your child get the most enjoyment out of reading together.

1. Try to make reading time a fun experience, both for you and for your child. Choose a time for reading that is good for both of you. Don't try to "impose" reading time – as though it were a daily duty – if you or your child are feeling tired.
2. Give your child your undivided attention while reading. If you have an answering machine for your telephone, use it. Also, turn off the radio, stereo, and television set.
3. Become aware of the kinds of books your child enjoys the most. A trip to the public library will enable her to know more about the different kinds of book available.
4. Encourage your child to make her own choice of books. Ask her what she likes about the books she chooses.
5. Involve your child as much as possible in what you are reading. Here are some suggestions:
 - Point to pictures in the book as you say a word or ask your child to point to objects she recognizes.
 - Get her to join you, if possible, in reading sentences that are repeated. ("Run, run, as fast as you can. You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man.")
 - Ask her open-ended questions about the story. ("What do you think will happen next?")
 - Help her to relate the story to her own experiences. ("Has that ever happened to you?" "What would you have done?")
6. Help you child develop a sense of sequencing in space and time. ("What happened first, second, next ... ?")
7. Relate the pace of your reading to your child's interest in particular aspects of the story. Children often like to create their own "side-road" stories, becoming more fascinated with what happens along the way than with the story's ending. Parents, on the other hand, are often the ones who are most eager to read the story's ending.
8. Let your child cuddle up beside you or sit in your lap while you read with your arm around her shoulder. The warm, loving feelings you convey are as important to your son or daughter, and often even more important than the content of the story you are reading.

Things to Do

Cold and Bad Weather Activities

Bloomington United Gymnastics School (BUGS). Open gym 11:45-12:45 M/Th/F and 9:30-10:30 Tu/W. Cost \$3 per child 18mo-6yrs (under 18 mo free).

Frank Southern Ice Arena - open skate M-Th from 12-2:30 and F 12-1:30. General admission is \$4 and skate rental is \$2.

Suburban Bowling Lanes. Opens at noon M/Tu/Th/F. Slowest days are Monday and Tuesday. Tuesdays are also \$1 games. Plenty of lanes with bumpers.

Hoosier Hills Indoor Climbing Facility. Tu-F from 2-10pm. \$10 for 6 and up, \$5 for under 5.