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March 2017

South County Pre-Kindergarten Co-Op

The Annual Auction is almost here!

We would like to take a moment to acknowledge everyone who has worked so hard to plan the auction. However, the auction wouldn't be possible without all the generous personal and business donations. The Board greatly appreciates everyone who has donated to help support our school. Below are some of our particularly generous donors who have donated either the highest value items or one of the priceless items that will be included in our Auction Catalog.

Baywood Farms

Camp Twin Creeks

Capitals Hockey

Colony Hardware

Jim Denora CPA

Dream House Studios

Hartcorn Studios

Jan Gratz Photography

Ladybug's Kids Glam Spa

Leading Edge Wealth Advisors

Mystics Basketball

NASCAR

Sesame Workshop

South River Martial Arts

Sylvan Learning Center of Crofton

Jeff Gunhus, Author

Visual Concepts Photography

Wizards Basketball

Just a note...



Please refrain from using your cell phone during circle time and activity time unless you are using it to take pictures. Your texts and emails can wait an hour or two while you are spending time with your child at school.

From the Board President

It's almost time to for the 80's night auction!! I hope you guys are getting as excited as I am. I am looking forward to the night out with all of you in support of our wonderful school. Mandy, Beatriz and the Events and Fundraising crew have done a spectacular job of pulling all of this together. We have received lots of amazing donations (Mandy will be sending out teasers on Facebook) and you'll be surprised how inexpensive some of them end up being.

If you are on the fence about attending, please join us - it is a night you won't forget and we all have a great time. Every dollar you spend on items (the prize wheel and raffles too) is a contribution to our sweet school and ultimately benefits all of our kids. You absolutely can buy additional tickets to bring friends and family even as it get closer to the big day. Thank you all for your help and support - our Auction means a lot to the school!

School evaluations will be coming out after the auction. Please take the time to complete and give honest feedback. We really do read everyone's comments, attempt to incorporate what makes sense and truly appreciate your input! If there is something that you are concerned about or would like to look at changing, please come to one of our Board meetings and we can discuss. Our next Board Meeting is scheduled for March 16th. Additionally, the Nominating Committee meeting will be in April (where we assign committees for next year...). Our final

mandatory GMM is scheduled for May 1st.

We still have openings in our classes for next year, but there have been inquiries and people registering. Any visibility for our school is a benefit. Our best marketing has always been word of mouth, so that really means a lot! Please let anyone you know who may be looking for a preschool know about our school. Also, if you have any ideas about how or where we can advertise, let myself or Alka, the marketing coordinator know.

Thank you for reading your newsletter each month. If you have questions about policies, procedures, membership obligations, please check the Bylaws or Policy Statement or ask your class reps. If you have suggestions or want to attend a Board meeting (see what they are like for next year), come to our next meeting on March 16th at 7:30 pm. We will always do what we can to help.

See you at the Auction!

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4PM – Amanda Tine
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HAVE A WHALE OF A TIME

2016-2017 CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1 Tuition Due
- 3 School Closed - AACPS Conferences
- 11 AUCTION!!!**
Alternate: Father's Day Celebration
9-10AM
- 16 3's and 4PM Celebrates St. Patrick's Day
Board Meeting 7:30pm, Location TBD
- 17 St. Patrick's Day! (4 AM Celebrates)

Happy St. Patrick's Day

- 18 RESCHEDULED: Father's Day Celebration
(3's - 9-10AM, 4's - 10:15-11:15AM)
- 27 4's Field Trip to Natural History Museum

APRIL

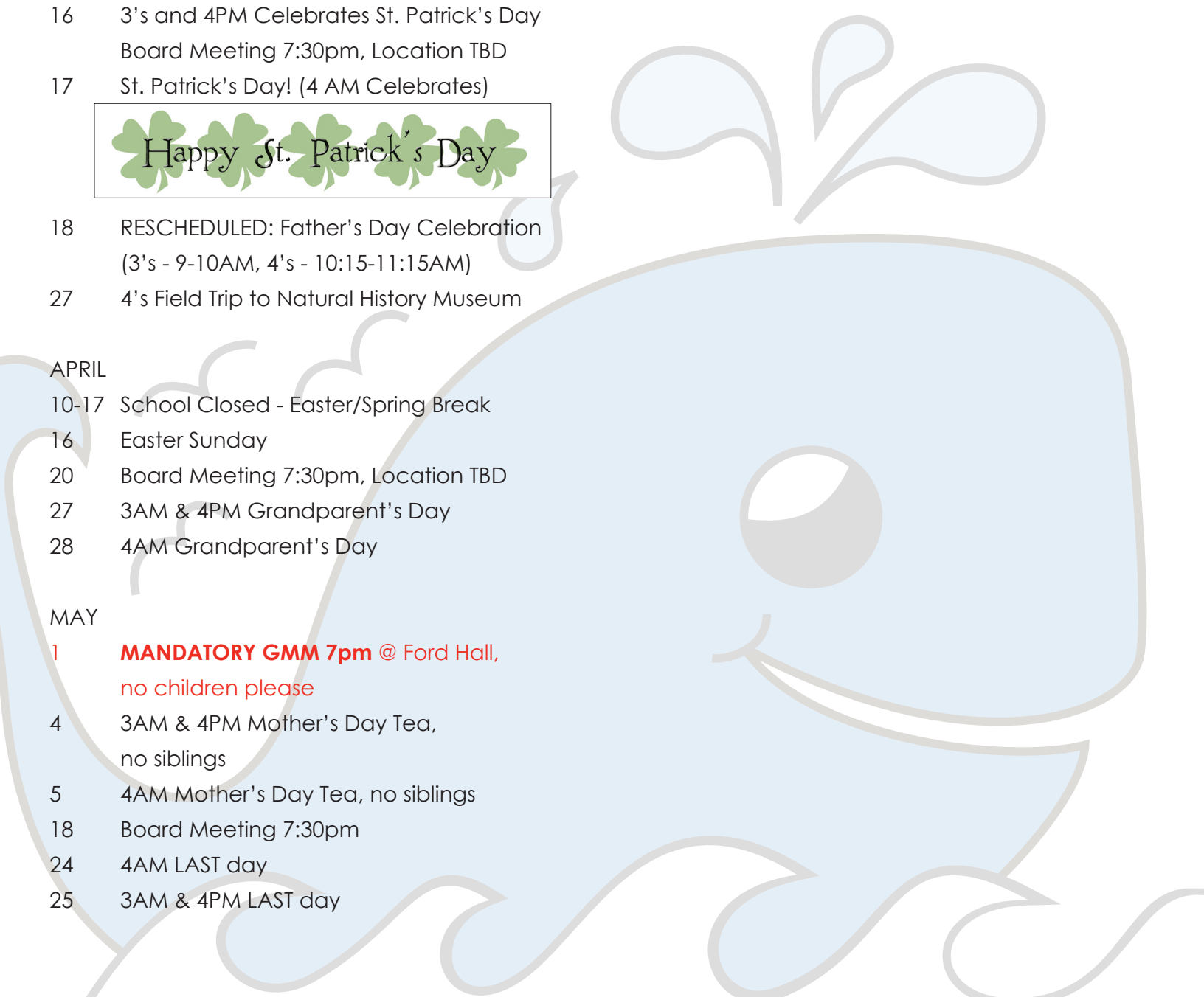
- 10-17 School Closed - Easter/Spring Break
- 16 Easter Sunday
- 20 Board Meeting 7:30pm, Location TBD
- 27 3AM & 4PM Grandparent's Day
- 28 4AM Grandparent's Day

MAY

- 1 MANDATORY GMM 7pm @ Ford Hall,
no children please**
- 4 3AM & 4PM Mother's Day Tea,
no siblings
- 5 4AM Mother's Day Tea, no siblings
- 18 Board Meeting 7:30pm
- 24 4AM LAST day
- 25 3AM & 4PM LAST day

JUNE

- 3 Spring Cleanup - MANDATORY for all
NON-Graduating Families**
- TBD Transition Meeting 7PM



March

Happy almost spring! What happened to our snow? This has certainly been a very odd weather year. Let's just hope that spring doesn't drag her feet too much to make up for the lack of cold weather. It's hard to believe we have daffodils almost blooming.



Slumber parties, dinosaurs, science projects, Fathers' Day, leprechauns - March promises to be a busy month!

Fathers' Day will be held on March 18th for the 3's and 4's this year. The threes will attend from 9-10 am and the fours from 10:15-11:15 am. The children will be making invitations to send home for Dad before the big event. Since we had to change the original date for Fathers' Day we are also having an alternate date on March 11th from 9-10 am if you are not available on the 18th. Please let me know if you need to attend the alternate date. Fathers' Day is a chance for Dad to come to school and play for an hour and have an opportunity to see the classroom, sing some songs and meet some of their child's friends. Ann and I look forward to meeting all the Dads.

We're looking forward to the annual auction. It sounds like we are in for a very fun evening this year. Many thanks to everyone for all the hard work that has already gone into the event.



3's

We enjoyed watching the 3's open their Valentines last month. They are always so excited to receive their special "mail"!

This month we will focus on a variety of science activities. Sink and float, densities, and magnets are some of the concepts we will explore. These are always fun activities and the children may also enjoy trying them at home.

We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 16th. Children are encouraged to wear green and parent helpers may wish to bring a green snack.

Huggy Bear will wake up from his long winter's nap with the arrival of spring and we will take a walk outside to see some signs that winter is officially over (providing the snow is melted of course).

4's

March will be a busy month for the fours. Our main focus will be on dinosaurs. We will use the story, Maia, to help learn about dinosaurs. We will paint a dinosaur mural and dinosaur eggs, hunt for "fossils", and measure to see just how big those dinosaurs really were. This unit involves a lot of paint and messiness, so don't wear your best clothes on co-op days! If your child has any interesting books or other information about dinosaurs that we could borrow, please bring them in to share. To conclude this unit we will take a trip to the National History Museum on March 27th to view the dinosaur exhibit. This trip is always very popular but requires a lot of parent participation. We ask that a parent accompany each child. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather! We will meet at the school at 9:00 to carpool to the New Carrollton subway station. We usually leave the museum by 12:30 and arrive home by 2:00. More details will be sent home closer to the date.

We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Friday , March 17th with Green Eggs and Ham. Ann will contact the parent helpers concerning what to bring for snack. Children are encouraged to wear green on that day.

At this time of year the four year olds bring a lot of energy to the classroom. This is due to many factors including the long winter and lack of outdoor playtime. You may wish to talk to your child again about good classroom behaviors. Listening at circle time, helping to clean up, and using good table manners need to be reinforced.

Fred and Buster enjoyed their adventures with everyone the last few months. The books will be on the bookshelf if you'd like to read about their adventures. It has been great fun reading their stories each day. In a couple of weeks a new animal will come home for each class but with a different theme.

TOTALLY 80'S NIGHT DINNER & AUCTION

INVITE ALL YOUR FRIENDS... AUCTION TIME IS HERE!



OK, so you've heard us mention the Auction event a few times by now. If you are new to the school, you may be wondering, "What is the deal with this thing?" Well, the annual auction is indeed a BIG deal. This single event helps us achieve the goals of the school. More than this, it's a time to mingle with one another, meet new friends and community members for a well deserved night out while supporting a wonderful cause!



Let's answer some main questions!!!

Basic information we need to know?

The auction will be on Saturday, March 11th. It runs from 7 pm to 11 pm at the Greek Orthodox Church on Riva Rd. This year, we will open the doors for early bidding at 6 pm. So you don't have to rush... we will be there waiting for you!

How does it work?

First, you check in. You can take some totally rad memory pictures in our 80's Photo booth right at the entrance. Then, you can start looking around at all the Silent Auction items and start bidding right away. There are lots of awesome items like classes, goods and services! So many local and statewide businesses are supporting us. It's going to be a BLAST! The dinner buffet will start at 7 pm and then we will have announcements, present our Alumni Legacy Award, the Live Auction, and lastly you will check out and get your items. There will also be time for dessert and dancing before check out begins at the end of the evening. (You do have to pay for any auction items that you win and take them with you at the end of the night.) Invite all your friends! Auction time is here!

So there WILL be dancing at the auction?

Absolutely! Crow Entertainment has been donating their DJ services for many years and they will be on hand again this year! We will have a little 80's themed music, of course, but it won't be too crazy. There will be something for everyone on the dance floor!

Is there a bar?

Cheap Drinks! That's right. Well, pretty cheap: domestic beer \$4, wine \$5, specialty drink \$6.

Will the auction take credit cards this year?

Yes, but you will pay a 3% premium on your entire purchase amount at check out. So, bring cash or check if possible. All raffles, prize wheel and drinks will be cash only. We will also have an ATM!

How do you make bids?

Give your name (or the name of the person who bought your ticket) at check-in. You will receive an auction program and your bidder number that you will use to bid on all auction items throughout the night by writing it on the bid sheets.

What kind of special activities will there be?

Ooooooo... this is where it gets fun! The prize wheel has stolen everyone's hearts at all past auctions. Our President, Jennell, is crafting our very own wheel this year so we will always have one. We will also have 50/50 raffle tickets, a Mystery Bag, a key purchase to open a Caboodles box, a Best 80's Outfit Contest... remember we are celebrating 80's!!!

What's the suggested dress code?

80's are back!!! Come ready to enjoy and be the star! Feel free to glitz it up a bit. We want to Rock!

What's this I hear about presenting a special award?

The Co-Op has been in existence for a long time. We thought it was about time that we exercise our presence in the community by awarding those who do great things—especially things Co-Op related. This is also a way to spread our story as an organization.

How many people can I bring? How can I get more tickets?

The more the merrier. There is no limit. And, I promise that this will be a fun night out. Additional tickets can be purchased at anytime. Just let us know, write a check for \$40 per person, and place it in the Events & Fundraising box at the school.

Can we buy tickets at the door? If not, what's the latest RSVP date?

It is VERY helpful if all tickets are bought prior to the event. The minimum 4-tickets per family requirement need to be ordered prior to the event—that deadline is now. As for extra guests, we would never turn away anyone with \$40 in their hand! So, you can buy additional tickets at the door. This event benefits the whole school and we would love as many people attending as possible. Also, if you aren't going to use all of the tickets that you paid for, please let us know so we can give them to someone interested in attending.

Come prepared to bid and WIN! There are some fabulous items available and every single dollar goes to the school! Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to get their auction items in!

Let's have a great night!

