

Co-op Community News

From the North Seattle Cooperative Preschool Parent Advisory Council

December 2001

PAC Scholarship Raffle: A Closer Look By Susan Milton

Co-op Parent, Wallingford 3-5's a.m.

If you are anything like me, you never have enough time to do all the things you would like to, and selling raffle tickets for co-op feels like another niggling little chore on a long list. As soon as you get your allotment of tickets from your PAC rep, you buy them all yourself just to have it done as quickly as possible, and you never think much about what happens next.

This year, as the PAC rep for my co-op, I've learned much more about this raffle and developed greater respect for it. Although I was told last year that the purpose of the raffle was to fund co-op scholarships, I didn't take time to consider the impact of this on actual families. Holly Johnson, a co-op parent on the scholarship committee, has provided us with a sobering look at what this year's scholarship applications show:

- ◆ Some families are living on \$1,000 per month or less
- ◆ More families with a parent recently laid off
- ◆ Families struggling with medical expenses not covered by insurance, or those out of work due to injuries or illness
- ◆ Single parent families
- ◆ Families coping with legal expenses due to a failed business
- ◆ Families new to this country who are trying to adapt and get settled
- ◆ A parent returning to school, while the other is at home with their children

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Event Calendar



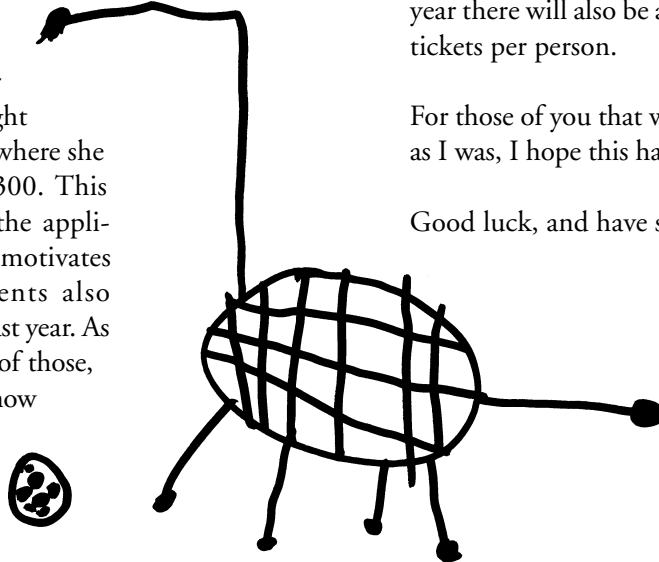
- Dec 7 - Scholarship application deadline
- Dec 10 - PAC Meeting
- Dec 24 - Jan 4 - Winter break
- Jan TBA - Parent Education Seminar
- Jan TBA - Parent Coordinator registration meeting
- Jan TBA - Kindergarten Resource seminar
- Jan TBA - Treasurer's workshop
- Jan 14 - PAC meeting
- Jan 21 - Martin Luther King Day
- Feb 1 - Day between semesters - not holiday or vacation
- Feb 11 - PAC meeting (raffle tickets due)
- Feb 18 - President's Day
- Feb 18-22 - Midwinter break
- March TBA - In-house registration
- March 8 - Professional development day - not holiday or vacation
- March 11 - PAC meeting (raffle drawing)
- March 15 - Professional development day - not holiday or vacation
- April TBA - Open registration
- April TBA - Parent Education seminar
- April 8-12 - Spring break
- April 15 - PAC meeting
- May 17 - Professional development day - not holiday or vacation
- May 20 - PAC meeting
- May 27 - Memorial Day
- June 19 - Last day for students unless inclement weather make up needed

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These families are all very committed to co-op education, and if we don't raise enough money to provide scholarships, we will all lose the benefit of their presence in our schools. It does happen that families are turned away due to lack of scholarship money available.

Last year, Holly was so moved by compassion for these families that she brought raffle tickets with her everywhere she went, and sold well over 300. This shows how knowledge of the applicants and their situations motivates action. Many other parents also worked hard to sell tickets last year. As I said earlier, I was not one of those, but this year, now that I know more, I will be taking my 3-year-old door to door in our neighborhood to sell tickets. He is a fairly extroverted kid and will likely consider this a fun activity. People also had great luck selling tickets at work, and of course, to relatives.



"Dinosaur Mother W/Eggs"
by Vlasta Schutzenhofer, Age 3

Another thing I didn't realize before this year is that donations to PAC for scholarships are very welcome. Many people find a straight donation simpler than buying raffle tickets and tend to donate larger amounts this way.

In case the need to fund scholarships isn't enough to generate excitement about the raffle, there are always all those great prizes. This year's grand prize is the same as last year's—a trip for four to Victoria, including seven nights accommodations and round trip passage on the Victoria Clipper. Last year's grand prize winner, co-op parent Beth Mullein, recently took the trip with her family and had a fantastic time.

A final misconception that I had about the raffle last year was that the prizes printed on the tickets were the only ones.

In fact, the raffle committee continues to collect prizes for months after the tickets are handed out. The final number of prizes will be about 25 to 30, so each ticket holder has a pretty decent chance of winning something. There is also a prize for the individual who sells the most tickets, and this year there will also be a prize for the co-op that sell the most tickets per person.

For those of you that were as fuzzy on the details of the raffle as I was, I hope this has helped bring it into clearer focus.

Good luck, and have some fun with it!



"Ichiro"
by Vlasta

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Web Site: gonorth.org or

<http://nscux.sccd.ctc.edu/~parented/>

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Organizations Providing First Aid Certification

The following local organizations provide certification for standard first aid and/or pediatric CPR. Due to limited space in our newsletter we are listing the contact information only; please call the phone numbers listed to receive current schedule and price information.

American Red Cross/ Health Services
North Seattle
206-323-2345

South Seattle
206-726-3534

American Heart Association
206-632-0587

Green Lake Community Center
Call American Red Cross
206-323-6565

North Seattle Family Center
206-364-7930

Phinney Neighborhood Association
206-783-2244

CPR & First Aid Co.
253-841-3311

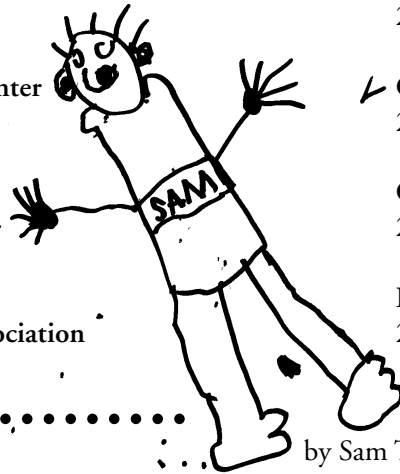
SKCDPH Child Care Health Program
206-296-2770

Ryther Child Center
2400 NE 95th St., Seattle
206-525-5050

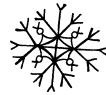
↳ CPR-Medic II
206-684-7274

CPR Training Center, Inc.
206-622-2408

Lifesavers-Ken Norris
206-799-6073



by Sam Thwaites,
Age 4



Just for Fun

By Mary Malone, Co-op Parent

(Note from the editor: This article is a composite reprint from two of last years newsletters. I found myself in need of an article and thought this appropriate to the season. Great activities for home or classroom.)

As winter approaches and we spend more and more time indoors, ideas of how to occupy our children seem to become more and more scarce. One fun activity that will “keep on giving” is toy making. The activity

itself can be a fun art project, while the finished product is one that your children can use for many happy hours of play.

Additionally, when making toys, children often become curious about how they work which can lead into mini-science projects (as shown below). The following activity precedes even our childhood, but is sure to please any child.

STRING TELEPHONE

Sound travels at different speeds as it passes through materials other than air. This activity gives children hands-on

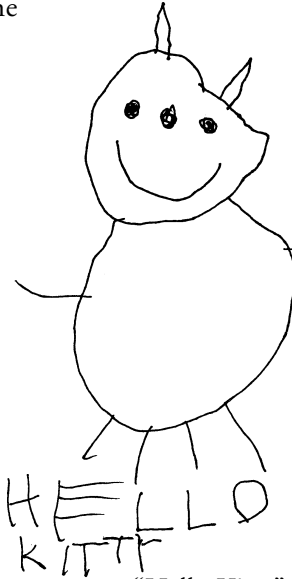
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experience with this concept when sound is conducted through different mediums.

1. Make a string telephone by removing one lid from each of two tin cans. Punch a small hole in the center of the remaining lid of each can. Thread a string into the hole from the outside of each can and tie a knot big enough not to slip through.
2. Have two people (big or small) take a can and pull the cans gently apart until the string is taut.
3. One person places the can over her mouth and talks while the other person listens with her can over her ear.
4. Use metal wire on another phone. Are the sounds different? How is the sound traveling from one can to the other? This may also be an opportunity to learn emergency phone numbers (911) and phone etiquette.



“Hello Kitty”

by Josephine Hobson, Age 4

and put the string in the solution, laying the stick across the mouth of the container.

3. Place a piece of masking tape down the side of the container to mark the level of the water. Mark the water level however often there is a noticeable change (every few days).

4. When the water is completely evaporated you should have big sugar crystals to eat!

For older children this activity will bring up many questions. Where does the sugar go when stirred in the water?

(Taste the water to find out). Where does the water go each day? Encourage your children to observe and notice changes in the solution. When the rock candy is complete, compare those crystals to the much smaller crystals of table sugar.

Most importantly, have fun and enjoy!



For more information on making toys look for these books at your library:

The Toy Book. Caney Steven. New York: Workman Publishing, 1972.

Loo-Loo, Boo, and Art You Can Do. Roche, Denis. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1996.

Making Things: A Handbook of Creative Discovery. Wiseman, Ann Sayre. Boston, 1997.

MAKING CRYSTALS

Making rock candy is an activity that children of all ages can enjoy. For the very young, merely eating the results is great fun, and older children will enjoy doing a real scientific experiment. Growing crystals will teach children about making a solution, evaporation, and different forms of matter.

1. Fill a clear container (a mayonnaise jar, for example) about two-thirds full with very hot water (USE CAUTION).

Hot water allows more sugar to dissolve. Add sugar, one spoonful at a time, stirring until each spoonful is dissolved before adding the next. Keep adding sugar until no matter how much you stir, some sugar remains at the bottom of the container. At this point the solution is saturated - the water will hold no more sugar.

2. Tie a piece of cotton string around a stick, leaving it long enough to touch the bottom of the container. Wet the string

Co-op Openings

These co-ops had significant openings as of November 5. There may be some changes. The PAC website has full listings: <http://nscdux.sccd.ctc.edu/~parented/>

Toddlers

- Northgate p.m.....3
- 524-6736 - Jill Colley
- Olympic Toddler.....2
- 527-8087 - Amy Kelsey

Pre-3's

- Crown Hill.....2
- 783-3916 - Charlotte Hollebeke
- Northgate (2-5's).....7
- 782-9591 - Joan Leppek

3 to 5's

- Ingraham.....11
- 363-6816 - Carolyn Foster
- Wallingfor p.m.....6
- 366-0806 - Ingrid Falip

Scholarships are available through the Parent Advisory Council .