



The Parent Helper

The Newsletter of Community Preschool

Important Dates

April 3
6:00–10:00 p.m.
Moms Night

April 6–10
No School/Spring Break

April 13
10:00 a.m.
Rocky Mountain Raptor
Program Presentation

April 14
9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Rocky Mountain Raptor
Program Presentation

April 16
9:00 a.m.
Board Meeting

April 21
6:30 p.m.
Studio Vino Parents
Night Out

April 27
6:30 p.m.
Playground Meeting

April 28–29
3s Class Field Trips to
Rock Ridge Ranch

April 28
Scholastic Book
Order Due



Studio Vino Parents Night Out on April 21

The last two Studio Vino events have sold out quickly, and we want to make sure everyone has a chance to participate. Sign up to attend on Tuesday, April 21 and paint “Two Funky.” The doors open at 6:30 p.m., and we’ll begin painting at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$20, and drinks and such are additional. All proceeds from admission go to Community Preschool.

Tell your friends and family! They don’t have to be associated with the preschool to attend. Register now by visiting studiovino.com/cps. Space is limited, so book your spot early!

School Pictures Survey

We tried new photographers this year, and we’d like to hear your thoughts about the school picture process and resulting photos. Please visit this link to take the survey to share your opinion: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CMZ23JL>.

Thank You, Board Members!

Our new board members are now taking on the responsibilities of their offices. Rosa Crawford is taking the reins as our president, and Erika Pol is retiring after serving our preschool very well, and for much longer than her term required. Thank you to Erika as well as our other exiting board members: Jackie Gilbert, Jessica Kuhns, and Jake Gibbons.

And welcome to the new members, Chantal Febvre, Hanna Copeland, Jill Aldrich, and Emily Weakland. Please make them feel welcome as they jump in with both feet and put in their time and effort serving our preschool!

Student Artwork at Loveland Library

Stop by the children’s section at the Loveland Library during the month of April to see the bulletin board featuring spring artwork created by Community Preschool’s students.

Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction Appreciation

We want to extend a big thank you to the individuals and businesses who graciously donated their products and services to the breakfast and silent auction. This event could not be so successful without your help!

Applebee's in Greeley	Loveland Laser Tag
Artisan You	Mrs. Martinez
Budweiser Events Center	Mrs. Miller
Butterfly Pavilion	Ms. Jodie
Candlelight Dinner Theater	Ms. Tammy
The Coffee Tree	Muse Coffee Shop
Costco	Pelican Jo's Pizzeria
Curt McDonald	Premier Gymnastics
Crane & Seager Orthodontics	R. Hansen
Dam Store	Rialto Theater
Dan Ostermiller	Rock Bottom Brewery
Denver Zoo	The Studio
Emily Weakland	The Summit
Fitness 19	Tail Wagger
Fly High Trampoline Park	Terry and Diane Hogan
Fort Collins Museum of Discovery	Vintage Willows
International Black Belt Academy	Vogue Laser Clinic
Jumpin'	Yoga Luna
Loveland Garden Center	The children and families of CPS!

Thank you to everyone for attending the breakfast and placing bids on the auction!
And a special thanks to Bernie Lucero for preparing the pancakes!



Registration for 2015–2016 Classes

We have openings in the following classes for next Fall:

- 2s Ms. Jodie's Friday (9:15–11:15 a.m.)
- 3s Ms. Jodie's Monday/Wednesday (9:00–11:30 a.m.)
- 3s Ms. Jodie's Tuesday/Thursday (9:00–11:30 a.m.)
- 4s Mrs. Martinez PM Monday/Tuesday/Thursday (12:45–3:15 p.m.)
- 4s Mrs. Miller's Pre-K Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday (9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.)

If you would like to register, please fill out a registration packet available here (tinyurl.com/CPSRegistrationPacket) and contact the class coordinator. Spread the word to your friends and family who might be looking for a great preschool as well!

Teachers

Laura Martinez
Director

Susan Miller
Assistant Director

Jodie Hamilton
Teacher

Tammy Friske
Teachers Aide

Board of Trustees

Rosa Crawford
President
970-980-5428

Chantal Febvre
VP/Special Events
970-690-7909

Hanna Copeland
Treasurer
970-219-0103

Jill Aldrich
Community Jobs
970-215-4244

Meaghanne Orejso
Development
970-443-2745

Sharel Cameron
Publicity
970-622-8907

Emily Weakland
2s and 3s Coordinator
970-222-9480

Kyla Omollo
4s Coordinator
970-412-3405



Playground Brick

Order your own commemorative brick before the May 15 deadline! And pass on the information to other family, friends, businesses, and schools who would like to leave a message in stone at Community Preschool.

A 4" x 8" brick is \$85, or an 8" x 8" brick is \$150.

Click here to access the order form now.

Playground Meeting

The next playground meeting will be held on Monday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. We welcome your participation!



Book Order for April

The Scholastic book order for the month of April will be due on Tuesday, April 28.

To place an order, go to scholastic.com/readingclub and use the code GWCML.

Playground Update

With this lovely spring weather, Community Preschool is really motivated to complete the next phase of our playground. We are evaluating the details and making decisions in hopes that we can make big strides by the end of the school year. That leaves only seven weeks so we need help from you, the Community Preschool family, and our community.

Needs List

Here is a short, though perhaps incomplete needs list. We hope it can be shortened by your generosity. If you would like more info about anything on this list, please call Emily Weakland at 970-222-9480 or e-mail by clicking [here](#).

Materials

- Substrate (mulch/pea gravel)
- Raised beds
- Soil
- Plants
- Small bridge
- Rock/gravel for dry bed
- Play equipment
- Structural fill/breeze

Labor

- Installation of benches
- Delivery/installation of raised beds
- Planting of beds
- Planting of grasses
- Rehab of west play area
- Grating/delivery of structural fill

Playground Brick Fundraiser Ending May 15

Our brick sale will soon be ending. This major fundraiser is specifically for the playground, and is your chance to leave a lasting token of your child's time at Community Preschool on the playground. Bill and Becky Porter have been working hard to spread the word about the bricks, but we need to sell a lot more to reach our goal. The last day for orders will be May 15, 2015.

The week of April 20, we will have a table with personnel to help you complete the order form, as well as quotation books for ideas. In the meantime, go to the table in the hallway to check out the sample brick as well as a list of orders already placed. Seek inspiration from those if you're stuck on what to write. The dates of attendance, names of your children, or last name are all sweet and simple options.

Next Steps

After spring break, we'll have special jars in the hall, each featuring a picture of potential equipment for the playground. Please have your kiddos vote for their favorite option with spare change. The piece with the most "votes" will win our focus for installation over the summer. The money from the other jars will be added to the playground fund. We love having our resident playground experts put in their two cents!

There will soon be a poster to lend a visual to how close we are to reaching our playground goals. Please continue to support our ongoing fundraising efforts. A percentage of all fundraising efforts is set aside for the playground. We understand that families are here for a short time and we are adamant about achieving forward progress so current students can enjoy these efforts.

Thank you for your support! Please contact Emily Weakland with any ideas or resources that might help our school attain a high-quality play area for our children to learn and grow on!

State Inspection Passed with Flying Colors

The state inspection of our preschool took place recently, and we're happy to report that there were just a few minor changes to be made, and we're set for another year.

Revised E-mail for 2s/3s Coordinator

Please note this change for the 2s and 3s Coordinator e-mail address, which goes to Emily Weakland: twosandthrees@communitypreschool.org.

Parent Survey Results

We have compiled the results from the Parent Survey completed in January. To view the entire report, please visit CommunityPreschool.org's Parent Access page, or we'd be happy to supply it to you via e-mail or in hard copy. Please e-mail Sharel Cameron at publicity@communitypreschool.org to request it.

This survey is our opportunity improve our school based on your input. Often we're used to doing things in one way, and it takes someone else pointing out a better way.

School Readiness: There was mention that the school might not be meeting the needs of children academically. Our philosophy is to ready children for kindergarten and beyond by providing a play-based, developmentally-appropriate environment. On the following pages, we have attached a list of "10 Kindergarten Readiness Skills" as supplied by the Thompson School District. We use this information to be sure that we're covering the bases necessary for students to move on in school. If you have questions or are concerned about a particular area, please have a conversation with your teacher.

Board Meetings: We received a suggestion to have quarterly meetings to gather suggestions. Our board meets monthly, and those meeting dates are publicly posted in the newsletter and on the website calendar. As a nonprofit corporation, members of the community are always welcome to attend board meetings. To discuss something in particular, please e-mail our president Rosa ahead of time to be included on the agenda. We welcome suggestions to the board at any time, and you can even do so anonymously via the general contact form on the website if you feel more comfortable.

Fundraising: It was proposed that we raise tuition instead of having ongoing fundraising. We want to keep it affordable for families to attend Community Preschool, and fundraising is always optional. All events are open for attendance regardless of whether you're able to donate or not.

Christmas Concert: We love the idea of having children go back to the classroom and being signed out by parents after the concert. We will definitely put this policy into place for next year!

School Pictures: There was negative feedback about the school pictures during the 2013–2014 school year. Please share your impressions about this year's photos by taking the School Picture Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CMZ23JL>.

Thank you again for your input. If you ever have questions, suggestions, or feedback, please contact your teacher or a board member.

Website & Facebook

Please visit Community Preschool's website for the most up-to-date information about happenings:

communitypreschool.org

Like our page on Facebook to see news, updates, and events:

facebook.com/cpsloveland



Newsletter FYI

E-mails and websites listed throughout the newsletter are "clickable." Also, forms or resources mentioned as being available on our website can be clicked to open them directly. And click on any teacher or board member listed on the directory on Page 2 to create a new e-mail to that person.

10 Kindergarten Readiness Skills

Here are the 10 kindergarten readiness skills to focus on as you work with your child. Don't be concerned if they do not have them all down before the first day of kindergarten, as they will continue to work on them throughout the year. Try a few activities listed for the skills your child might need to work on a bit more before they start school.

1. Writing

- Help your child practice writing letters, especially the letters in her name.
- Teach your child how to write her name with an uppercase first letter and the remaining letters in lowercase.
- Write in shaving cream in the bathtub, salt or sugar in a cake pan or in finger paint to make practicing more fun and multisensory.

2. Letter Recognition

- Play games to help your child recognize some letters of the alphabet.
- Play hide and seek with refrigerator magnets.
- Rather than drilling your child with flashcards, use them to play a game of alphabet go fish.

3. Beginning Sounds

- Make your child aware of the sound that each letter makes.
- Find items around the house that begin with the same sound and identify the letter that makes each sound.
- Overemphasize the first sound in words to help your child hear the individual sounds in words.

4. Number Recognition and Counting

- Count throughout the day (for example, the crackers she is eating for snack or the socks in that you take out of the dryer).
- Point out numbers you see in your environment and have your child name them (for example, the numbers found on food boxes or street signs).

5. Shapes and Colors

- If your child is having trouble recognizing certain colors, you might add a little food coloring to cookie dough, milk or vanilla pudding to emphasize those colors.
- Help your child recognize more difficult shapes such as diamonds and rectangles by showing her how to draw them on paper and cut them out.
- Play games in which your child finds objects of particular colors and shapes around the house or in the neighborhood as you drive.

6. Fine Motor Skills

- Give your child several different writing options (colored pencils, crayons or markers) to help keep her interested in writing and drawing.
- Playing with play dough is a fun way to strengthen the muscles of the hand that will be used for writing.

7. Cutting

- Purchase a good pair of child-safe scissors and let your child practice.
- Give her old magazines or newspapers to cut up, or allow her to make a collage of the things she likes by cutting them from magazines and gluing them to a piece of paper.
- Cutting play dough is also fun for children.

8. Reading Readiness

- Run your finger under the words as you read to your child to help her learn that words go from left to right and top to bottom.
- Play games with rhyming words to help your child hear similar sounds in words. For example, as you are going up the stairs, name one word that rhymes with cat for each step as you go up.

9. Attention and Following Directions

- Read lots of stories with your child and work up to reading longer chapter books, one chapter each night or as long as she remains interested and focused.
- Give your child two and three step directions. For example: "put on your

pajamas, brush your teeth and pick a book to read."

- Play Simon Says with two or three step directions. For example: "Simon Says jump up and down and shout hooray."

10. Social Skills

- Give your children opportunities to interact with other children in preschool, church or social groups or play dates.
- Teach your child how to express feelings if they don't like something.
- Role-play different situations your child might experience on the playground or at school. Help them find solutions for typical problems they might encounter.