



Parker-Chase Newsletter

PCPO (Parker-Chase Parent Organization) News

August, 2012

PCPO Officer/Committee Sign-Up:

Sign-up sheets for PCPO Officer and Committee Chairperson positions will be posted this month on each classroom's bulletin board. Please consider signing up for an officer position, committee position and/or a homeroom parent position.

Board positions are:

- President**
- Vice-President**
- Secretary**
- Homeroom Parents**

Committee positions are:

- Teacher Appreciation**
- Teacher Birthdays**
- Annual Family Picnic**
- Thanksgiving Feast**
- Parent Education**



Fundraising

Holiday Community Service Project Homeroom Parent Coordinator Communication/Newsletter

Being involved in PCPO is a wonderful opportunity to get involved in the activities that make Parker-Chase special. If you have questions about any of the board or committee positions, please see Ms. Sherry or Ms. Eilene. Also be sure to attend the "Kick-Off" meeting for PCPO's new school year on Thursday, September 13 from 5:30—6:30 p.m. in the Kiva. Parents who have held past positions will have information available about the time and job

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Mark Your Calendars

- ☺ Aug 7—Ms. Debi's (Upper Pre) 6-Year Anniversary
- ☺ Aug 12—Ms. Meg's (Upper Pre) Birthday
- ☺ Aug 14—Ms. Kirsten's (Pre-K) 3-Year Anniversary
- ☺ Aug 15—Ms. Shayla's (Tod 2) 1-Year Anniversary
- ☺ August 17—Ms. Kaylan's (Lower Pre) Birthday
- ☺ Aug 23—Ms. Nikki's (Infant 2) 2-Year Anniversary
- ☺ Aug 24—**Closed for Teacher Work Day**
- ☺ Aug 26—Ms. Meg's (Upper Pre) 10-Year Anniversary
- ☺ Aug 27—Sunshine's 10th Birthday
- ☺ Aug 30—6:00-7:30 pm Back-to-School/ Spaghetti Dinner

Math in the Home—Sorting Ideas

Learning math and science begins at birth and is especially important when children enter school—including pre-school. Parents and teachers can help encourage children's interest and curiosity in the world around them and ensure that they enjoy math and science.

Your home is full of opportunities to explore math with your child and, at the same time, build his or her self-confidence and understanding of mathematical ideas. This is a chance for you

and your child to "talk math"—to communicate about math while discovering relationships between numbers. Being able to describe mathematical patterns and relationships, such as those between "addition and subtraction" or "odd and even numbers," is important to later success in math.

Early experiences in sorting and classifying help young children notice how things are alike and different.

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PCPO News:

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requirements of positions they have held. That first meeting of the year is always a very informative meeting and a great way to get involved from the beginning of what promises to be an outstanding year!

Christmas in July:

Teacher Work Day this year is on Friday, August 24. On that Friday, Saturday, and Sunday all of the classrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and totally redecorated. Thanks to all of your fundraising efforts this year, each classroom was given \$400 per room from the money in the "Christmas in July" fund to be used by the teachers to buy anything they need for their classrooms. They have used the money to buy new manipulatives, science items, toys, games, software, books, etc. Watch all the joy on the teacher's faces as they prepare for the new school year and start piling up all of their new resources in the Kiva.

Back-to-School Night/Spaghetti Dinner—Thursday, August 30th from 6:00—7:30 p.m.:

The 31st Annual Back-to-School Night and Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Thursday, August 30th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. The purpose of Back-to-School Night is to give parents an opportunity to get to know the teachers in their child's classroom and to learn more about the goals and objectives as well as the philosophy of



the classroom. Please make EVERY effort to attend this evening. We realize that there is always going to be times where schedules conflict, but this night is not only important for you, but for staff and your children as well. It is an outstanding time to hear the details on a particular classroom, including developmental milestones, goals and other important information. Dinner tickets are available for \$7 for adults and \$4 for children for all the spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and birthday cake you can eat. Reservations are required so that Ms. Gail knows how many she is cooking for. All proceeds will go to the "Christmas in July" fund for teachers. Please plan to attend and meet all the teachers and other families.

Why have a PCPO?:

PCPO (Parker-Chase Parent Organization) is an opportunity for all parents to get involved in the many activities at Parker-Chase. It is very unusual for a school such as Parker-Chase to have a Parent's Organization, especially one that is as organized, active and as dedicated as ours! PCPO's objectives are to:

- Promote parental involvement and room-parent support,
- Provide additional developmental materials for the classrooms through the organization of fundraisers,
- Assist the Parker-Chase teachers in coordinating some of the children's activities throughout the year,
- Recognize the efforts and

dedication of the Parker-Chase staff,

- Promote a sense of community involvement and responsibility within our children,
- Provide a network of support among the parents.

Usually the general meetings are held the second Thursday of the month in the Kiva from 5:30-6:30 p.m. During the meetings we review the current activities, make decisions on upcoming events, and address any questions parents or committee leaders may have. Every parent is automatically a member of PCPO.

Any time that you can offer in support of this organization is much appreciated and it helps keep this organization alive and strong. The next PCPO meeting will be held Thursday, September 13 in the Kiva from 5:30-6:30. This is our "Kick-Off" meeting for the year. Please plan to attend and get involved from the beginning in the 2012-2013 school year! ♥

REMINDERS

1. Please sign your child in **EVERY** day—we use the Sign-In Sheets for our Emergency Drills!
2. Make sure that we have updated Immunization Records for your child. Our Health Department audit is just around the corner! Your child will not be able to attend if we have outdated information.

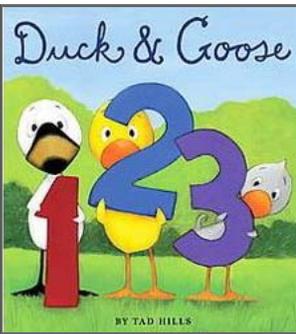
Reading Corner

What's Up, Duck? *A Book of Opposites*

By Tad Hills. Ages birth to 4.

Duck and Goose, 1, 2, 3

By Tad Hills. Ages birth to 4.



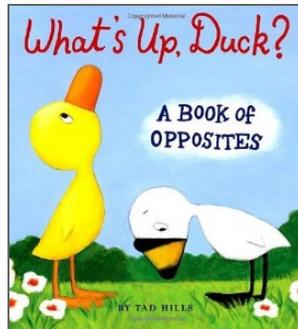
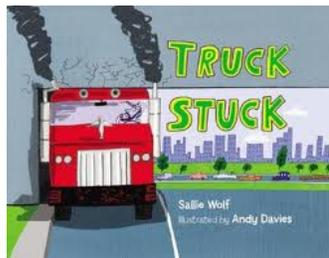
With a cast of feathered friends, Hills brings counting and opposites to life in these two board books for young children. Challenging concepts are hard to teach, but Hills uses clear examples and simple connections in both books.

Friendship between the characters is subtly addressed on each page, making the examples more engaging. Hills paints expressive faces, and his characters' big round eyes say everything, eliciting connections with readers. These playful and appealing books will encourage young readers' conversations and language development.

Truck Stuck

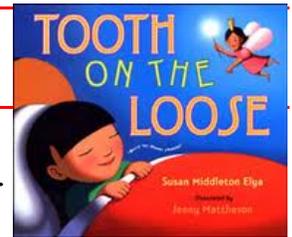
By Sallie Wolf. Ages 2 to 6.

Have you ever glanced up as you are about to drive under a low bridge and wondered what would happen if your car got stuck? In this story a truck encounters a low-hanging viaduct and does get stuck. Traffic backs up and readers see a host of interesting vehicles (recycling truck, excavator, limousine, and exterminator van to name a few), all of which are in a hurry to get moving. They have "Phones to fix. Concrete to mix. Lawns to mow. Scouts on the go." And while this vehicle lovers' paradise is engaging enough, a subplot adds richness: a lemonade stand that benefits from the bottleneck. It's the boy and girl selling the refreshments who find an interesting solution to free the truck: lowering the vehicle by deflating its tires (a real-life technique). Great dramatic tension and inventive rhyming text makes this book a knockout.

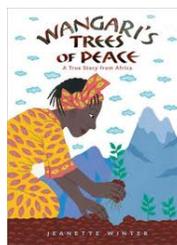


Tooth on the Loose

By Susan Middleton Elya. Ages 3 to 7.



A young girl needs to earn a dollar so she can buy a birthday gift for her papá. A loose tooth could provide the answer if it weren't stubbornly hanging on. Simple and colorful illustrations complement the fast-paced rhyming text that is sprinkled with bolded Spanish vocabulary, and the illustrations offer plenty of help in translating the words. "My brother—**hermano**—said, "**Chica**, good luck! That tooth is worth more money, un dólar—a buck." The double tension of losing a tooth and wanting to find a gift for Papá adds even more energy. "I need that tooth out today, not **mañana**. But yanking? Too painful. I tried a **manzana**...I tried to walk **perros** and give puppies **baños** to earn myself money for Dad's **compleaños!**" Just as time is running out and none of her money-making efforts are yielding success, the child's family reminds her that sometimes the best gifts can be made for free. In a poem for her father, she writes, "I have **no dinero**, this card's all I've got. But Papi, **te quiero**, I love you a lot." An upbeat and fun book!



Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa

By Jeanette Winter. Ages 5 and up.

Winter, author of *The Librarian of Basra* and other remarkable works of nonfiction for children, again delivers a true story of heroism in the face of political danger. Using language simple enough for children and choosing subjects that young readers can identify with (reforesting Kenya), Winters also connects to readers with verdant and bold illustrations.

This is the story of Wangari, a woman who realizes that deforestation is impoverishing her country's small villages by ruining the land. She starts a women's movement to plant seedlings across Kenya. Despite government opposition, Wangari keeps her important work going and is eventually recognized with the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. This inspirational story touches on themes of environmentalism, the possibility for creating great change by starting in one's own backyard, and the power of everyday women. ♥

17 Things a Five-Year-Old Should Know About Money

Children can start learning about financial basics at an early age. This fact sheet provides parents and teachers with age-appropriate concepts for teaching five-year-olds about money and its use. What you want your preschool child to know about money depends on your personal values. Here are some concepts that the Thrive by 5 task force recommends you consider teaching your preschooler:



- Spending, saving, and sharing are ways to use money.
- Buying (spending) means trading money for things.
- Saving allows you to buy something in the future because you do not have enough money today.
- People have jobs that pay money.
- Money also can come from gifts.
- You can keep money safe at home and other places.

- Paper money and coins are worth different amounts.
- Different things have different prices.
- People pay for things in different ways.
 - People have different needs and wants.
 - People have a limited amount of money to spend.
 - Money can be spent only once — after you buy something, you need more money to buy something else.
 - Planning helps people set goals and make choices about money.
 - Some things do not cost any money.
- People do some things for each other without being paid.
- People give money to help others.
- People in a community share the cost of some work done for everyone.

For more information about teaching your children about money, visit Thrive by 5. ♥

Math in the Home—Sorting Ideas

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They will apply this understanding when learning math skills in the primary grades. Here are some ways you and your child can sort and classify at home.

- ♦ Looking at favorite family photographs together can lead to many interesting sorting/classifying activities. Begin by sorting pictures into girl and boy pictures, and then try more challenging categories, such as Mom's or Dad's family members, brothers and sisters, or where people currently live. If you want to imitate how scientists classify things, try sorting into just two groups, such as cousins versus not cousins.



- ♦ Sort shopping lists according to the type of item, such as fresh vegetables, frozen foods, or cleaning

supplies. At the store, predict where each item will be located.

- ♦ Do you collect rocks—or seashells, or coins, or teddy bears? Think of ways you and your child might sort them.
- ♦ Help your child figure out a way to sort and store toys and art materials. For example, suggest keeping all the stuffed animals in one basket and trucks in another. Or sort a collection of plastic dinosaurs by carnivores versus herbivores. Use containers you have around the house—muffin tins, egg cartons, or recycled yogurt cups.



While doing these activities, keep in mind that an understanding of math and a sense that math is enjoyable will help children develop skills that they will need for success their entire lives. ♥