

Fall 2011

Volume 1, Issue 1

# Mulberry News

## Is It Really November Already?



I am having a hard time coming to grips with the date on my calendar. The fact that we will soon be in the holiday season is a little mind blowing for me and yet, we sure have packed a lot in over the past few months since school started.

**Colette and Mary Jane's PreK classes** have been exploring all things fall. The classes have been taking fall walks to discover how things are changing outside. In the next weeks they will turn to studying nutrition and all things TURKEY. The classes take an expedition to Schnucks November 10th for some research on food.

**Sue's K-1 Crew** began the school year by getting to know each other. They discovered and investigated our

local insect population. They raised caterpillars and released several Monarch Butterflies! This has been an amazing fall with many opportunities to explore the changes of the seasons and fall harvest. As we approach the last 2 months of 2011, they will focus on families, traditions and holidays through literacy and social science curriculum.

Over in Melissa's 7-Ups they have been...**READ THEIR SECTION OF THE NEWSLETTER TO FIND OUT!**

As a school we have held three major fundraising events: the yard sale, the Doggie Days Ice Cream Social and the Mulberry Scream Fun Run. Our fundraising initiatives thus far have put us right on target to make our impressive (some might say, daunting) fundraising goal for this year.

I am blown away by the efforts of the staff and families of small parent cooperative. The fact that this newsletter comes out in November — the month

of giving thanks. — is very apt. I am incredibly thankful for our cooperative team. Every family this year has contributed time, funds and good spirit to our school. There is the saying that adversity brings people together and that is evident in our situation. You all have cleaned, shopped, supervised, created, solicited funds, cheered, lifted, hauled, soothed, and laughed together to keep our school not only operating, but growing. We all together make this school what it is. Thanks for making it a great place to learn and grow — for ALL of us.

Devon

### Upcoming Events:

- Board Meeting, Nov. 14th 6:00
- Winter Soiree, Nov. 19th 6:00—11:00
- Friendship Feast, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Nutcracker Fieldtrip, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Parent Meeting, Dec. 5th
- Board Meeting, Dec. 12th 6:00

## Food Drive to Benefit Clare House

Mulberry will once again be collecting canned food and other non-perishable food items for Clare House through the month of November. Clare House provides food and other necessities to the handicapped, the elderly, veterans, the unemployed, many on fixed incomes and those who struggle on minimum wage.

We will have a drop-off box in the Commons Area at Mulberry starting Monday, November 7th. The students will talk about the collection in their classes — some of the classes actually

integrate sorting and graphing lessons into the food drive experience! The drive will culminate the day of the Friendship Feast celebrating the true spirit of Thanksgiving.

Items to donate:

- Canned foods of all kinds, including vegetables, fruit and soup;

-Dry foods, such as cereals and macaroni and cheese;

-Personal items that cannot be purchased with food stamps,

such as soap, toilet paper, shampoo;  
-Diapers, baby food and formula.



November 2011

Tuesday	1	Wednesday	16
Wednesday	2	Thursday	17
Thursday	3	Friday	18 <b>Pie Orders Due</b>
Friday	4	Saturday	19 <b>Winter Soiree 6:00</b>
Saturday	5	Sunday	20
Sunday	6	Monday	21
Monday	7 <b>7-Ups trip to BCPA</b>	Tuesday	22
Tuesday	8	Wednesday	23 <b>Friendship Feast / Dismissal at 1:00</b>
Wednesday	9	Thursday	24 <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>
Thursday	10 <b>PreK trip to Schnucks</b> -- <b>Teacher Lunch Mtg</b>	Friday	25 <b>No School</b>
Friday	11	Saturday	26
Saturday	12	Sunday	27
Sunday	13	Monday	28
Monday	14 <b>Board Mtg 6:00</b>	Tuesday	29
Tuesday	15	Wednesday	30
		Thursday	31

*Pie Anyone?*

Pie sales have officially begun. You will find an order form in your child's backpack this week that includes a description of the pies and breads for sale from Bob Evans and an order form on the reverse side.

Let your pie-buyers know that the goods will be available for pick-up at the Bob Evans located on Veteran's Parkway near the intersection of GE Road on Wednesday, November 23 between 2:00 and 6:00 PM.

Ask neighbors and co-works if they are interested in getting in on the pie-action. The pies and breads available are delicious and a nice way to make holiday preparations a little easier.

Thanks Melanie Morefield for making this happen!



Mulberry Dusk to Dark  
Fundraising Team Winner:  
*The Hounds of the  
Mulberryville!*

Thanks to all teams – we surpassed our fundraising goal bringing in over \$7K on our 5K!

## Friendship Feast 2011

Thanksgiving is approaching quickly. At Mulberry we like to have our own version of Thanksgiving which we call the Friendship Feast. This is an all school event. Half-day PreK will have an extended day so that they can join us. They will be dismissed after they are finished eating (12:30).

We will need some parents to help with the Friendship Feast on **Wednesday Nov. 23th**. The teachers and the children will be doing most of the cooking, but we will need some help on Wednesday. We will need people to cook (1- 2 chefs to cook turkey and noodles around 9am), set up & serve (4-5), and clean up (3-4). We will also need one family willing to drop off our food drive donations to Clare House following the Feast. Sign up sheet in the vestibule.

The timeline of our day:  
 · 11:00 – We will need about 4-5 people to bring out long tables and set them in the commons. They will also need to “raid” classrooms for chairs and

make sure that there is a spot for each of our 66 children. Our helper parents will then set the tables with placemats, napkins and plastic ware. Children will be seated in groups by class.  
 · 11:45 – The children will be performing short songs or poems. We will need parents to form a serving line and carry plates of food to the tables for the children. We plan to eat at around 12:00pm.

· 12:00 – Mulberry students are served. We are planning on preparing just enough food for our Mulberry student and teachers; however, if there are extras then after the students have finished eating, you may sample the leftovers.

- Clean up - As the feast winds down, we will need parents to pitch in and help clean up. We will need to dispose of the garbage, wash the dishes and put them away, and restore the tables and chairs to the original classrooms.

· 1:00 – Students are dismissed early at 1pm. You are welcome

to leave once the feast is over. There is no aftercare provided on this day.

Parents are welcome to attend. If you are coming, please plan on helping in one of the above mentioned ways. Sign up sheet in the vestibule. We will dismiss at 1pm.

The menu is as follows:

Turkey and Noodles

Corn muffins and homemade butter (Colette's class)

Stuffing (MaryJane's class)

Mashed Potatoes & Jello Fruit Salad (Sue's class)

Pumpkin Dessert & Green Bean Casserole (Melissa's class)

Apple Juice and water



Sue's Crew examines equipment on one of Normal's fire engines during Fire Safety Awareness Day.

## Cold and Flu Season

Although sickness isn't anything we like to think about, it is that time of year. As such here is a reminder about Mulberry's illness policy:

Parents are responsible for notifying the teacher if your child has contracted a contagious disease. If

your child appears to be ill or has a fever or vomiting, keep him or her at home. Wait to send your child back to school until he or she is fever and symptom free for at least 24 hours.

Please Note: SICK CHILDREN WILL BE SENT HOME. Children sent home from school with a fever stay home the next day until they are fever and symptom free for 24 hours.



## Parent Hour Opportunities

We still need a few families to help out with cleaning in November and December. We have hired two ISU students to help with cleaning, but we could use some regular assistance on Tuesdays and Fridays on the following tasks:

- ⇒ Emptying trash cans
- ⇒ Cleaning PreK bathrooms
- ⇒ Cleaning floors in lunch areas
- ⇒ Vacuuming carpets in all areas of the school
- ⇒ Other miscellaneous tasks requested by staff

Interested parents can sign up on the new cleaning calendar in the foyer.

ALSO:

LUNCH help on Tuesdays and Fridays in December.

Mulch spreading in the playground



## Reminders...

⏪ Please remember our **parking lot** etiquette: circle around counterclockwise when entering the lot; park in a space and come get your child from the porch at pick-up time. *It is too risky for kids to run across the parking lot to meet you at your car.*

⏪ Remember to start equipping your child with mittens, gloves and dare I say snow boots (ack!). That season is upon us and we will continue to have outside recess unless we have bitter cold temperatures or windchill.

⏪ **Birthday Invites:** please mail or hand deliver these to parents rather than putting them in backpacks or cubbies at school. If the whole class isn't invited to an event, uninvited children feel left out. Also, there have been times when invites in cubbies didn't make it into the hands of the parents.

⏪ Tune into WJBC for school closings and late openings. We align with District 87 on closings.

### *Winter Soiree Donations still needed*

- *Wine or spirits for ring toss game*
- *Gift cards (\$5, 10, 15)*

### *Remember to RSVP*



