



## Cinnamon Street Annual Meeting

Volume XIV Issue 1

January 2007

Cinnamon Street's Annual Meeting held Thursday, December 7, 2006 was attended by many staff and family members. The Board, the Director, and the Committees reported on accomplishments of this past year, the budget was presented, and candidates for the Executive Board were elected. Each adult family member of our cooperative was eligible to vote during this annual meeting.

Highlighted was the work that went into preparing for accreditation. We discussed what being an accredited center meant and what would go into maintaining this prestigious honor. We reviewed facility repairs and improvements and discussed the change to the *Creative Curriculum*, which provides a play based learning model with plenty of assessment measures. Be sure to sign up for a parent teacher conference to learn more about this new curriculum

As is custom at our annual meeting, we dedicated our Annual Report to an individual, in this case a family,



(L to R) David, Colby, and Karen Little receive the "Little Bear Room" dedication from Michele Caccavaro.

who has served Cinnamon Street well. This year we recognized the Little family's many hours of contribution as board members, committee chairs, and overall volunteer time. They have been involved with Cinnamon Street for over 10 years, including this year when Colby was no longer going to Cinnamon Street. As a token of our appreciation the Board renamed the "Kare" Bear room (infant/ toddler room) to the

"Little" Bear room.

The evening ended with all kinds of treats provided by families. It was nice to see some of our new parents attend this meeting and express an interest in getting involved. Family involvement and a high quality, dedicated staff is what has kept Cinnamon Street serving this community since 1994 .

---Michele Caccavro, President

### Cinnamon Street Executive Board

President-

Michele Caccavaro

Vice President-

Michelle Boucher

Secretary- Lori Menard

Members-at-Large

Sherri Bonfiglio

Shane Koumrian

Angela Patno

*Street Talk* is published regularly in the interest of Cinnamon Street families, staff, and supporters. *Street Talk* is produced by the Cinnamon Street Public Relations Committee.

Cinnamon Street Committees give you the opportunity to take an active role in your child's education! Sign up for one today!

Finance

Program

Fund Raising

Building

Annual Campaign

Safety

Staff Support

Public Relations

### It's a Parade!

Let Patti know if you can help with our Newport Winter Carnival parade float — see the Director's News on page 4 for more info!

## The Little Bears (Kare Bears) (6 weeks-3 years) Suzie Truell, Heidi Pill

We've been busy little people in the Little Bears Room. Every child is marching along on their developmental continuum. Visiting, using the potty, adding to his or her vocabulary, "driving" cars all over the room, while some are learning to walk, and some are scootching from one area to the next. One Little Bear is fun to watch because she has recently found her hands; she'll stare at them forever! Do you need something carried? Then we have a child who is always collecting up things to stow in a basket and carry around!

Would you like to hear more about your child's growth and development, and how their caregivers are supporting them? Suzie and Heidi would love to schedule a conference with you.

Wish list: 100% juice

## Teddy Bear News (6 weeks-3 years) Liz Bates

The Teddy Bears' main goal is to have fun! Please make sure to pack lots of extra play clothes for the inevitable messes that go along with toddler play! We also need our winter gear, [even though snow seems to be rather scarce so far, the playground is still wet]. Also, because the playground is shady and on the other side of the fence is a rushing river, we can still get cold. Now on to the most important things, the kids! One Teddy Bear can't get enough snow, ice and puddles. She likes to put toys into the small puddles and then watch the water level rise. Another likes anything he can manipulate with his small hands. He is newly two and has mastered all the puzzles! One has discovered how to turn the lights on and off. He turns them off and then runs like crazy in the dark! And we have our storyteller. He recalls any event and retells it in vivid detail! Still another is very excited to be playing in small groups and working with his friends to complete shared goals. A few examples are intricate block towers and group art projects.

## Koala Bear News (3-5 years) Becky King, Kelly Kiblin and Kathy the SAU Aide

The Koala room has been quite busy. We've been exploring light. We hung lights all over the room and used flash-lights with the lights off. It was fun dancing with our shadows!

Have you heard your children reciting nursery rhymes? They learned *Mary had a Little Lamb* and made lamb puppets to match. They can recite *Humpty Dumpty* by heart AND act it out! The crowning glory was making and eating scrambled eggs.

We enjoyed the little bit of snow we had, making snow angels and some of the kids sang songs about Christmas.

We've redecorated our room, adding a fireplace. Doesn't it look like a cozy living room? The children are enjoying the new environment as well as the dress up area. If you'd like to come and relax or get all dressed up, stop in!

We are wishing for more snow!

## Polar Bear News (3-5 years) Amy McIntyre, Wanda George

What wild weather we have had lately! Although winter is officially here we are finding that it is warmer than usual, though we still need to wear [or at least bring] all our winter gear. We are taking advantage of this weather by exploring water and sand on the playground with the occasional ice.

Indoors we've really gotten into dancing and using musical instruments; tapping out our names on the drum or with the tambourine. *I Care Cat* helps us with our social skills. Just ask your child about the *I Care Rules*, they're working very hard on them.

Would you like to know how your child is progressing in their preschool experience? Please talk with Amy or Wanda about scheduling a conference.

## Panda Bear News (Kinders & up) Kelly Meunier

Have you seen the Panda fort the children fashioned and painted? It is a fun place to hang out with a friend or just be by yourself. All the children are working on using restaurant manners and cleaning up after themselves. They like to be responsible. In our room we have our performer; he makes a stage out of blocks and then rocks out! And the problem solver, give him any puzzle and it's done. He also builds the most amazing structures in the block. Area. One is a true artist. She enjoys any art project we have out and is showing a strong interest in drawing her own pictures. Our dancing queen loves dancing to the cds and has even brought in her own to share with us. Our journalist's favorite time of the day is reading and writing time. And there's the Panda who loves our treasure hunt game. He can always figure out the hiding place with only a few clues!

The hunt is still on for a permanent After Kinder teacher. However Kudos are due to Jenn for the excellent job she is doing with the children and the classroom environment.

## Big Bear News (1st grade—12 years) Heather Blake

We are thrilled to be playing with lots of new equipment! We have a full-sized basketball hoop, with plenty of basketballs, that gets plenty of use during the warm spells we've been having. We also received rainbow jumpers, bungee jumpers, scooters and hilltops. The hilltops are wicked cool; they can be set up either indoors or out. The kids love placing them around the room and trying to traverse through the room without touching the floor or knocking each other off. We'd like to give Patti a big thank you for writing the grant to the Healthy New Hampshire organization and the HNH for awarding us the \$2,000!

We went to the Montshire Museum in Norwich, VT during the Christmas break where we learned more about our solar system during a special presentation. What a great place to have hands on learning experience!

The children have personal weekly goals for which they can earn a reward if the goal is met. If they haven't met their goal, they can choose to continue working on it for another week or move onto something else. Why not ask your child what his goal is?

Most of the group worked on listing their ideas of classroom boundaries. They have done a great job of keeping to them and reminding each other of them when needed. Good work kids!

This upcoming month is full of fun cooking projects and creative art experiences. We've recently gotten a ton of art supplies and we are an ingenious bunch! I am also planning to rearrange the room and institute some special activity days.

Reminders: Remember to note on the parent calendar any schedule changes or appointments. Encourage your child to dress weather appropriately [we play out every day].

Thanks for the yummy baked goodies.

**See What's Happening at our Website:**

**[CinnamonStreet.org](http://CinnamonStreet.org)**

**Visit [CinnamonStreet.org](http://CinnamonStreet.org) for more information about Cinnamon Street programs, staff, volunteer opportunities and links to local, state and national child-related websites.**

## Director's News

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Thank you to all who attended this year's Annual meeting held on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The officers of your Executive Board are:

**President: Michele Caccavaro**

**Vice President: Michelle Boucher**

**Secretary : Lori Menard**

The Members at Large are: **Angela Patno**

**Shane Koumrian**

**Sherri Bonfiglio**

**Treasurer Needed** You may notice that there is no Treasurer, this office still has not been filled. If you have accounting experience, or are interested in learning more about how Cinnamon Street's finances are managed, please see me or drop a note in Dave Little's parent box or Michele Caccavaro's president box. The Finance Committee meets every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 5:00.

**Healthy New Hampshire Grant For After School Age Play Equipment** I have been busy writing grants. Cinnamon Street was just recently awarded a significant amount of cash to spend on active play equipment for the after school group. Healthy New Hampshire is interested in promoting healthy, active lifestyles for young people and so are we! The after school group has been having a blast with their new items.

**NH Charitable Foundation Strategic Planning Grant** We have also received a cash award to use toward the strategic planning and training needed in order to expand Cinnamon Street's before and after school programming. At last year's annual 'Retreat to Advance' much energy went to the idea of promoting, planning and marketing an expanded 'Out of School Time' program. Toward that end, **Plus Time NH** is assisting me in the grant writing and leg work necessary to start up a before school- on school grounds program for Towle and Richards children. The projected start of this program could be as early as Feb/March of this year. Do you know of a family who may need this type of support? Please have them give me a call.

**The Newport Winter Carnival** Do you love a parade? Of course you do; EVERYONE does! Volunteer to help build our Cinnamon Street entry in Winter Carnival parade. Kids and families alike enjoy riding on our float every year! This year's parade is Saturday, February 10. You can also contribute by: Coming up with artistic ideas

Using your talents to design our float

Donating candy to throw to the crowds

Offering hay bales to sit on

Driving your pick- up with a load of kids and grown ups

This year's Winter Carnival theme is Space Odyssey; hmmm, that brings me *way back...*

*Patti Harford*, Director of Early Childhood Education