



TCNS Notes

New: Terrific Twos Program

The school year has hardly ended and I am already excited about next fall! This fall is especially exciting with our new Terrific Twos program opening. I am looking forward to a fun-filled year working with Liz Kinast and six terrific two-year olds. We'll provide a rich stimulating environment for these students to learn through our play based curriculum.

A typical day will be full of opportunity for the children to explore and learn through free play and teacher directed activities. We will have themed projects with lots of room for creative expression. Each day we will join together for an age appropriate circle time, including music, finger plays and storytelling. At TCNS we strongly believe in the importance of getting outside for exploring and discovering, so we



will include outside playtime each day and inside large motor play during inclement weather. We'll enjoy a healthy snack, and conclude each morning with reading time.

Including parents in our curriculum is an important part of TCNS and will continue in the Terrific Twos classroom. Parents will be scheduled to assist each Thursday at the end of the day to help with weekly cleaning of toys and classroom chores. We also invite the cooperating parents to join for quiet reading time.

We are very excited to start the upcoming year as we spend time this summer planning in preparation for our terrific twos!

-Jackie Puleo

Welcome!
Liz Kinast



TCNS has been a wonderful first school experience for my eldest daughter, Maura. I have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with her class as a volunteer. Now, I'm thrilled to join TCNS as teacher in the Terrific Two's program.

For the last several years, I've held a casual toddler group in my home with my two daughters, Maura and Sadie, and a friend's, who falls between mine in age. The toddler years are such an exciting time of exploration and discovery. There's never a dull moment! I look forward to helping your children grow and sharing in their energy and wonder.

After graduating from Wake Forest University in 1999, my husband, Matt, and I moved back to my hometown of Ithaca and haven't wanted to leave since. Both Ithaca and Trumansburg are wonderful places to raise a family and I look forward to helping TCNS continue to be an integral part of these communities. Expanding our programs to include toddlers is such an exciting opportunity for TCNS, our students, and families. I know Jackie and I are going to have a lot of fun!!

- Liz Kinast



New FUNdraising



This year we had one of our most successful fundraising years ever. TCNS continues to seek out fundraising activities that not only help meet our budget, but offer fun family activities to the local area. Our Fun with Santa event during the Trumansburg WinterFest has been a tradition among families for many years. This year we added a new event; a Saturday morning concert by Mrs. McPuppet in early March.

The Presbyterian Chapel was packed with children and families as Mrs. McPuppet (*Elizabeth McMahan*) delighted audience members with her unique musical storytelling style. Dressed for an afternoon tea party, Mrs. McPuppet brought her wicker baskets and suitcases full of surprises. She regaled the group with their favorite songs from her musical collection. Her show was a big hit among both adults and children. Mrs. McPuppet even shared some tips and creative ideas for reproducing her props at home.

We hope Mrs. McPuppet will return next spring to share her talents with us again. Meanwhile, please visit her website (<http://www.mrspuppet.com>) to learn more and view her schedule.

-Deb Austic

Scholarship Winner

Monica Cooley

I spent two very happy years at Trumansburg Community Nursery School (TCNS). My second year I was old enough to go to Kindergarten, but Carol recommended that I stay at TCNS for a second year.

That next fall, I was nervous. My friends were now in Kindergarten, and I had to meet all new kids. Thank goodness for Carol's welcoming hug, the familiar fish tanks with frogs and lizards, the sand table and the old piano that sat in the corner in the room. I can still picture the scene in my mind.

I sat down at the old piano, plunking out some notes, not sure what would happen next. A girl named Abby with bright blonde hair came and asked if she could sit next to me at the piano. I moved over and we started to bang out a song that sounded nothing like "twinkle, twinkle little star" but it made me feel happy. We became fast friends and although we grew apart as the years went by, I still consider her my good friend.

When I did go to the "big school" it was determined that I have a learning disability. My love of learning began at TCNS, has been fostered over the years by dedicated teachers in Trumansburg. I learned compensating skills that allowed me to be very successful in school.

I plan to attend SUNY Fredonia this fall as an Early Childhood Inclusive Education major. My plan is to go on to get a Masters in Music Therapy. I hope to help young children with disabilities learn to express themselves with music, maybe on an old piano that sits in a corner of a place as wonderful as TCNS. *-Monica Cooley*

At right: TCNS students enjoy collaborating on the piano.





A COMMUNITY VENTURE

A myriad of flies swarmed around a table set out on the grass. Six mothers sat undistracted, moving their hands back and forth rhythmically on short blocks of wood. They were sanding and smoothing the blocks with more energy than one would have thought possible on a hot August day. A father worked with numerous wood scraps attempting to keep a constant supply of uniform pieces passed on to the industrious women.

This sanding and sawing session was the beginning of a community venture; a work session of interested parents to paint, sand, repair and create playthings for children. It was the start of T.C.N.S.

Some citizens said of the prospect of a nursery school for pre-schoolers:

“It can’t be done. This community will never be able to support it. There won’t be enough interest.”

True, there were formidable obstacles to overcome. One of the most difficult problems facing a nursery school which starts from scratch was building up a stock of sturdy and versatile equipment. Finances were limited, but our enthusiasm and resoluteness were boundless. Many parents, who felt their children were isolated in the country, wanted to see a Nursery School started. Parents came to help, and through their contributions, creativity and skills we pulled together a base of equipment. Careful planning and judicious spending brought the total bill for our equipment to \$109.63. Not bad, for a group starting from scratch!

A critical aspect of setting up the Nursery School was to make the tuition reasonable enough to appeal to a moderate income community. And the Nursery School had to be financially sound. One way we accomplished this was by drawing on parents for assistance in the actual day to day operation of the Nursery School. Mothers, fathers and even grandparents, became an integral part of the School's program as “participating parents.”

One mother commented, “The School is a vital place because the parents have almost as much interest in it as their children. When we see not only our own children, but others enjoying themselves and developing their creative and social skills, we cannot help but be enthusiastic! And, we get ideas for activities we can do together at home.”

Excerpted from an article written by Joan Anderson (formerly Colle). Joan was a founder of the Trumansburg Cooperative Nursery School in 1959. She helped draw together interested parents and approached the Community Council to get support for starting the school. She became the school's first Director, and over the next ten years served alternately in the capacity of Teacher and Director. Three of her children attended the school.



Thank You!

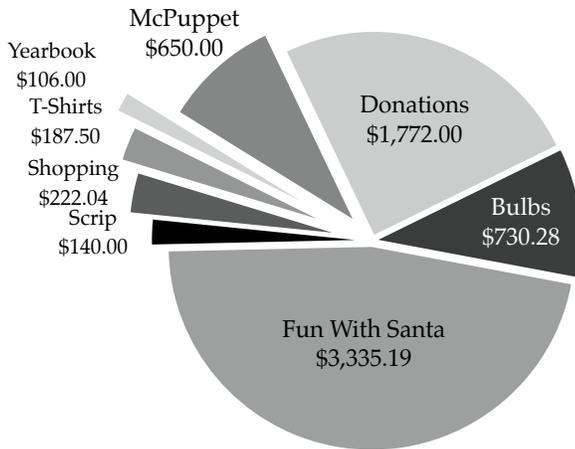
Thanks to the countless efforts of our talented and dedicated group of parents who raised over \$7000 to supplement our budget. TCNS is committed to ensuring that quality preschool education remains accessible to all families in our community by keeping tuition low and providing scholarships to eligible students. A special thanks to our Board of Trustees who oversee T.C.N.S. with diligence and good humor.

Thank you to The First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses for renting us the space in their church and supporting us. We also wish to thank Scott and Amy Dawson for their work on our Web site and newsletter.



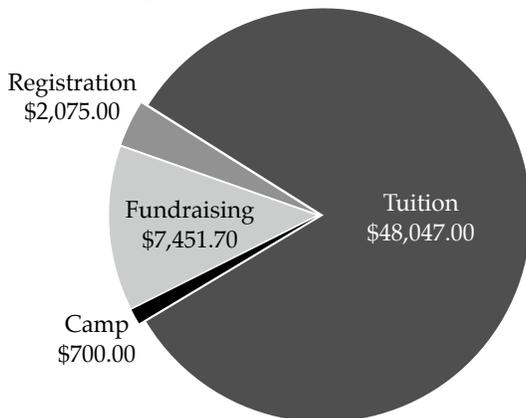
Fundraising

September 2009 - June 2010



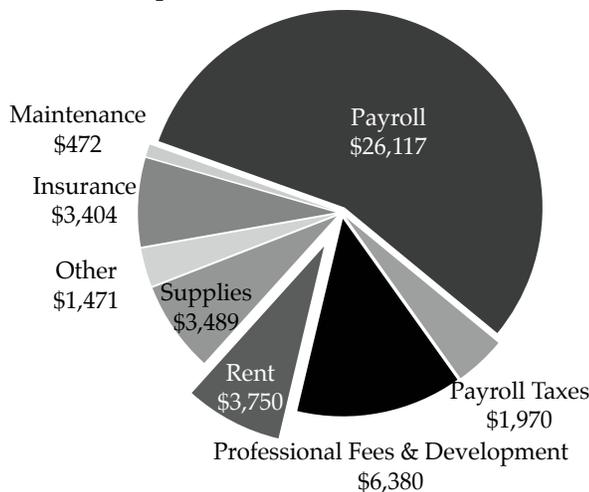
Income

September 2009 - June 2010



Expenses

September 2009 - June 2010



Kids' Corner



One of the most exciting things for many TCNS children is having the opportunity to "write" their own stories and share with their teachers and peers during circle time! It is their chance to share all the thoughts in their head, and get to stand on the special block as their teachers read aloud to the group.

Unicorns *by Anna*

Unicorns sleep in my bed. They take me for trail rides to the farmer's market. The unicorns eat pumpkins!

Snakes *by Zach*

I go on a lot of adventures. I love going in the forest, because I love snakes. I like to eat snakes! I love the red ones. We cook them with a stove, and turn on the hot stuff, and burn the snake and eat it for dinner! Suzanne likes to eat snakes; grandma too! My mother likes to eat green snakes with pepper on it. I love to eat snakes because I love to eat grass!

Happy Birthday *by Jackson*

There was a snake. He was going around in the dirt, and he was talking to his friends. "Happy Birthday!" It was his friend's birthday. His mommy bought a special birthday cake with a cow on top. And then his friends were coming over. His daddy came over and said to his snake friends "Oh, you don't hit your friends. Just be nice to them!" Then the cow ate the snake's friends!

Dinosaur Babies *by Mary*

The dinosaur landed on Joan. It flew away. It came back. And it flew away again, but then it had to go home. It lives in a round nest made of sticks and eggs. Ten eggs. And then the babies hatched, and it didn't do anything. And that was the end.



THINKING OF OTHERS

This year at TCNS the children and families supported community programs through collections at school. During the holidays, we collected socks for the "Warm Feet, Warm Hearts" in conjunction with Jacksonville Community United Methodist Church. These socks were donated to Catholic Charities. We donated over 100 pairs of socks. We took a field trip the Ulysses Philomathic Library to the SPCA's pet friend and gave our donation. We made homemade dog biscuits to share with a pet friend. Our last collection of canned and dry goods was for the local food pantry at the Trumansburg Methodist Church.

We collected 54 food items for the Food Pantry which in turn received an additional \$1 donation for each item. The children learned about helping others along with using their math skills in counting socks and cans. It was heartwarming to see the children bring in the goods to help others in the community.



FAMILY FUN & FIELD TRIPS

Don't Miss Fun with Santa

Saturday December 4th
Silent Auction, Kids' Activities

2009-2010 Field Trips

Hike to Taughannock falls (fall & spring), SPCA story hour at Ulysses library, Juniper Manor Halloween parade, Sapsucker Woods, P& S Excavating/Cayuga Compost, Trumansburg Fire Station, Trumansburg Elementary Kindergarten tour, bus ride & safety presentation.

2009-2010 Family Fun

Back-to-school family picnic, monthly parent committee meetings with discussion on discipline and FLIP-IT and Kindergarten readiness, Special Person's Night, Sibling Night, Dessert Social, Graduation Celebration. 2 one-week themed summer camps: *Under the Sea* and *Circus*.

T.C.N.S PARENT COMMITTEE

We've had another successful year at TCNS! We've found that creating parent jobs has worked out really well. Instead of having to put in volunteer hours, parents just sign up for one job to do during the year. It's an easier way for parents to put in their participation hours in a way that fits their schedule.

We had lots of great fundraisers. We kicked off fall with our annual flower bulb and T-shirt sales. We enjoyed Fun with Santa in the Winter, and then we tried something new for the Spring. Instead of our annual Big Fun at the Fairgrounds, we had Mrs. McPuppet put on a show for us in March. She was a lot of fun, very interactive, and the kids loved it! We also had a kid's sale and chicken BBQ in June. All were successful events!



We decided to try something new and meet a lot in the Fall, take a break in the Winter while we were all busy, and then meet again in the Spring. We had two meetings with discussion groups on "Flip-It Discipline" and one on "Kindergarten Readiness." We've found that having open discussions on current topics for families have worked really well. We've all enjoyed learning and gaining ideas from each other in a comfortable place.

Kasey and I will be moving on next year as all of our kids will be in the "big school." We'd like to welcome Christine Burton as your next Parent Committee President. She brings lots of TCNS experience with her and has been very involved in our meetings and events at TCNS. Best wishes to all of you as you start the next school year! -Sue Peters



EVENT DONORS

Thank you to all the businesses and individuals who helped make our Fun with Santa events possible. We could not run these events without your generous donations. We extend a special thank-you to **Dick Durling** and **Vince Puleo** for playing Santa at *Fun with Santa*.

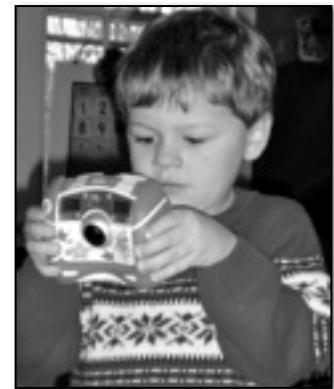
Acorn Designs - Allison's Acres - Alphabet Soup - Americana Vineyards & Winery - April Wright, personal trainer - Artisan Café - Bed, Bath & Beyond - Bellwether Hard Cider Co. - Black Bird Studios - Bodyworks - Buffalo Street Books - Caribou Consulting - Carriage House - Cayuga Creamery - Cayuga Nature Center - Chili's Bar & Grill - Cornell Lab of Ornithology - Cost Cutters - Damiani Wine Cellars - Durand's Forge - Eastern Mountain Sports - Emoticakes by Amy Dawson - Erhart Propane & Gas - Finger Lakes Grassroots Festival -

Gamespeople - Gimme Coffee - Glen Theater - Glenwood Pines - Greek Peak Mountain Resort/Hope Lake Lodge - GreenStar Cooperative Market - Hazelnut Kitchen - Heads Up Salon - Hilton Garden Inn - Holiday Inn - Home Depot - Island Health & Fitness - Ithaca Agway - Ithaca Bakery - John Joseph Inn & the Elizabeth Restaurant - Juniper Hill Bed & Breakfast - Kinney Drugs - Knitting Etc. - Luann Swanhard - Linda Lerch - Ludgate Farms - Mama Goose - Maxie's Supper Club - Megan VanNess - Millspaugh Bros. - Moe's Southwest Grill - New York Pizzeria - Northside Wine & Spirits - O'Malley's Restaurant - Palmer Pharmacy - Papa John's Pizza - Pourhouse - Purity Ice Cream - Queen Bee Confections - Rasa Spa - Red Feet - Regal Cinemas - Rent-a-Flick - Rogan's Corner - Ron Don's - Roundabout Designs - Salmon Pottery - Samurai Japanese Restaurant - Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts - Sciencenter - Sheldrake Point Winery - Shursave - Sicilian Delight - Stonecat Café - Sundrees - Suvi Designs - Sweetland Farms - Trumansburg Mini Golf - The Community Recreation Center - The Kitchen Theater - The State Theater - Thirsty Owl Wine Company - Vine Garden Designs - Wegmans

Bringing Preschoolers into the Digital Age

Last summer TCNS received a \$350 grant from the TCSD Foundation to help purchase digital photography equipment for our classroom. The grant provided us with a digital photo frame, two fisher price digital preschool cameras, a photo printer and supplies.

The digital photo frame was a favorite of the children all year, allowing students the reassurance of familiar images of their families. These cameras were introduced in October and became a favorite activity for many. Children were eager to share the cameras and take pictures of each other, capturing their play. This had the additional benefit of providing a forum for them to interact in new ways, allowing children who generally didn't play together to pose, share photos, or discuss technical aspects of the camera's operation.



While the quality of the photos produced by the children's cameras was not high, the students enjoyed scanning through the many pictures on the camera. Because many of their shots were taken at odd angles or missing identifying features, we were able to create our own "I Spy" and "Guess Who" games with their photos. Amazingly, they were quick to identify many of the abstract photos! The photo printer was invaluable in helping us print multiple copies of photos for the classroom and for children to take home. We could capture play and publish our own books, including a wonderful book about feelings in which the children were the models, photographers, and writers! -*Deb Austic*



Director's Corner



It's been another busy and rewarding year at TCNS! We are so excited about the new Terrific Two's classroom starting this fall. We're always looking for new ways to meet the needs of families in the community and this program is a wonderful addition to TCNS! This program lets us to test the waters for expansion as we continue to explore future possibilities. Our goal is to continue to respond to the needs of families within our community, providing a safe and nurturing environment for children and families.

We had a wonderful treat this year when TCNS alumni Chelsey Kenney spent three months with us doing an internship for BOCES. Our teachers, families and children thoroughly enjoyed the time she spent with us. Everyone at TCNS wishes her luck as she continues her education to become a preschool teacher. We're confident her future students will enjoy her as much as we did!

We were also fortunate this year to be able to send all of our staff to attend the NYS AEYC conference in April. Everyone enjoyed the weekend packed full of wonderful training and creative ideas. We were able to implement some of our new inspiration at the end of the school year and are looking forward to more opportunities to put our training into practice this fall.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who continues to support TCNS, allowing us to continue to be a strong part of our community. To our faithful board, hard-working families, dedicated community members, and the wonderful children who make everything worthwhile: THANKS! - Deb Austic

TCNS Supporters

July 2009 - June 2010

We thank the individuals, & groups for donations. Your donations help us continue to offer quality Nursery School programming, provide children with Scholarships, and keep our dream for the Trumansburg Children's Center moving forward. As you contemplate your 2010 charitable gifts, please consider donating to T.C.N.S. You may make your tax-deductible donation online at www.tcns.info.

- Scott and Melanie Andrew
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Sarah Brainard Joins the T.C.N.S. Staff



I am thrilled to be joining the teaching staff at TCNS! I have a degree in Elementary Education

along with studies completed in Early Childhood at a Masters level. My past work experience includes positions as an assistant manager of a child care center, a preschool teacher and as well as an Education Coordinator. Since 2007 I have worked at TCNS as a parent helper, substitute and served on the Board of

Directors. I am a member of the National Association for the Education of the Young Child. I am the Christian Education Coordinator at the Jacksonville Community United Methodist Church where I teach Sunday School to toddlers and preschoolers.

I value the parent cooperative aspect of TCNS since the child's first teacher is their parent. As my children have been a part of TCNS, it has been great to be able to be in the classroom with them. I look forward to working with the families and children at TCNS this year.

-Sarah Brainard

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