



# TCNS Notes

## Outdoor Improvements



Our parents and teachers have been working to improve our drainage on the playground and install a rain barrel to encourage outdoor sand and water play. We expanded our mown area to make space for the two-year olds to play, and purchased a toddler sand box and climber for the younger children.

Thanks to the expertise of Bill Kappel we now have a beautiful brick patio outside our back door, built from bricks salvaged from Main Street. FPCU church members removed the old concrete path, using the concrete to create a wall for the patio. Then our TCNS parents spread gravel and sand, and hauled bricks so that Bill could lay the patio. Bill described how he recovered the bricks from numerous dump locations and carefully cleaned each one. We now have a lovely area for growing plants and doing outdoor projects when the weather is nice!

We hope to continue our improvements with the addition of a natural shelter built from branches, a couple of child-sized

picnic tables, and benches for parents. With the expansion of our mown area, we'd like to add to our flower gardens and plant some patio pots with flowers and edibles. We're looking forward to the many opportunities for outdoor exploration our new patio and playground expansion have to offer!

*-Deb Austic*

This past fall a group of parents, teachers and community members got together and were able to make a number of improvements to our playground and outdoor space. True to the parent cooperative spirit, a large group of parents showed up the weekend before school started to mow, weed, move dirt, rocks, sand, and bricks. We were able to turn an old railroad tie into a bench for the sandbox and one brave parent climbed a tree to remove some dead limbs that were hanging over the swing set!

We also took down an old wooden climbing structure, replaced the snow fencing with metal fence, and built a small climbing wall.

### Donation Update

You may have noticed that the usual donation envelope is missing from your newsletter this year. This is another effort we are making at TCNS to reduce our waste. We realized that we were sending out a large number of envelopes that often ended up in the recycling or landfill. This seemed pretty wasteful. We already receive donations sent with a friendly note or hand delivered without donation envelopes and want to encourage our friends and supporters to use the convenient online donation. Visit our website [www.tcns.info](http://www.tcns.info) to make a donation by credit card or with an existing paypal account.

This will save trees and reduce the cost to produce and mail our newsletter, resulting in more resources for our children!

### Don't Miss Fun with Santa

Saturday December 3rd 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Silent Auction, Kids' Activities

Help us go green! Donate online:<http://www.tcns.info>



## Scholarship Winner

*Shelby Hallman*

One of my fondest memories from nursery school is playing on the wooden structure with my class. We would run around making up imaginary games that centered around the structures. Interacting with others was such a big part of my life, setting the foundation for later years.



The friends that I made during nursery school have remained close. Those bonds that were formed have only strengthened over the years, growing into what will hopefully be lifelong friendships. As important as these bonds is the ability to get along with others that I learned at an early age. With all the new experiences that are in my future, such as college, it will be crucial to be able to adapt and feel comfortable in the new environment. Being able to make new friends will make that transition so much easier. If put into an unfamiliar situation, I know that I will be able to reach out and connect to others, making the situation less intimidating. The cooperation and adaptability that came with working with other people my age will also be important for late in life, whether in college or in my career someday.

I do not know what my future holds beyond college, but I take comfort in knowing that the life skills that I need were instilled in me at an early age. Along with these skills I will be able to face all the unknowns.

*(Shelby is attending Penn State University in fall)*

## Literacy Through Storytelling

Two of our teachers, Sarah Brainard and Liz Kinast, attended the Learning Early Network Conference in Sayre, PA, in April. The conference included a keynote presentation and hands-on workshops designed to train early childhood educators.

One session focused on oral language development and emphasized the importance of reading and storytelling with children. Research has shown that success in life is based upon literacy, which is in turn based on an individual's ability to hear the rhythms and patterns in speech. Talking to children in a normal voice, using increasingly challenging vocabulary, reading stories, and doing fingerplays all help children recognize patterns in speech and connect them to the written word. A key factor in developing oral language is visual comprehension, or the ability to create mental pictures from hearing words.

One of the best ways to encourage this in children is storytelling. Children love to hear stories about "the old days" when mom and dad were growing up, so share a few around the dinner table! Nursery rhymes are another particularly effective tool because of their repetitive, sing-song nature. Nursery rhymes help children hear the patterns in speech and stimulate visual comprehension, as they can create mental pictures from the familiar themes. During our school day at TCNS, we offer a lot of opportunities for developing oral language through reading, singing, storytelling, and finger plays. It all seems like fun, but there's a lot of work going on there, too!



*-Sarah Brainard & Liz Kinast*



## TCNS Goes Green!

Being green in our classroom has become a way of life. We have been composting our snack waste for years. This year we decided to add other compostable waste; cardboard, paper cups and paper towels. It's amazing how little non-compostable garbage we actually produce. We've gone from a full garbage can per week to only a small grocery bag! We sure use a lot of paper towels. Cayuga Compost helped us become earth friendly by letting us to bring them our compost.

We had some trouble composting because of the small volume of waste and large wildlife population on our playground. Also, since most of our students will go on to Trumansburg Elementary, we decided it would make sense for our composting to be as similar to the school as possible to help ease the transition. This makes it easier for the children to clean up their snack because now they don't have to sort out the paper products. Maybe next year we'll try composting with worms!



## A Dirty Field Trip

We visited P&S Excavating and Cayuga Compost this spring. It is one of our most popular field trips! The children enjoyed exploring all the trucks and diggers. Some of our preschoolers and one teacher even learned how to scoop rocks with the loader and use the lever to dump them. Another popular activity was climbing on piles of rocks, sand, and dirt. Each child was invited to collect some favorite rocks to take home and share with family.

Mary Proctor helped us understand the difference between garbage and compost. We learned to be careful not to put garbage in the compost because it doesn't break down and needs to be picked out of the compost. We then walked up to the see where the composting takes place. Workers were busy emptying the blue compost bins into the bunker so that yard scraps could be added. We even brought our own large bag of compost to add to the bunker! We discovered that compost is an actual living thing that needs air and sun to become usable for gardens.

Mary warned us not to pick up anything near the compost rows because the bacteria that breaks down compost can be dangerous to humans. Our students were concerned about the workers' safety and were relieved to find out that they use a special grabbing tool if they have to pick something out of the compost. Compost can reach up to 130 degrees! After one year it turns into beautiful soil that is perfect for the garden, or as our class discovered – great for climbing on!

At the end of our field trip we spent time at the Proctor's pond. Mary used the fishing net to scoop into the muck and find out what lives there. We found baby fish, bullfrog tadpoles, insect larvae, and even crayfish! Some tadpoles came with us back to our classroom and we watched them turn into toads. It was a wonderful adventure!

## Our Preschool Guide to Compost

**Q: What is the difference between garbage & compost?**

**A:** *Plastic spoons are garbage. Garbage goes to the dump for 50 years. Paper, food, and watermelon can go in the compost. Don't put garbage in the compost!*

**Q: What happens to your compost?**

**A:** *Tiny animals (bacteria) turn it into dirt. They eat compost and then poop out dirt.*

**Q: How long does it take?**

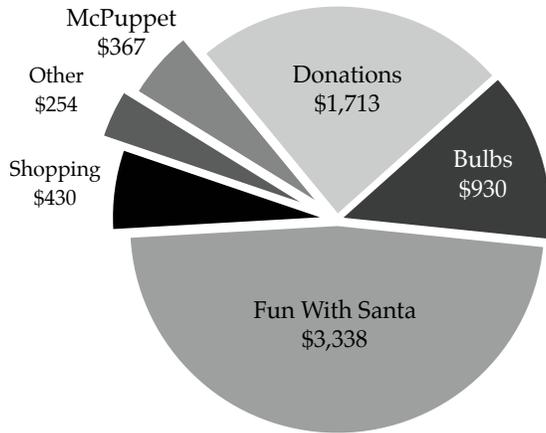
**A:** *It takes one year to turn all the compost into dirt.*





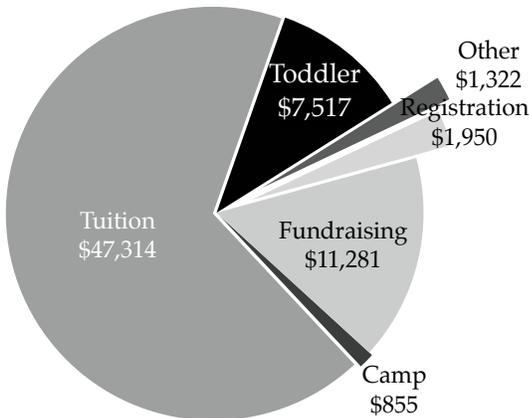
### Fundraising

September 2010 - June 2011



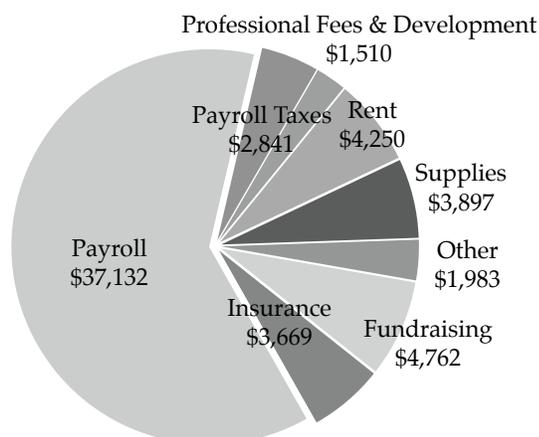
### Income

September 2010 - June 2011



### Expenses

September 2010 - June 2011



# Kids' Corner

## Planets by Ariana Passalacqua

There's Jupiter, Mars, Saturn's rings, and there is Earth. There is a lot of planets! I know them all, but I just forgot their names. People live on Earth. You can take a rocket ship up to the planets. It takes probably a long time.



## Ramona

Ramona is my favorite sheep. She has a black head and she's sheared; but not today though. Her legs are black. The guys are in a different fence and the girls are in a different fence. All mamas have two babies.



Ramona has two babies. - Leo Shatt

## Darth Vader

My tank turned into a space ship. Darth Vader came. We went in a fight with our star wars guns. Then 'Sky Luker' came. Then those white ones came with their helmets on. They went into the fight too. Then we left and went to Galaxy War. Then we had to fight again. Then Darth Vader took off his mask and showed what he was. He was just a man, an old man. - Chandler Wright



## Snow White

Once there was a princess. The princess' name was Snow White. One day her mother died and she got a stepmother. The stepmother had two daughters that were not very nice to her and treated her poorly. Her stepmother and all her daughters made her do all the work. Snow White ran away because her stepmother was so mean. She met a prince in the woods who told her that. Then before long, she came to a cottage. She knocked on the door and nobody answered. She walked in and then she ate some of their porridge. Then she fell asleep. Some of the people that live there came in. They came upstairs and they said, "Hey, somebody is sleeping in my bed!" - Phoebe Parlato





## Terrific Twos: Off to a Great Start



The Terrific Twos had a great first year! We started off with five wonderful students who grew in so many ways during our time together. Our goal has been to expand the program to eight students, so we added two more for the last six weeks of the school year, to get a sense of how the space would work. Now we're ready for a full class of eight this fall – and Jackie and Liz are really good at rearranging the furniture!

We were fortunate to have an inaugural class that hit the ground running. We had the perfect group of 2's and almost 2's that were ready and excited to be in a program built for them! All the children dug right into playing, reading, and doing projects. Finger painting and Playdoh proved to be early favorites, along with exploring different sensory table activities like sand, soapy water, rice, and shaving cream. We worked on sitting quietly in our own space during circle time and had a lot of fun learning songs and fingerplays. The Hokey Pokey was definitely a class favorite!



Potty time was sometimes hectic, but by the end of the year, all the children were potty trained. What an accomplishment! They were so proud. The bathroom quickly became known as Miss Margo's potty. All the boys gave her ownership and quickly they all followed her lead in the bathroom. With all their energy, the kids were certainly hungry at snack time. We enjoyed lots of nutritious snacks and fun conversation around the table, while working on our manners, too.

We were very fortunate to have many outside days. The playground was a favorite: swings, sandbox, slides and of course worms! The snow came, but that rarely kept us inside. Of course navigating our indoor obstacle course was a hit on rainy days. By the end of the year we were beginning to share toys, take turns more readily and truly loving each and every one of our friends at school!

We took several field trips during the year, including visiting library story time in our Halloween costumes. We spent an entire week at the library in March where we also enjoyed a music class one morning. In the last few weeks of school, we were able to spend two days in the "big school" downstairs – a real treat for kids who can't wait to be big! And we capped off our year by walking from TCNS to Not My Dad's for ice cream

and a romp in Ms. Jackie's Volkswagen bus. We all learned a lot from each other and had a lot of fun, too. The program is off to a great start and we look forward to welcoming a new Terrific Twos class this fall!

Support TCNS by donating online at

<http://www.tcns.info>

We appreciate contributions of any size. All donations are tax deductible.

- Liz Kinast & Jackie Puleo



EVENT DONORS

We thank all of our event donors this year! Our fundraising helps to keep our tuition payments low, allowing as many children to participate in nursery school as possible. Fun With Santa is a very large draw for our families and for our entire community. Donations from these generous businesses and individuals help make our Silent Auction possible. Thank you!

Acorn Designs ❁ Alphabet Soup ❁ Americana Vineyards & Winery ❁ April Wright, personal trainer ❁ Bellwether Hard Cider Co. ❁ Bodyworks ❁ Buffalo Street Books ❁ Candlelight Creations ❁ Carriage House ❁ Cayuga Creamery ❁ Chili's Bar & Grill ❁ Cornell Lab of Ornithology ❁ Cornell Orchards ❁ Damiani Wine Cellars ❁ Dragon Village ❁ Durand's Forge ❁ Eastern Mountain Sports ❁ Emoticakes by Amy Dawson ❁ Erhart Propane & Gas ❁ Finger Lakes Grassroots Festival ❁ Fingerlakes Technologies Group ❁ Funky Finds ❁ Gimme Coffee ❁ Glen Theater ❁ Glenwood Pines ❁ Gothic Eves Bed & Breakfast ❁ GreenStar Natural Foods ❁ Hazelnut Kitchen ❁ Heads Up Salon ❁ Hilton Garden Inn ❁ Holiday Inn ❁ Island Health & Fitness ❁ Ithaca Agway ❁ Ithaca Bakery ❁ Ithaca Home Depot ❁ Jencott Properties ❁ Julie Johnson Pottery ❁ Juniper Hill Bed & Breakfast ❁ Kinney Drugs ❁ Knitting Etc. ❁ Life's So Sweet ❁ Little Venice Restaurant ❁ Ludgate's Farm ❁ Mama Goose ❁ Maxie's Supper Club ❁ Millspaugh Bros. ❁ Moe's Southwest Grill ❁ Moosewood Restaurant ❁ Northside Wine & Spirits ❁ O'Malley's Restaurant ❁ Palmer Pharmacy ❁ Papa John's Pizza ❁ Purity Ice Cream ❁ Queen Bee Confections ❁ Rachel Bush, LMT ❁ Rasa Spa ❁ Rogan's Corner ❁ Ron Don's Village Pub ❁ Roundabout Designs ❁ Salmon Pottery ❁ Samurai Japanese Restaurant ❁ Satori ❁ Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts ❁ Sciencenter ❁ Sheldrake Point Winery ❁ Stonecat Café ❁ Sundrees ❁ Sweetland Farm ❁ Trumansburg Mini Golf ❁ Trumansburg Rent-a-Flick ❁ Trumansburg Shur Save ❁ The Kitchen Theater ❁ The State Theater ❁ True Life Photography ❁ Trumansburg Yoga Loft ❁ Wild Apple Toys ❁ Yellow Jelly Beans

FIELD TRIPS

We enjoyed so many field trips in our community! Thank you to the businesses who hosted our classes this year. We appreciate all the wonderful opportunities you provided for our children.

Life's So Sweet, Juniper Manor Halloween Parade, Hike to Taughannock Falls (fall & spring), Gaige's Dairy Farm, Ulysses Library, Plumlee 'mini-farm', P&S Excavating & Cayuga Compost, Trumansburg Elementary & Kindergarten tour



FAMILY FUN

One of the best things about our cooperative nursery school is all of our family activities. We had our traditional kick off back to school family picnic, monthly parent committee meetings & discussion, Kindergarten readiness presentation, Special Person's Night, Sibling Night, family dessert social, graduation celebration and we enjoyed two fantastic weeks of summer camp – Fairy Tales & Bugs.



## Director's Corner

It's been another busy and rewarding year at TCNS! The two-year old classroom had a wonderful first year. We started the year with a small class, but ended with 7 three (*or almost three-year olds*) all looking forward to joining our preschool classroom this coming year.

We were again lucky enough to have a student from the early childhood program at BOCES. Tammy Crane joined our classroom from February through May and was a great asset to our preschool. Tammy jumped right into the flow of the class, and her projects were thoroughly enjoyed by the children. We also had a student join us for 8th grade shadowing day. We are so fortunate to have the benefit of so many parents, student educators and volunteers to add their energy to our program.

I'd like to thank our "retiring" Board of Trustees members. Ruthanna Hawkins, Sue Peters, Christine Burton and Scott Mulford have contributed so much to TCNS over the past years, both as board members and active parents. They will be greatly missed. This summer we also say goodbye to one of our teachers. TCNS has been fortunate to have Joan Melvin teaching in our Tuesday-Thursday class for the past 6 years. Next year Joan will be working full time in the elementary school. We wish her all the best and hope she'll continue to share her wonderful project ideas with us! -*Deb Austic*

## TCNS Supporters

July 2010 - June 2011

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 2011 charitable gifts, please consider donating to T.C.N.S. You may make your tax-deductible donation online at [www.tcns.info](http://www.tcns.info).

- Eve Abrams and Jonathan Back
- Deb Austic & Ron Loz
- Doug and Paula Austic
- Bill and Lori Coon
- Scott and Amy Dawson
- Peter and Joel Decloux
- John and Chris Delaney
- Ann DiPetta
- Gemm Shop
- Glenwood Pines
- Nancy Grossman and Don Swanson
- Carol Grove
- Ruthanna Hawkins and Greg Budney
- Peter Fry and Gail Shapiro
- Dorrie Iaculli
- Carolyn Lange
- Lois Loz
- Joe and Carol Muraca
- Gail Murphy
- Deborah Nottke
- Karen, Jay, and Olivia Ohlsten
- Pampered Chef
- Ann Pavia
- The Proctor Family
- Neil and Maureen Shallish
- Amanda and Mark Shenstone
- Roxanne and Dana Smith
- Scott Sutcliffe
- Trumansburg Family Health
- Kristen and Chris Verrill
- Anne Wing
- Nancy Zahler and Judy Barringer

Trumansburg Community Nursery School  
Main Street, P.O. Box 18  
Trumansburg, NY 14886  
(607) 387-5235

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 780  
Ithaca, NY

## About TCNS

For more information about  
our program, visit us online.

<http://www.tcns.info>

Donate Online Today

## T.C.N.S. Parent Committee



As the last summer camp at TCNS ends and families prepare to begin a new year, we would like to

thank all the TCNS families and teachers for a successful 2010 school year. It is amazing to look back at the start of the year and see how much our children have truly grown. Thanks to the dedicated teachers of TCNS, our children have not only developed socially and academically, but they have had lots of fun in the process.

Thank you to the parents for being enthusiastic volunteers,

fundraisers and bakers. Not only did we get to enjoy time with our families at events like Fun with Santa and Mrs. McPuppet, but TCNS raised \$8000 this year with all of the fundraisers. This would not have been possible without all of time that each family dedicated. Good luck to each family with their next step. We will all have special memories to take with us!



*-Jodi Simoneau*

### Board of Trustees

**Co-Presidents:** Ruthanna Hawkins & Sue Peters

**Secretary:** Sarah Brainard

**Treasurer:** Scott Andrew

Christine Burton

Sue Lason

Scott Mulford

Mary Proctor

Kim Turner

**Director:** Deb Austic

**Parent Committee Chairs**

Jodi Simoneau & Christine Burton

**Newsletter & Website**

Amy Dawson