



WINCHESTER COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL 2012-2013

The School at a Glance . . .

The Winchester Cooperative Nursery School (WCNS) is a parent-run cooperative school for families of children ages 2.1 to pre-kindergarten. It is dedicated to giving young children an opportunity to learn about getting along with others while continuing to develop self-esteem, self-confidence and independence.

The cooperative is committed to developing curriculum in all aspects of the school. The parents are integral to the policies, events, and classroom dynamics. They help in the classroom on a rotating basis approximately once a month.

Classrooms are large, sunny, and well-equipped. The playground is both safe and exciting. Children are encouraged to be mentally and physically active. The program is balanced between indoor and outdoor play, teacher-directed and child-initiated play, group and individual skill building.

WCNS accepts students of any religion, race, sex, cultural heritage or national origin, and without regard to ability or disability or political beliefs or marital status of the parent(s) or guardian(s).

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES FOR 2012-2013

Class	Age as of 9/1/12	Day & Time	Tuition	Max. Class Size
Toddler	2.1 – 2.11	12:00 – 2:00 pm (Wednesday)	\$882	9
Toddler January 10, 2013 Start Date	2.1 – 3.1 Age as of Jan. 1, 2013	12:00 – 2:00 pm (Thursday)	\$549	9
Three's	2.9 – 3.9	9:00 – 11:30 am (M W F)	\$3140.55	19
Three's	3.2 – 4.1	9:00 – 11:30 am (T Th F)	\$3140.55	19
Four's AM	4.0	8:45 – 11:45 am (M T W Th)	\$4362.75	19
Four's PM	4.0	12:15 – 3:15 pm (M T W Th)	\$4362.75	19
Afternoon Adventures	2.9 – 5.0	11:45 – 2:45 pm (T & F)	\$ 920	17

ENROLLMENT AT WINCHESTER COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL FOR NEW FAMILIES

About the School

The Winchester Cooperative Nursery School (WCNS) is located at 478 Main Street in Winchester Center, in space rented from the Unitarian Church. It is a non-profit organization formed in 1968 and is licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Teachers are licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. Each regular class has a lead teacher, an assistant teacher, and a parent helper. Classes for younger children have two parent helpers.

The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care requires all schools to maintain health information on both the students and parent helpers. When your child is accepted, WCNS will supply health forms for your doctors to complete. These must be completed and returned to the office before school begins in September.

Why Choose a Cooperative School?

A cooperative school enables parents to be integrated into their child's early learning experiences. Parents assist in the classroom, help plan curriculum, maintain the classrooms and playground, and participate in the administration of the school. It affords an opportunity for both parents and children to meet and enjoy other families who share the common commitment to enriching the educational experience for their children.

Programs Offered

WCNS offers six different classes geared toward particular age groups. At the heart of the school's philosophy is the belief that children learn by doing. The Schedule of Classes provides class times and tuition information.

In addition to regular classes, WCNS offers an Afternoon Adventures option on Tuesday and Friday afternoons to children enrolled in the school. Classes are blended ages (2.9 - 5 years). Children bring their lunch and eat together. The afternoon is planned for adventures in art, cultural diversity, science, the good earth, drama, and open-ended play opportunities that nurture new friendships among children.

The Importance of a Child's First School Experience – Three and Four Year Old Classes

Our unique home visit program is an important part of making a child's first school experience as comfortable as possible. Shortly before the start of the school year, each teacher visits with each child in the class in the familiar environment of his/her home. Teachers and children get acquainted with each other through play and talk about what happens in the nursery school. The teacher will take a photograph of the child which will be in the classroom when he/she arrives on their first day.

The first big day of school is planned so half of the class attends at a time. Teachers embrace flexible expectations for separation for both parent and child. Light refreshments at a gathering space are provided for parents who wish to stay or linger on these days. All children will attend class on the second day of session.

The Importance of a Child's First School Experience – Toddler Class

Our Toddler Program is a well received initiative at WCNS. The class is planned for a 'soft' arrival and departure. Teachers work with parents to accommodate the transition time for both child and parent. Our Toddler Program has a modified parent help commitment of about 3-4 times through the academic year. Parents can observe their child's learning experiences, while witnessing the first forays into play with another child.

How to Apply

Applications will be available the night of Open House, and at all child visiting sessions. Applications can also be downloaded from our website www.winchestercoop.org.

Acceptance is determined by an enrollment draw. Priority is given to returning students, siblings, then children of alumni (legacy students), then new students. Typically, 25-35 new families are accepted every year. Our program services residents from surrounding towns such as Melrose, Medford, Belmont, Burlington, Woburn, Arlington, and Stoneham.

Applications with a non-refundable \$50.00 application fee can be hand delivered to the office or mailed to:

Winchester Cooperative Nursery School
Attention: Enrollment
478 Main Street
Winchester, MA 01890

The registration window for new students for the 2012-2013 is between January 17 – February 10, 2012. Applications must be received by 5:00 pm, on Friday, February 10th to be included in the Enrollment Draw.

Enrollment Draw results will be posted at the school by Thursday, February 16, 2012, on the office door. It will list the last names of children in each class plus the waiting list for each class. All families will receive a letter in the mail detailing their child's placement results.

Acceptance of Admission Mailing

An Acceptance of Admission (AOA) form will be accompanied by the tuition installment requirements and a WCNS no-refund policy statement in the mailing. This is called the Acceptance packet. It will include an application to the Jean Mortensen Scholarship Fund and an application for the Afternoon Adventures option.

New families have until 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 9, 2012, to confirm yes or no that their child(ren) will attend WCNS in the fall. It is confirmed when the office receives both the completed and signed (AOA) Acceptance of Admission form, and the first no-refund 1/3 tuition installment as stated in your packet. If you choose to enroll your child in Afternoon Adventures, you can include the application in this return packet. Return all forms and checks to:

Winchester Cooperative Nursery School
Attention: Enrollment
478 Main Street
Winchester, MA 01890

If the office does not receive both the AOA and check by 5:00 pm, Friday, March 9, 2012, your child's slot will be filled from the class wait list. If your child was placed on a wait list, you will be notified of openings that occur at that time. If you choose not to accept a space offered to your child, please kindly notify us either in writing or by phone at 781-729-2003, which records our messages.

These guidelines were established to ensure that the enrollment process can be smooth and fair to all who are involved. If you have questions, please contact our Enrollment Committee: Nancy Hsu-Law at 781-729-2588, Cynthia Umscheid at 781-721-2354 and Anna Hood at 781-721-3360. You can also call the office anytime at 781-729-2003 to leave a message or speak to Maureen McWilliams, the Director.

Financial Aid

WCNS is pleased to offer the Jean Mortensen Scholarship Fund to candidates who qualify on the application form enclosed in the Acceptance of Admission packet. Financial Aid forms must be completed and returned to the WCNS office by Friday, March 2nd, 2012. Questions regarding financial aid and payment plans should be directed to the Director, Maureen McWilliams, or to the Assistant Treasurer, Patty Kolas at 617-461-4351.

JANUARY 2012 DATES TO REMEMBER

Open House (Parents)	January 17, 2012, 7:30 pm
Snow Date - Open House (Parents)	January 26, 2012, 7:30 pm
School Visits for Prospective Families (Parents and Child)	Friday, January 20th, 2012 Saturday, January 21st, 2012 Monday, January 23rd, 2012
Due Date for New Student Application & Fee	February 10, 2012, 5:00 p.m.
New Student Class Lists Posted	February 16, 2012
New Student Notification Mailed	February 16, 2012
Due Date for Jean Mortensen Scholarship Application	March 2, 2012
Due Date for New Student Acceptance of Admission & Tuition Deposit	March 9, 2012
Due Date for Afternoon Adventures Applications	March 9, 2012

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