



Hinsdale Community Preschool



A Parent CO-OP School Since 1942



Director's News

The month of November was as time to give thanks for all of the wonderful things we have in our lives. As we move into December, we celebrate those wonderful things with many traditions and celebrations! As a second generation Italian-American, my family has many wonderful traditions throughout the holidays. One special memory comes to mind when I think of traditions in my family. When I was a child we would travel to my aunt's house on Christmas Eve. In her dining room on a very long table she would set out several types of prepared seafood dishes and pasta dishes. I remember eating mostly the pasta as a child but as I grew, the seafood became my favorite! It is an Italian tradition to have a seafood dinner on Christmas Eve. My husband and I have continued this tradition with our daughters. This meal is a very special one for us. It gives us comfort knowing that this tradition will always be carried out. It gives us a sense of belonging in that we are sharing our past, our story, with our children. It feels safe and familiar.

In her article Traditions by Linda Bridgman she states "holiday traditions add pleasure and comfort." She adds "we need to establish traditions in our families today more than ever." Traditions don't have to be big productions. They can be as simple as planning a special meal or baking favorite cookies together.

Here at HCP we honor the traditions of all the children and families in our preschool program. We believe in teaching our students the importance of family traditions and holidays. This in turn strengthens the connection between home and school.

As you know, upon enrollment, we gather information from families about the various heritages and traditions that make up our home school community. With this knowledge, we plan activities to reflect the diverse cultures of our students and to foster respect for their cultures.

In the upcoming weeks we will involve our students in hands-on activities. The children are invited to explore the special objects and foods that reflect different traditions. This makes for a rich learning environment for our children.

We encourage each of you to join us in our study of "Celebrations at my house". Even if your holiday doesn't fall at this time of year we invite you to teach us about your traditions and celebrations! Please discuss with your child's teacher a time for you to visit the class. If you cannot be with us, please share your family traditions, recipes for holiday foods, and any special items that reflect your heritage and family history. We love to hear family stories!

This holiday season, may you find comfort and peace in sharing your family traditions together! On behalf of myself and the staff of HCP we wish all of our families peace and love this holiday season! May you see the beauty of the season through your child's eyes!

- Ann Marie Berlino, Director

Important Dates

Dec 16th - Jan 10 Priority Registration

for 2014-15 School Year

Dec 16th - Parent & Me Holiday Celebration

Dec 19 – Junior, Senior and Jr/Sr PM Classes

Holiday Celebration

Dec 20 - Just for Me Class Holiday Celebration

Dec 23 – Jan 5 **NO SCHOOL** – Winter Break

Jan 6 - **Back to School**

Jan 19 - Parent Board Meeting – 7pm

****All Parents Welcome****

Jan 10 - Last Day for Priority

Registration - noon

Jan 10 - Open Registration Begins noon

Jan 10 - Classroom Work Parties in evening

Jan 11 - Classroom Work Parties– 9am-3pm

Jan 20 - **NO SCHOOL** – MLK Day

Jan 24 - Parent Education – TBD –

Hinsdale Public Library

HCP Board News

HCP Families,


I hope everyone has had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. The holidays are coming

and along with them come busier schedules. Due to the craziness of December we do not have a Parent Board meeting scheduled for the month. The next will be on January 9th at 7pm at HCP. If you are able to make it please do so.

It may seem early, but this is the time of year in which we start filling positions for next year's board. If you have a desire to contribute some time as a board member or have questions regarding any of the open positions please ask Aline McGivern, Ann Marie or myself.

Enjoy the season and upcoming holiday break.

Eric Makstenieks
HCP President
C# 630-484-6517



Holiday Sing Along... **Mark your calendars!!**

HCP will host a "Sing-Along" for our holiday celebrations!!

Monday, December 16th – Parent & Me – during class time

Thursday, December 19th -Senior Class: 10:15 am

Thursday, December 19th -Junior Class: 10:15am

Thursday, December 19th-Jr/Sr PM Class: 1:50pm

Friday, December 20th -Just for Me: 10:30am (children will have their snack before the sing-along)

This will be a special time to share favorite songs with your child, to socialize with other families and join in our festivities before we leave for winter break. If you have a favorite song or tradition that you would like to share please advise your child's teacher. They would love to incorporate it into the celebration!

Soup Can Ticket: It has become our HCP tradition to collect non-perishable food to be donated to the food pantry at our holiday celebration. Please bring a can of soup or non-perishable item as your "ticket" into the festivities! One can/item per person. The food will be donated to the Hinsdale Community Service Food Pantry!!

-Ann Marie Berlino, Director



Interested in Observing a Class?



Priority registration for the 2014-2015 school year will begin December 16th and end Friday, January 10th. Forms will be distributed in your child's bag prior to registration, and also via email. Please note that to be considered for priority registration, applications need to be turned in no later than January 10th.

If you would like to observe a class that you are considering for next year, please contact Ms. Ann Marie to set up a time to observe any of our classes! You may contact Ms. Ann Marie at directorhcp@aol.com or call 630-325-7484.



Parents' Night Out 2013

Let 2013 Parents' Night Out go down as the year of bidders and bowling! Much fun was had by the 76 attendees of HCP's annual Parents' Night Out at Pinstripes in Oak Brook on November 9th, and we raised over \$12,500 for our school! Many thanks go out to the parents and teachers who attended the event and our donors – local and national businesses, HCP parents, families & friends, and HCP alumni families.

A notable thank you goes to the families who supported our first-ever-class-"theme" baskets. Donations from the families of each class (Parent & Me/Just-for-Me, Junior, Junior/Senior PM, and Senior AM classes) comprised these popular baskets. A very special thanks goes to HCP teachers who donated "Sweetheart Night with Friends." A few spots are still available for this memorable event on February 3rd, 2014, from 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm. Children will be dropped off at HCP to participate in baking cupcakes or cookies and story time with teachers (Parent & Me and Just for Me optional drop off.) Pajama attire suggested. Please contact Kristin Kohn if you are interested in this event.

Also, thank you to families who supported our fundraising through the purchase and sale of raffle tickets! Our winners were:

Split-the-Pot: Tim Weil (Uncle to Senior Kate Weil)

HCP Wine Cellar: Mistie Lucht (Mom to Senior Eleanor Lucht)

American Doll: Annamarie Pionkie (Mom to Junior Ashley Marie Pionke)

Keurig Rivo & Coffee: Kristi Knapp (HCP Parent Alum & Advisory Board Member)



The Ways & Means Committee is thrilled with the outcome of this year's Parents' Night Out and asks that you continue the love with our family event on March 9th, 2014 (Mark your calendars!) Our focus is on family fun!

Our next fundraising activity is **December 2nd – 6th at Color Me Mine in Burr Ridge Village Center**. Handmade gifts are always a hit at the holidays! Just mention you are there for Hinsdale Community Preschool, and 15% of purchases will go back to the school.

Thank you for your support and continuing to make HCP a great place to learn and grow!



Thank you to our Parents' Night Out donors:

Adler Planetarium, Aloxandra Collections, Aline & Matt McGivern, Balance Institute of Gymnastics, Beauty on Main, Bling Baby, Brookfield Zoo, Buke Salon, Cabot Cheese, Café La Fortuna, Canvas on Demand, Casey's Market, Chicago Architectural Foundation, Chicagoland Skydiving Center, Classic, Cinema, Classic Kids, Coach Kimmy, Container Store, Coopers Hawk, Core Power Yoga, Costco Wholesale, Country House, Dailey Method, Daily Scoop, Dr. Alix Charles Dermatology Institute of DuPage Medical Group, Diane & John Oliverio, Dips and Dogs, DisneyWorld, Doggie Diner, DuPage Children's Museum, Elate Yoga, Enchanted Castle Lombard, Erin & Luke Goodwin, Fox's Pub, Giordano's, Hartley's Cycle Shop, HCP Parents, HCP Teachers, Hinsdale Fire Department, Hinsdale Fruit Store, Hinsdale Nurseries, I Design Salon, Jamie Matalka, Jane's Blue Iris, Jennifer Martzolf, Katie & Eric Makstieniaks, Kitchen2Table Chicago, Kramer Foods, Kristin & Eric Kohn, Laura Meyer Photography, Liz & Mark Oliverio, Liz & Steve Elsdon, Lombard Roller Rink, Lost Mountain Adventure Golf, Mani-Pedi, Margaret Kukuc Photography, Marni & Jeffrey Wright, MBC Fitness, Megan & Tim Wieher, Menards, Monkey Zone, Nail Time, Nourish LLC, Ooo La La, Protein Bar, Sandi Fisher, Seasons 52, Shedd Aquarium, Sherri Cook, Snippet's Mini Cuts, TCBY, The Salon by David and William, Tigers and Tulips, Tracy Parker, Travis & Courtney Hughes, Trish & Mike Clausen, Vie, Walt Disney World, Western Springs Theatre, Whole Foods, Wildfire, Windy City Thunderbolts, Xtreme Trampolines, Zanies Comedy Club, Zazu

A special thank you to the Ways & Means Committee for their hard work on this year's event – Amy Cowhey, Liz Elsdon, Sue Goeckel, Rachelle Heck, Kristin Kohn, Liz Oliverio, Megan Peterson, Colleen Terry, Megan Wieher, and Marni Wright



Ask the Director

Are you aware of potentially hazardous products?

You may have noticed on the Parent Information Board in our hallway the website to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. DCFS now requires all preschools to make the website available to parents so that they can identify recalled products quickly. CPSC provides free safety alerts, guides, posters, brochures, handbooks and other materials. The website is full of information on the safety of all products. Please check out the Toy Safety flyer on the Parent Bulletin Board and when you have a minute visit the website for up to the minute safety information on many household products!

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Web site: www.cpsc.gov, www.saferproducts.gov

Toll-free hotline: 1-800-638-2772

Many Thanks!

Many thanks to the following families for their generous donations to HCP!

The Makstenieks Family - New Server, Director Laptop, Technical Services and new web design services

The Gianares Family - Apple TVs, Flat Screen TVs, iPads

The Galinski Family - Matching Gift Donation