



Hinsdale Community Preschool



A Parent CO-OP School Since 1942



Director's News

As I write this, I am truly hoping that the sun will warm the earth and we will soon hear the birds chirping and begin to see signs of spring!! This winter has been very long and very cold. Many, many thanks for your patience with pick up at the front of The Community House. I believe we were only able to venture out to the benches once during the month of February. We are so hoping that March will bring warmer weather so the children can get outside to play and we can resume our normal pick up routine at the benches.

Our school was filled with love and friendship the entire month of February. Valentine's Day was the highlight of the month when we brought in our Valentines for our friends. Delivering Valentines was a special event in all of our classes.

The children also discovered the helpers are in our community and what they do for us. Did you see your child dressed in doctor's scrubs? Did you receive any mail from our post office? So much learning took place in the HCP hospital and HCP Post Office. It was truly wonderful to watch!

Many thanks to the parents who came in to share their profession with the children!! The children were very engaged in the presentations and enjoyed your visits!

Our teachers also had a wonderful learning experience in February when we attended an iPad Training Session at the Apple Store in Oakbrook on our teacher Institute Day. The end of March, beginning of April brings spring break for our HCP families. Many families will be traveling and having new and exciting adventures. Whether you are taking mini adventures around town or planning a trip out of the area, remember to consider this age group's short attention span and need for movement. Be sure to bring along a survival kit that helps minimize irritability and crankiness during long hours of driving or flying. Pack healthy snacks, storybooks, Crayons, paper and of course plenty of CD's with your child's favorite songs. And don't forget the camera for those precious photo ops!!! Relax and enjoy this time with your children and family! We look forward to hearing all about your family adventures upon our return to school in April!

- Ann Marie Berlino, Director



"Construction is superior to instruction: Children learn best when they are actually doing the work themselves and creating their own understanding of what is going on. Children need every possible opportunity to do things for themselves"

~Jean Piaget

Important Dates

March 5-6 – Junior Class Parent/Teacher Conferences

March 6 – Board Meeting at 7:00pm in Blue Room. All Parents Welcome!

March 9 - Spring Fundraiser: Old Fashioned Hoedown

March 11-13 – Senior Class and Jr/Sr PM Class Parent/Teacher Conferences

March 20 -
HCP Fundraiser Day
at California Pizza Kitchen
– All Day and Evening

March 31 – Spring Break Begins

April 1-4 – Spring Break

April 7 – Back to School

HCP Board News

HCP is a parent-run cooperative preschool that prides itself on empowering parents to be an integral part of their child's education as well as part of the school as a whole. The success of our school depends on you, our wonderful parent volunteers!! Thanks to all of you who have already volunteered to be on next year's Parent Board! For those who have indicated that you are interested in joining next year's Parent Board I will soon be contacting you to match your talents and interests with a position that will compliment them. I am also working on structuring committees, for those of you who didn't preference the Parent Board for your volunteer commitment next year, and will send out committee assignments next month. If you are reconsidering and would like to join the parent board, please contact me!! I am still looking for a few more interesting and dynamic people to fill positions for next year. Serving as a member of the Parent Board is a rewarding experience and one of the best ways to get involved at HCP. As a board member you get to learn firsthand the inner workings of the school, contribute to decisions made about the school and its functions all while making lifelong friends!

To learn more about positions that are still available please contact Aline McGivern at 630-522-0876 or alinmcgivern@hotmail.com

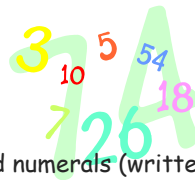


HCP Sweetheart Night..... It was great!

Our Second Annual Sweetheart Night was a "sweet" success once again! Seventeen children enjoyed making a craft with the teachers, baking, icing and of course eating delicious cupcakes in their pj's! Many thanks to Kristin Kohn and Liz Elsdon for offering it at the November Fundraiser! A BIG Thank You goes out to the teachers who donated their time to this fun event!!



Numbers are everywhere!



How many places can you and your child find numerals (written numbers) during the day?

Go on a numeral hunt. Here are some possibilities:

- ✓ Cereal boxes
- ✓ Address on homes
- ✓ Addresses on envelopes in the mail
- ✓ License plates
- ✓ Clocks
- ✓ Pages in books and magazines

Choose a special numeral to look for. For example a four year old will enjoy watching for his/her very own numeral "4"!



Carrots Don't Grow on Trees! Home Extension

During the month of February we discussed Healthy Me and how to keep our bodies healthy. We piggyback that theme in March with Fruits, Vegetables and Good Things to Eat!

When food shopping, purchase vegetables with the leaves still attached. Have your child wash them and pull off the leaves. Talk about vegetables that are root vegetables: carrots, parsnips, radishes, beets. Help your child figure out where they grow!

Safety in Our School

I am sure you have seen the "No Firearms" stickers on all of The Community House doors as well as on our HCP front door. Since January 1st the Illinois Firearms Concealed Carry Act requires all prohibited locations to clearly post such signs. "Because of The Community House's status as a school and mental health facility, according to section 65 of the law, we are automatically prohibited from allowing concealed firearms in our facility" states Dan Janowick, Director of Programs and Facilities.

While our teachers have not "officially" discussed these stickers with the children, I have heard many parents having brief discussions about them when entering the building. If your child does ask about the stickers, our lock down drills or any other safety issue, please assure them that these are steps to keep them safe while at school. Keep your answers simple and honest. As you know we have two lockdown drills a year at HCP. We have had our second lockdown drill this past week. The children have done a terrific job of following directions and keeping very quiet.

Since this law is now in full swing with more and more residents applying for hand guns, when setting up playdates for your children, you may want to consider asking the host parent if they have hand guns in their home. Ask where they are located and if they are locked up. It is a fair question that many of us are hesitant to ask. But one that is very important to the safety of our children.

Ann Marie Berlino ~ Director

Great Books! Book Review!

This book is read over and over in our classrooms! Surely one of every teacher's favorite!



Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! By Mo Willems

If you are not familiar with Mo Willems and his hilarious Pigeon book series, you really should visit the library and get ready for a good laugh.

The bus driver in this story needs to take a break from his route and asks the reader to watch over his bus. But a very unlikely, very convincing, volunteer jumps into action to take his place...a pigeon! This adorable pigeon keeps the preschooler engaged and captivated while he tries to convince the reader to let him drive the bus. Even at three years old savvy preschoolers know that a pigeon cannot drive a bus! This

book becomes interactive as the interested preschoolers will answer "no" to the pigeon's pleas to drive the bus as you read aloud with enthusiasm! It has simple illustrations which come alive on the page, another wonderful feature for preschoolers.

Mo Willems illustrates his pigeon with large expressive facial expressions full of emotion which contributes to the fun character of the pigeon! This book is a favorite which will be read over and over again!

Check out more of Mo Willems' books at www.mowillems.com



Ask the Director: Successful Scissoring

Have you ever wondered why young children have difficulty working with scissors?

Managing scissors requires that a child combine fine motor skills-control and coordination of small muscles, especially hands, wrists, and eyes-with an intellectual task. Closely related to motor development is physical growth and brain development. As the body grows physically and the brain develops, children are able to perform more intricate motor skills.

Most children are eager to cut with scissors. If a child is reluctant, it is probably because he/she is not ready.

A prerequisite to cutting with scissors is tearing, so we should allow young children many opportunities to practice tearing paper and materials such as lettuce and clay prior to teaching them how to use scissors.

In introducing children to scissors, we first discuss safety rules and provide each child with appropriately designed scissors (initially with rounded points).

So that we at school and you at home can work together on this skill, here is our approach to showing children how to use scissors:

- Show your child how to hold the scissors.
- Have your child practice opening and closing the scissors several times before he/she tries to cut paper.
- Show your child how to hold the paper in one hand and the scissors in the other, to open the scissors and slip the paper between the blades, close the blades, then open them.

Let your child practice snipping small pieces of paper, old wrapping paper and greeting cards, and those catalogs and pieces of junk mail that you are recycling anyway. As your child develops proficiency, let him/her practice by cutting pictures from magazines, cutting along a straight line, and cutting along a curved line. Supervise your child as he/she practices this skill, guiding with encouraging words. As with many skills, success will come with practice! Your child must have a lot of experience using scissors before he/she can be expected to cut accurately!

(Adapted from: Family-Friendly Communication for Early Childhood Programs by Deborah Diffily and Kathy Morrison)

HCP's Old Fashioned Hoedown

Sunday, March 9th

2-5 PM

Arabian Nights Farm & Training Center

6526 Clarendon Hills Rd, Willowbrook, IL 60527

\$30 per family

We will be accepting payment at the door! Or Place your check in the silver box labeled "Hoedown" near Ann Marie's desk

*****Raffle Tickets \$10 each or 6 for \$50 will be available!
Winner need not be present to win!**