
April 2015



Hinsdale Community Preschool

A Parent CO-OP School Since 1942



**THE
CIRCLE
TIMES**

Important Dates

Director's News

"For eons, human beings spent most of their formative years in nature. But within the space of a few decades, the way children understand and experience nature has changed radically. Healing the broken bond between our young and nature is in everyone's self-interest, not only because aesthetics or justice demand it, but also because our mental, physical and spiritual health depend upon it."

**Richard Louv, Author, Last Child in the Woods
Chairman, Children & Nature Network**

Happy April! Finally, spring is here! With the arrival of the warmer weather, it is time to go outside and enjoy all that nature has to offer! So much has been written about the benefits of outdoor play and learning. We know that outdoor play is very beneficial to our children. We must give them time to not only play outdoors, but to explore, gather evidence, examine their findings and satisfy their wonderful curiosity. We don't need to go far to find parks, trails and interesting gardens to spend time in nature with children.

"Getting kids back into nature is a key part of the solution to keeping kids healthy and truly creating wellness"

Lawrence Rosen, M.D., The Whole Child: A Pediatrician Recommends the Nature Prescription, childrenandnature.org.

April 9th – Advisory Board/Parent Board Meeting 7:00pm Blue Room

April 12-18th – NAEYC's Week of the Young Child

April 13– HCP Spirit Day for Parent & Me – Wear your HCP t-shirt or school colors

April 16th – HCP Spirit Day for Juniors, Seniors, & Jr/Sr PM classes– Wear your HCP t-shirt or school colors

April 17th – HCP Spirit Day for Just For Me – Wear your HCP t-shirt or school colors

April 26th – Mother Goose and Friends-2:00pm Hinsdale Library

May 4th – *First Tuition Payment for the 2015-2016 school year is due

May 7nd – Mandatory Parent Meeting, 7pm at HCP – One parent from each family is required to attend

May 4-8th – Teacher Appreciation Week

May 15th – Just For Me/Discovery Kids Preschool – Last Day of School

May 18th – Parent & Me/Extended Day – Last Day of School

May 21st – Juniors, Seniors & Jr/Sr PM classes – Last Day of School

May 17th - End of the year picnic 4:00pm – 6:00pm at Robbins Park

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

Our Junior class will venture off to their first field trip at Lakeview Nature Center this month! There they will have the opportunity to take a garden walk and explore the outdoors with an Environmental Educator. They will also enjoy the activities planned for them indoors as well as observing the exhibits within the center. Our Senior class and Jr/Sr PM class visited the Nature Center last month.

Lakeview Nature Center has many activities for children including Wild Wednesdays in the summer. Check out their website at www.obtpd.org.

This month brings us our NAEYC Week of the Young Child celebration.

With this celebration upon us we have many engaging activities planned for the children. See the NAEYC article in this newsletter.

As the sun warms the earth and the birds begin to make their nests our children will be learning about planting seeds, our gardens and worms this month. They will explore the life cycle of butterflies, ladybugs and toads. We will observe our own butterfly garden in the red room and ladybug habitat in the blue room. Since the children visit each room, all the children will have the opportunity to view the growth of both butterflies and ladybugs!

With earth day right around the corner on April 22nd we will explore what it means to reuse and recycle.

April will be full of marvelous experiences for our students and families! I hope you enjoy each and every experience with your child in the classroom!

-Ms. Ann Marie Berlino, HCP Director

NEW Two-Year-Old Program!

Just for Me Two Program: We have opened up a new two day program for our youngest members! Our Just for Me Two program is a **2-day** a week program for children age 2 (by September 1st) to attend class independently or accompanied by a parent. It will be held on **Monday and Fridays from 9:00am to 11:00am** in the Red Classroom.

Parent participation is entirely optional—parents are welcomed, but not required, to participate in part or all of the class one or both days each week. Registration forms are available from Annamarie Pionke or myself.

Those families who are already registered for our Monday and Friday Twos classes still hold spots!

HCP Celebrates NAEYC's Week of the Young Child!

At Hinsdale Community Preschool we celebrate our young learners each and every day. However, because we are a NAEYC accredited school, we have a special week in April to do just that; Celebrate!! **A The Week of the Young Child, held April 13, 2015, is an annual celebration of children sponsored by NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children).**

The purpose of this week is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

The theme of the Week of the Young Child this year is "Celebrating Our Youngest Learners"

To work within this theme, HCP teachers have wonderful activities planned for our children and their families. It has become a tradition at HCP to celebrate the Week of the Young Child by holding our own "ReDiscover" to coincide with Hinsdale Library's "ReDiscover".

This year all classes will read **If I Built A House** by Chris Van Dusen and participate in activities surrounding this theme. On Tuesday, April 14th, Ms. Wendy Carter from **Super Science Kids** will be presenting a day of science experiments and activities for our preschoolers to participate in meeting S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) standards!

We will end our NAEYC Week of the Young Child celebration with **Mother Goose and Her Friends!** A story telling presentation given by Mary Jane Haley on April 26th, at 2:00pm at the Hinsdale Library. This presentation is open to the public! This week will be inspiring and filled with engaging activities for all!!

Mother Goose and Friends!

HCP Educational Series Presents... "Mother Goose and Friends" presented by Mary Jane Haley.

Date: Sunday, April 26

Time: 2:00-3:00

Location: Hinsdale Community Library



This wonderful display of puppetry and story telling come together in celebration of the classic poetry and rhyme of Mother Goose! Mary Jane Haley, a popular, local storyteller, will make her appearance as "Mother Goose", along with her adorable puppet friends.

Her engaging performance and inviting audience participation is sure to be a hit with all of our young children.

Also, following the presentation there will an opportunity for families to meet and take photos with Mother Goose and her puppets!

REGISTRATION is now OPEN!

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION!!!

Please follow the instructions below when registering.

1. Go to www.hinsdalelibrary.info.
2. Click on "Calendar".
3. Open the "April" calendar by clicking the on the "next" arrows on the right side of the month displayed.
4. Click on the April 26 day "Hinsdale Community Preschool presents Mother Goose Stories".
5. Fill out the registration field. In the "Notes" field, PLEASE INDICATE THE NUMBER OF ADULTS AND CHILDERN YOU ARE REGISTERING. [FOR EXAMPLE, "2 adults, 3 children"]. This is very important. We must have an accurate number of people registered.
6. Once you completed all the fields, select "complete registration".

Please email Rosemarie Giannini for any questions or additional information.

Save the Date!



End of the Year Picnic:

Our End of the Year picnic has been moved to **Sunday, May 17th** from **4:00pm to 6:00pm at Robbins Park**. Pack a picnic dinner, grab blanket and bring your family to enjoy a Spring afternoon with friends on the playground. You will receive more information regarding this fun event from the Hospitality Committee when we get closer to the date. We look forward to seeing you there!

Extended Day News!



Lunch is so much better when sharing it with friends!!! Each week Ms. Jane and Ms. Heather put the children into different groups so that they can share lunch time with different friends. Conversations are very free flowing with ideas coming from the children. After going to the playground for large motor play we meet in the classroom for some rug time. The teachers help the children begin to construct number lines in their heads by counting around the circle several times, counting "on" by starting with a random number between 1 and 20 and counting forward from there. We start with numbers between 1 and 10. Currently the children are interested in counting small objects (dinosaurs, bears, people) individually on the floor and then combining them with the other four people for a group, longer count. They now are very spontaneous about telling what numbers constitute a double number--12 has 1 and 2 in it. We frequently clap the numbers so they have the kinesthetic sense of the number. At this time of year the children are masters of it!

This year the children have had a strong interest in open art with books and songs/rhymes we have read. We created still life paintings, Elmer and the Rainbow pictures and we will create our own covers for Birds by Kevin Henkes. These illustrations are very open-ended to capitalize on the student's own ideas about the books.

Extended day activities are developed from the interests of the children. This time of the day is for low key socializing, quiet time for individual interests, journal writing and exploration of books and art.

Working with these children is wonderful! We learn something new from them every week! -

Ms. Jane

We still have openings for Extended Day for Fall of 2015. If you would like to register your 4 year old please see Annamarie Pionke or Ms. Ann Marie.

Board News: 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 first hand the inner workings of the school, contribute to decisions made about the school and its functions all while making life long friends! If this sounds like a job for you please take a look at the positions below that are still available.



Building & Grounds Chair
Health & Safety Chair
Parent Participation Chair
Just for Me Two Room Parent
Jr/Sr Room Parent

If you are interested in learning about any of the above positions please contact myself at 630-484-6517 or emakbox@gmail.com.

-Eric Makstenieks, HCP Vice President

From the President:

As we enter this final stretch of this school year, I would like to extend my thanks to Ann Marie Berlino and all of the HCP staff for another great year. As Director, Ann Marie is the heart of the school. She keeps the Parent Board connected with the Teachers by serving on the Executive Board and acting as a liaison between both groups. She works with all of the teachers and creates a family atmosphere and team culture among the HCP staff. She works tirelessly, and without the privacy of an office, on countless tasks to make HCP run smoothly. Ann Marie is the face of HCP, as she attends every function the school sponsors, with a smile. She is always driven by best practice in early childhood and what is best for the children. Ann Marie, along with the wonderful HCP staff and involved parents make HCP a wonderful place to begin the educational experiences of our children. I am proud to say that I am a member of this community. Thank you all for a wonderful year!

Our annual Mandatory Parent Meeting is May 7th at 7pm at HCP. Our Cooperative requires that one parent from each family be present to vote in the new slate of Board members.

Please save the date for our End of the Year Picnic, on Sunday, May 17th from 4-6pm at Robbins Park. Watch for more information as we get closer to the date.

If you have questions about the Mandatory Parent Meeting or the End of the Year Picnic, please feel free to contact me.

-Aline McGivern, President



Kindergarten Enrichment Registration

We are continuing to enroll students in our two popular Kindergarten Enrichment programs: ***BookWorms and Discovery Kids Kindergarten.***

BookWorms focuses on identifying and comprehending the important building blocks of literacy and language, including word families, rhymes and sight words, through popular authors and illustrators meeting the Kindergarten Common Core Standards. Journaling, phonemic awareness and the fine arts are also explored, making wonderful connections to favorite stories! BookWorms is offered Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons from 12:30-2:45 pm.

Discovery Kids was created using feedback from District 181 kindergarten teachers. They shared that there is not enough time during class to consistently offer lessons that incorporate social studies, science and geography. Discovery Kids Kindergarten is a great way to complement a child's kindergarten class. Each month students will visit a different country learning about its geography, science, engineering, technology and art culture meeting the S.T.E.M. Common Core Standards for Kindergarten. Literacy activities related to each country are woven into each lesson. Each week, students are engaged in project-based activities in small groups. Classes naturally flow from one to another (an Australian geography lesson flows into the science lesson on the Great Barrier Reef/aquatic life.) Discovery Kids Kindergarten is offered Thursday afternoons from 12:30-2:45pm.

If you are interested in enrolling your child in either our Preschool Enrichment or if you have a Kindergarten student or know a friend who has a kindergartener and would like to enroll, please contact Ann Marie Berlino, HCP Director.

