
January 2016



Hinsdale Community Preschool

A Parent CO-OP School Since 1942



THE CIRCLE TIMES

Director's News

"There is more to life than increasing its speed" ~ Gandhi

Welcome to a new year, 2016! As we move into a new year most people set resolutions or goals for themselves and their families. I really never believed in resolutions. I believe in doing things better in the upcoming year, looking at areas in our lives and seeing what can be improved. In some instances that may mean to slow down, enjoy more moments instead of rushing through life to get things accomplished. Here at HCP I want life to slow down...to give the children the gift of time. Time to explore, time to discover, time to absorb every learning experience. Believe me, with having gone through the childhood years with our two daughters, now in their 20's, I reflect back and wish it all slowed down.

In our classrooms, I wish to give our teachers the gift of spending more time with each child. Taking more time to engage with each child during the course of their day, time to enhance each child's learning experience, time to tailor each lesson to fit each child.

Important Dates

January 4th – Back to School

January 4th- Open Registration Begins-
9:00 am

January 8th – Classroom Work Parties
in the evening

January 9th – Classroom Work Parties
– 9am-3pm

January 18th – NO SCHOOL
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 25th-29th Pajama Week!

Just for Me Two

Monday:, January 25

Senior, Junior & Jr/Sr PM:

Thursday, January 28

Just for Me Two Friday:

January 29

February 4th –Winter Board Meeting,
7:00pm – Blue Room –
All Parents Welcome!

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I wish to give our parents, family members, caretakers valuable time in the classroom to engage in learning experiences with their child. Time to observe how their child learns, time to engage in play experiences with their child. What a wonderful gift our parent cooperative affords our families! The opportunity to take time for reciprocal learning in the classroom!

So this year, in 2016, find areas in your life to give the gift of time to your most precious possessions, your child(ren) and yourself. Take long walks building your child's vocabulary, put the electronic toys away and build with blocks, take a drive to a new area and sing in the car. Slow down and try to slow down time, for this age and time in your child's life is so very precious! Savor and truly experience every moment.

I wish all of our HCP families the very best in 2016. May your year be full of delightful learning experiences and joyful moments!

-Ms. Ann Marie Berlino, HCP Director

Important Dates Cont'd

February 4th –Winter Board Meeting,
7:00pm – Blue Room –
All Parents Welcome!

February 4th – Parent Education – **All I Need to Know Before My Child Starts Kindergarten**

A Kindergarten Parent Panel- HCP
Blue Room, 8:00pm

February 11th – Sweetheart Night

February 15th – **NO SCHOOL**
Presidents' Day

February 21st -Mother Goose
Presentation – 2:00pm Hinsdale
Library

February 22nd– Final Enrichment
Tuition Payment Due

February 26th –No School Teacher
Institute Day-HCP Staff In-service day

Parent Education Event: All I Need to Know Before my Child Starts Kindergarten

February 4, 2016

8:00pm – HCP Blue Room

Mark your calendars for an interactive Parent Ed. Event to be held on Feb. 4th at HCP! This parent education event will highlight a panel of HCP parents who have children who have completed kindergarten. They will be here at HCP, at your disposal, to answer any questions you might have about getting your child ready for kindergarten, from a parent's perspective. The presentation is open to all families, as our goal in bringing our children to preschool is to prepare them to succeed and thrive in elementary school.

You can never be too prepared for such an endeavor! A survey will go out to all families prior to the event to gather questions for the panel.

Please join us at HCP on **February 4th at 8:00pm in the HCP Blue room** for the Kindergarten Readiness Parent Panel.

Please RSVP to Courtney Headly at courtney.headly@gmail.com
or Ms. Ann Marie@ directorhcp@aol.com

Board News, A Note from Our Ways and Means Chair!

Brent, Brady, Annie and I had settled in quite well to our hectic life in the city - traffic jams, 30 minute commutes to Brady's amazing preschool in Lincoln Park and more parking tickets than I care to admit I accumulated during our 15 years living in Chicago. Then last Spring we were approached by a real estate broker colleague of mine who had a young couple looking for a perfect city home - after years of trying they were finally expecting their first baby and he thought our home would be perfect for them. We reluctantly showed the house, they made an offer and after hours of discussion, we decided that raising Brady and Annie in the city was not only challenging, but not exactly what we had in mind for our family's long term plan. There were many wonderful suburban options, but Hinsdale seemed like the perfect spot for us - a quick train ride to the city, a charming downtown, close to family and most importantly excellent schools.

After doing a lot of digging on the schools in Hinsdale, I did what any self-respecting, super-anal, type A mom would do and created a master spreadsheet of all of the pre-schools in the area. There were Montessori, play-based, art-based, private, public and the list went on and on. There was one very special option, a cooperative play-based pre-school with a rich history where parent participation is encouraged. It seemed like a great fit, so we enrolled Annie in the Juniors class and Brady in the Kindergarten enrichment courses. On Mother's Day, we brought the kids to Dietz Park to share the exciting news of our move with them. We showed them their schools, their new house and of course had an obligatory ice cream sundae. We also by chance, met a few HCP families that day at the park - one who was the incoming Board President. We chatted about the move, how cool it is to be a mom on Mother's Day and of course, HCP. She shared that the Ways and Means Board Chair position was open and with my past fundraising experience, she encouraged me to serve in that position. The opportunity to get involved in our children's school, make a few new friends in our community and plan fundraising events was right up my alley - I excitedly accepted and the journey began!

I quickly learned that the Ways and Means Committee at HCP is a critical part of our little school's success. Tuition alone doesn't cover the many wonderful things that HCP provides to our children. As a result, the Committee hosts events and various fundraisers throughout the year to help raise money for the school. This is my second years serving as Chair and I have had the great privilege of working along our Director, Ann Marie Berlino, our Committee and the other outstanding Board members. Through everyone's great effort, in November we hosted our Annual Parent's Nigh Out at Gibson's. Dinner, drinks, mingling and an outstanding silent auction including items like a trip to Napa, an authentic signed Star Wars Poster and a signed Pearl Jam guitar raised over \$10,000 for our school! Our Second Annual Holiday Trunk Show gave mom's a Sunday afternoon break and a jump start on their holiday shopping - it was once again a great time and a huge fundraising success! In February, we will host an intimate private chef's dinner, a Sweetheart Night Valentine's Day party for the children and this Spring, our Annual Hoe-Down Fundraiser at Arabian Knights. **The fundraising events we plan bring our little community together, help form special lasting friendships and better HCP and our children's experiences with funds that are necessary to our school's success.**

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Although still a bit hectic most days, we are forever grateful for the opportunity to pick Hinsdale as our children's hometown and to have our wonderful little co-op as part of Brady and Annie's educational springboard. I hope that you have a chance to get involved with HCP - it is true that you will gain new friends, a perspective into your child's school and most of all an opportunity to be a part of their early education. Below is a list of events we hope you can mark your calendar for an attend this year! If you have any questions about Ways and Means, as always, feel free to contact me anytime!

Heather Gustafson, 2014 - 2016 Ways and Means Chair

February 11, 2016

6 - 7 pm

Sweetheart Night at HCP with the Teachers

\$25/child - All proceeds to go HCP! Space is limited and requires sign-up

Saturday, February 27, 2016

7pm

Private Chef Event

\$350/couple - Space is limited and requires sign-up

Sunday, March 6, 2016

2 - 5 pm

Spring Fundraiser at Arabian Knights \$35/family

Thursday, April 7, 2016

6 - 8 pm

JMclaughlin gives back - Wine, Cheese and Spring shopping No fee - Percentage of Proceeds donated to HCP



Snow Days...What do we today?

As a child and even as a teacher a snow day meant that we get to sleep in, watch the snow fall, maybe drink hot chocolate! Well, as parents, we sometimes wonder, "What do we do inside all day long?" Here are some fun ideas that can help you pass the time if a snow day comes along.

Shaving Cream Snow:

You'll need a can or two of shaving cream and a large table or tray. Spray some shaving cream all over the tray or table top and let your child create a snow scene with the shaving cream.

Add little people figures, cars, trucks etc. so they can act out playing and working in the snow!

They can even use a small paint brush and paint plastic toys!

A fun and great fine motor activity!

Indoor Snowman

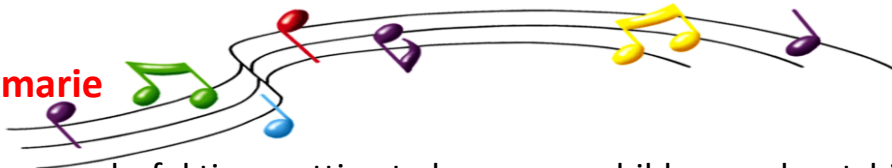
If there is snow on the ground but too cold to play outside, then bring the snow inside in a pan or tray!

Make some snowballs and create a snowman. Use twigs for arms. Make him a hat with construction paper, maybe buttons for eyes and add whatever else you have in the house for different parts of the snowman. You can even keep him in the freezer for a day or two and let him come out and play when he isn't "chillin" in his frosty home! Your kids will think this is so cool!



Music Notes

A Note from Ms. Nelmarie



I have been having such a wonderful time getting to know your children and watching them experience and enjoy music in their own ways! I look forward to every music class as much as they do! The children all have their own songs that they really enjoy and respond to, and in our Musical Theater class the improv and drama games are always met with a positive reception!

In music class we've been working on learning to read and hear rhythms. I taught the children the symbols for quarter, half notes, and whole notes. We also learned about rests. The children are able to read lines rhythms and clap along with them. It has made me so keenly aware that young children are so intrinsically tuned into music, and learning music comes easily to them.

I believe that music is something that is "hardwired" in us from an early age. Even babies and toddlers can appreciate and feel music. I have a distinct memory of my 6 year old niece when she was a little over a year, bobbing her head to a song her mom was playing in the car. She was already starting her connection with music. After music class, I see the smiles on the your children's faces and know that music impacts them as well.

The British neurologist and author Oliver Sacks once quoted, "One does not need to have any formal knowledge of music-nor, indeed, to be particularly 'musical'-to enjoy music and to respond to it at the deepest levels. Music is part of being human, and there is no human culture in which it is not highly developed and esteemed". This applies to children's experience of music as well. For those who wonder whether music can have a positive or profound impact on a child's life, I know from experience that it does.

Studies have found correlations between music perceptual skills and both non-verbal reasoning and phonemic awareness. Other studies have shown that even a little bit of musical training can enhance reading skills. I know from my own personal musical experience that as a child, music helped me to be able to absorb written information more rapidly, as my teacher taught me to sight-read music at an extremely quick pace. To this day, I'm proud to say I'm an expert speed reader!

I believe it's safe to say that not only does music promote intellectual growth in children, but it also is an enjoyable activity that helps children to connect to the beautiful nature of what makes us human: the world of emotions, such as joy, happiness and love. I believe music helps us to reach those places, and helps us all to connect to what makes us unique and special. I hope your children will learn to love and appreciate music in the same way, and I think they are well on their way!

Miss Nelmarie



Reminder:

February 4th at 7pm will be the next Parent Board meeting. All board members are expected to attend and parents are highly encouraged to attend.

Mother Goose and Friends! Save the Date!

All HCP families are invited to register for "Mother Goose and Friends" **Sunday, February 21 at 2:00 at the Hinsdale Community Library.**



HCP and the Hinsdale Public Library have come together to welcome storyteller Mary Jane Haley as "Mother Goose" and her interactive puppet friends for an hour of nursery rhyme fun!

This is a wonderful opportunity for our young children and their families to embrace favorite classic rhymes that have been in our hearts and schools for years.



Children will have an opportunity to take a photo with Mother Goose after the presentation!

Attendance is free. Registration opens on January 25th. Please register to attend through the Hinsdale Public Library.

Thank You!

Many thanks for such a successful food pantry collection!!



Our 2015 holiday sing-a-longs were delightful celebrations!!! Thank you all for your donation to the food pantry! Our families collected over 178 food items that were donated to the Hinsdale Community Service Food Pantry!

What is this movie about? Is it appropriate for my child?

This web site: **Common Sense Media** provides detailed reviews of movies, gives specific details about inappropriate content, suggested viewing age, and violence. Check it out at

<http://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

A must have for parents with children of any age!!!

Winter Weather and School Cancelation



HCP follows District 181 for severe weather and safety procedures. The Director and Board President will consult and decide upon the necessity of a school closing.

Mass notification via automated phone system will be instituted through a voice messaging system entitled **Dialmycalls** by the Director or Board President. All parent's emergency phone numbers have been recorded into the **Dialmycalls** system to be included in the phone message blast.

HCP is registered with the National Weather Service who will issue a Code Red Weather Warning to the school and the Director's cell phone in the event of severe weather in our area. If call is received and school must be suspended all parents will be notified through the Dialmycalls automated phone system.

Notice will also be posted on the HCP Facebook page.

Free days at Chicago museums

Happy new year to all HCP families!

If you are looking for a fun activity with your kids once the wintertime stir craziness has hit - it has at our house! - then check out some of these great Chicago museums. They are super kid friendly for the most part and with a free day if you need to leave after an hour, no big loss! We've even lucked out with finding metered street parking on McFedridge Drive when we've gone to the Shedd, Field, and Adler.

Here are just a few. Just check individual museum websites for more information. Here are the 2016 dates so far:

[Adler Planetarium](#)

1300 S Lake Shore Dr., [312-922-7827](tel:312-922-7827)

Free general admission for Illinois residents on these upcoming 2016 dates:

January 4-8, 11, 12, 15, 18-22, 25-29

February 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 22-24, 29

More dates TBA.

[Field Museum](#)

1400 S Lake Shore Dr., [312-922-9410](tel:312-922-9410)

Free general admission for Illinois residents.

January: 3, 13-14, 23-24

February: 1-29

Additional dates TBA.

[Museum of Science and Industry](#)

5700 S Lake Shore Dr., [773-684-1414](tel:773-684-1414)

Free general admission for Illinois residents.

January 4-8, 11-15, 18-22, 25-29

February 29

June 1-3; 6-8

September 6-9, 12-16, 19-23, 26-30

October 4-6

November 3, 10

December 1

[Shedd Aquarium](#)

1200 S Lake Shore Dr., [312-939-2438](tel:312-939-2438)

Free general admission for Illinois residents

January 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26

February 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29

June 6, 7, 13, 14

September 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27

October 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31

November 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29

More dates TBA.

Happy winter!

Megan Mikhail

HCP Parent board Vice President

REGISTRATION NEWS!

OPEN REGISTRATION has begun! Please share with your friends and family that they can now register at HCP for the 2016-2017 school year. Our spots fill on a first come, first served basis, so now is the best time to secure the spot(s) in the class of their choice. If you know of someone that would like more information about HCP, please forward my email address to them (registrar@hinsdalepreschool.com) or Ann Marie's email address (directorhcp@aol.com).

Thanks!

Lynn Mayer