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## December 2014

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Hinsdale Community Preschool



A Parent CO-OP School Since  
1942



# THE CIRCLE TIMES

### Director's News

"Diamonds in the trees, mommy!" said my daughter, then age 6 while looking up at the Holiday tree in Rockefeller Center in New York City; "the white lights look like diamonds in the trees!"

An interesting view through a child's eyes. It was a simple tradition in our family. Each year we would travel into New York City to see the big, beautiful tree at Rockefeller Center. Seeing the simple beauty in that tree through the eyes of my 6 year old daughter was a delightful experience.

We lived 45 minutes outside of New York City in New Jersey, so the trip was a simple one. However, to our 2 young daughters, there was nothing simple about it. It meant that soon we would be putting up our own holiday tree and decorations to celebrate the season. It meant that we would be baking cookies, eating yummy food, putting out treats for Santa and his reindeer, and visiting with relatives. The anticipation was exhilarating for them! As exciting as it was, some of those days of hustle and bustle were just too overwhelming.

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### Important Dates

- Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> Second Enrichment Tuition Payment Due
- Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 19th Priority Registration for 2015-16 School Year
- Dec 15<sup>th</sup> Parent & Me Holiday Celebration
- Dec 18 Junior, Senior and Jr/ Sr PM Classes – Holiday Celebration
- Dec 19 Just for Me Class – Holiday Celebration
- Dec 22 – Jan 2  
NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
- Jan 5  
Back to School
- Jan 5  
Open Registration Begins – 9:00am
- Jan 9  
Classroom Work Parties in the evening
- Jan 10 Classroom Work Parties – 9am-3pm
- Jan 19 NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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For young children, the entire holiday season can be very vast. When young children's routines are disrupted, expectations are heightened, senses become over stimulated and it is hard for them to cope.

The season seems endless to young children because their sense of time is not fully developed yet.

Mood swings, irritability, restlessness are some signs of sensory overload. Watch for these signs and try to simplify the situation for your child.

Because the holidays can be a busy time families and little ones, we here at HCP attempt to keep our celebrating reasonably simple and tuned to activities the children can enjoy and participate in at their own developmental level. We try to stay on schedule and keep within the routine.

These past several weeks of November, we have enjoyed feasting with one another, giving thanks for our family, and friends and the food we eat. As we move into December we are exploring the different sounds of various musical instruments, learning about each other's family and their traditions, singing holiday songs and enjoying each other's company.

These next few weeks will be a fun and magical time for your children. Treasure this time, keep it simple and see the beauty of the season through your child's eyes. May you make special memories and embrace the moments of celebration with your child/children no matter how small.

On behalf of myself and our HCP staff, we wish all of our families a safe, happy holiday season filled with wonder, peace and gifts from the heart. ~ **Ms. Ann Marie**

## Holiday Gift Ideas from Miss Annie!

Are you searching for gift ideas for Christmas?

Here's an idea.... Tickets to a children's theatrical performance! Open up your child's eyes to an amazing art form. Make it a special occasion. Get dressed up and perhaps go to a nice dinner afterwards.

Make it an exciting experience for your child. Afraid your child might be disappointed by receiving tickets as a gift?

Be creative.... Make a fun basket of things related to the play, musical, etc. that you are going to see. This way, they have something to "play" with but also something to look forward to. You will be surprised on how engaged your child will be watching a performance and I guarantee you they will talk about it for a long time afterwards; and you've just created a memorable experience for the whole family!

Or what about.... A dress up trunk! Fill a trunk/box up with all kinds of dress up costumes/props. Get creative! Fireman, doctor, princess, etc..... Do you have friends looking to get rid of old Halloween costumes? You have just created an endless array of dramatic play possibilities. What a great gift!

Does your child love music? What about a small iPod. Upload all your child's favorite songs/CDs onto the ipod. Now your child has all "their" music in one place!

## Mark your calendars!!

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

**Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – Parent & Me**

– during class time

**Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> -Senior Class:**

10:15 am

**Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> -Junior Class:**

10:15am

**Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>-Jr/Sr PM Class:**

1:50pm

**Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> -Just for Me:**

10:45am (children will have their snack before the sing-a-long)

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/Non-Perishable Item 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!!

## New Friends!



The JR class is excited to announce that the Cassell Family welcomed a new baby this month. Blake Catherine Cassell was born on November 10<sup>th</sup> and weighed 8lbs 8oz. Congratulations to big brother Keaton and his family!

## Interested in Observing A Class?

Priority registration for the 2015-2016 school year has begun! Please note that to be considered for priority registration, applications need to be turned in no later than December 19th.

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](mailto:directorhcp@aol.com) or call 630-325-7484.



## Board News



I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday.

It is always nice to have that additional time to spend with family and friends.

I would like to thank those who have expressed an interest in volunteering for our board next year. I really appreciate it, but we are still in need of additional volunteers.

Many of our experienced board member's youngest children will be moving on to kindergarten next year.

I would like to have these current board members share their knowledge with the incoming volunteers before the official spring vote. This will ensure a smooth transition and provide some hands-on training to the next board while the current board is still here at HCP.

So I am asking that you consider your volunteer commitment for next year. If you are interested in serving on the Parent Board next year or continuing in your current position please contact me at moliverio17@comcast.net or Aline Mcgivern at alinemcgivern@hotmail.com. Either of us will be more than happy to discuss any of the positions that will be available next year.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

***-Mark Oliverio, Vice President***

## REGISTRATION NEWS!!



PRIORITY REGISTRATION is open until December 19<sup>th</sup>!! Be sure to get your paperwork and registration fees in before the 19<sup>th</sup>! If you do not meet the December 19<sup>th</sup> deadline your registration form will be processed with Open Registration.

OPEN REGISTRATION begins January 5<sup>th</sup>! Please share this date with friends and family looking for a preschool for next year. The closest to the January 5<sup>th</sup> date they submit their paperwork and fees the better chance they will get in securing their child a spot for next year. If you know someone who would like more information about HCP, please forward them my email address... [Annamarie.pionke@gmail.com](mailto:Annamarie.pionke@gmail.com) or Ann Marie, our director... [directorhcp@aol.com](mailto:directorhcp@aol.com).

## ***Music Note from Miss Annie:***



As much as I love music, I love acting equally. When I was in high school I had an amazing drama teacher who brought me out of my shell and introduced me to the world of theater. She taught each and every one of us not only how to act but she also taught us hard work, discipline, and focus. Through this we gained confidence and developed a great love for this art form. When I went on to college I remained active in the theater and decided to make it my minor. One of my favorite classes was an improvisational class that I took. This class encouraged us to work on being quick thinkers, be creative, and not be afraid to think outside the box.

When I first took on the position as music teacher I remember thinking that I wanted to introduce the children to some improv/acting as well. In my mind, music and drama go together very well. If you happen to be a parent helper on one of our music days, you probably have seen how I use a lot of expression and movement while I am singing. I want to pass on these skills to the kids at the level that they will find exciting and that they can build upon as they grow.

- What are the benefits of improvisation?
- Increased confidence
- Improves speaking skills
- Gains comfort in social settings
- Encourages brainstorming
- Improves listening and observation skills
- Enhances creative thinking abilities
- Improves decision making skills
- Encourages team work



As you can see, there are many benefits to incorporating improvisational skills/games/stories into our music class. I encourage you to build upon the games and stories that we do in class and nurture your child's creativity. Play the "hi" game with them, play catch with a pretend ball, make up stories.... Have fun!

**-Miss Annie**



## Ask the Director!



### *Dealing with Disappointment*

*With the holiday season comes excitement, anticipation and sometimes disappointment. Below the article from [The Well Centered Child](#), (Sally Nurse, MEd, November 2000) gives parents tips in handling disappointment.*

Most adults have had enough experience in coping with disappointments to realize that life goes on despite them. We've learned that we can recover. We know that our children can bounce back too. Even so, most parents would just as soon spare their children as much disappointment as possible. It is natural to want to protect your child from unhappiness, especially when you know he/she has his/her heart set on something.

So sometimes we end up buying way too many toys. Perhaps we buy ones that in our hearts we don't think are such a great idea. And for those few minutes, we are able to fend off our child's disappointment. We pay the price of course and it is not only in the checkout line. How many times do we second guess ourselves and feel discomfort about not doing what we think is best for our own child.

Our children pay the price too. They lose out when they're too often protected from everyday disappointments. They lose out on learning that they can handle small disappointments. They may assume you think disappointment is a terrible thing, something that should never happen to them.

Allowing our children to experience everyday disappointments doesn't mean of course, that we should intentionally shatter their hopes. And it doesn't mean that we should never buy children some of the special things they want. It's when we regularly allow or buy them things against our better judgment, simply to avoid disappointing them that our children lose out.

When you believe something is wrong for your child or for your family situation, hold the line. Although your child may be angry or upset, coping with life's disappointments is a skill parents can help children learn. Here are some ideas that may help:

Don't insist that your child pretend to be cheerful about a disappointment when she honestly isn't.

- Acknowledge that disappointment does indeed make people feel sad and angry. Even grown-ups feel that way, but the feeling won't last forever.
- Help your child find ways to feel better. For most young children, play is a real help in coping with feelings.
- Remember that despite their protests, most children are relieved to know that adults are in charge of making the decisions that matter.

So be sure to give yourself credit for helping your child face and understand such feelings. Sometimes learning to come to grips with disappointment isn't easy. But, in the long run, it's well worth learning. - *Ms. Ann Marie*

## HCP Teachers' Favorite Read Alouds!

With the holiday season approaching we thought it would be fun to share our teaching staff's favorite children's books with you. Last month we shared four of our teachers' favorite books with you. Here are a few more teacher's favorites!

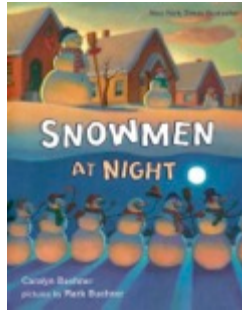


### Ms. Kathy's Favorites:

Any book by Mo Willems

Owen by Kevin Henkes

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Stobodkina.



### Ms. Jane's Favorites:

We're Going On A Bear Hunt by Stephen Birmingham

Popcorn by Frank Asch

Oh A-Hunting We Will Go by John Langstaff

### Ms. Sharleen's Favorites:

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Fancy Nancy books by Jane O'Conner

The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn

### Ms. Sheila's Favorites:

Little Blue & Little Yellow by Leo Lionni

Snowmen at Night by Caralyn Beuhner

Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney.

### Ms. Kathryn's Favorites:

Owen by Kevin Henkes

Annie and the Wild Animals by Jan Brett

Tacky the Penguin by Helen Lester

### Early Literacy Websites:

Looking for some educational websites for your child? Check out the websites below:

<http://www.lil-fingers.com/mommy/index.html>

This site is for toddler age children with games, storybooks and coloring pages.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/>  
Site includes games, stories, art, music, and mail activities for children and a section for parents/teachers too.

<http://www.readingrockets.org/content/pdfs/grocerylit/grocerystoreliteracy>

Let your child become a Super Market Explorer. Bring your literacy skills grocery shopping with you!