



Hinsdale Community Preschool



A Parent CO-OP School Since 1942



### Director's News

January ~ A very busy month for our school and our children!

We welcomed many parents and future HCP students into our classrooms during open registration. The children were very gracious hosts, welcoming potential students into their classrooms with a "hi, what's your name?" or "would you like to play with our play dough?" Some children liked the class that they visited so much it was hard for their parents to get them to leave! That is a good sign! Our classrooms are warm and inviting, our activities are interesting and engaging, our children are friendly and welcoming!

Throughout the month of January we stayed warm in our classrooms even though the temperature outside was freezing. The children were still able to enjoy the snow...inside. Snow was brought into the classrooms for many science experiments and exploration. The recess table became the home of not only real snow and ice, but also fake snow that grows when we add water! One thing was very different...the fake snow didn't melt...very curious. Large blocks of ice were put into the recess table in the junior class to determine when they would melt, how they would melt, what would happen if the children put rock salt onto the ice. Ice globes were brought into the Parent & Me for exploration! The senior and Jr/Sr PM class experimented with ice, found the melting point and discovered where in the classroom the ice would melt faster. What wonderful science and math discoveries meeting the S.T.E.M. standards set in the Common Core Standards! Be sure to take a look at the lesson plans the teachers e-mail to you and use these as conversation starters with your child. These make for great dinner table discussions!

As we move into February, we have incorporated love into all areas of our curriculum. We will cover the love of ourselves when we discuss "Healthy Me", the love of others during Valentine's Day, and the love for those who help us when we learn about "Community Helpers!"

This February share the love...catch your child in a random act of kindness...see how he/she shines!

Stay warm!

- Ann Marie Berlino, Director

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### Important Dates

Feb 3 – Sweetheart Night

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

Feb 6 – Parent Education – All I  
Need to Know Before My Child  
Starts Kindergarten in the HCP  
Blue Room at 8:00pm

**Feb 17- NO SCHOOL –  
Presidents' Day**

**Feb 18- NO SCHOOL – Teacher  
In-Service Day**

Feb 24 – Final Enrichment Tuition  
Payment Due

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## HCP Board News

HCP Families,

I hope you all have had an enjoyable few weeks back to school, my kids missed it more than I thought and it's nice to be back to a routine.

I want to thank the parents that have offered to be on the Parent Board next year. It is greatly appreciated, though we are still in need of some additional volunteers. As I have said previously, many of our experienced board member's youngest children will be moving on to kindergarten next year and I would like the knowledge that these member's possess shared with the incoming volunteers before the official spring vote at the parent's board meeting. Having volunteers early helps to ensure a smooth transition and will provide some hands on training to next year's board while the current board is still here at HCP.

I am asking that you consider your volunteer commitment for next year. If you are interested in serving on next year's Parent Board or would like to continue in the position that you currently hold, please contact me at [alinemcgivern@hotmail.com](mailto:alinemcgivern@hotmail.com) or Eric Makstenieks at [emakbox@gmail.com](mailto:emakbox@gmail.com). Either of us would be more than happy to discuss any of the positions that are available next year. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration and I hope that you have a wonderful second half of the school year!

Aline McGivern



### Meeting NAEYC Standards:

### CHIP (Child Identification Program)

Being a NAEYC Accredited school means that we meet the hundreds of standards set forth by NAEYC throughout the day and school year. This past weekend we partnered with the Hinsdale Masonic Lodge to present the Illinois Child Identification Program – CHIP. We provided a free child identification workshop to 25 families which translated to over 50 children.

Many thanks to Marty Kwilosz and the volunteers of the Masonic Lodge who provided this wonderful service. And a BIG thank you to Annamarie Pionke for spearheading and organizing this event. Our HCP volunteers Annamarie Pionke, Eric Makstenieks, Sue Goeckel, Beth Grunow, Ms. Rosemary and Ms. Kathy were also a great help!

Also, thank you to all of the HCP families who came out on a very snowy morning to participate in this event

INACYE Standard: 7.C.03 Program staff encourage and support families to make the primary decisions about services that their children need and they encourage families to advocate to obtain needed services.





## Ask the Director: Preparing for the Parent Teacher Conferences

Good parent-teacher conferences involve a lot of preparation on the teacher's part. However, the best conferences of all happen when parents take some time to prepare as well. You have approximately ten minutes with your child's teacher. You want to make the best use of that time and get the most out of your conference.

Here are a few ways you can prepare:

- ✓ Take special note of comments your child makes about school. What does she/he seem interested in? Does he mention special friends? Is he/she eager to come to school?
- ✓ If you have any questions or concerns, write them down and decide which of them you want to focus on in the conference. That way you can be sure to bring up the most important ones and keep the less important questions for another time.
- ✓ Plan to arrive at your conference a little early if you can. This will give you time to relax and collect your thoughts as you wait for the parent ahead of you to finish. Arriving late can delay other parent's conferences or cut short your own scheduled time.
- ✓ It is important to tell the teacher if there is anything happening at home that might affect how your child manages in school.
- ✓ Be sure to share your goals for your child/children. Ask what goals the teacher has in mind for your child/children and how you can work with her on them.
- ✓ Before you leave, review any plans you have made together and if needed, set a time to speak with your child's teacher again. Remember to fill out the Parent Conference Survey that your child's teacher will send to you prior to the conference. This will help both of you prepare for a successful parent-teacher conference!



## Footprints

I love a field of smooth clean snow  
Untouched by any feet;  
And when I have to walk through one  
I try to make my footprints neat!