



Hinsdale Community Preschool



A Parent CO-OP School Since 1942



## Director's News

Happy New Year 2014 to all of our HCP families!! I hope you all have had a wonderful holiday and a fresh new start to 2014!

December 2013 was a very busy month for our children and staff. We all enjoyed having parents, family and friends attend our holiday sing-a-longs! We also enjoyed hearing about different family traditions. Thank you for sharing your stories of your family traditions with our staff and children. We love learning about our families!!!

The first half of our school year has brought us together as a school, community and classroom family. Our children have built new friendships and are learning many new skills. We have danced, sang wonderful songs and enjoyed the warm and inviting environment the teachers set forth each and every day. As we move into the second half of the year we continue to enjoy watching your children blossom, grow and solidify those wonderful friendships.

Also, as we move into the second half of the New Year our teachers are looking forward to using the new technology that has been brought into our classrooms. We have begun to use our I-Pads in the classroom for documentation and photos. We will be looking at the various ways we can incorporate the I-Pad and Apple TV into our preschool curriculum. Many times it will not be what we get out of the I-Pad but what we can put into it. We will use it as an observation tool to record learning and then reflect on this learning as a staff. What a wonderful way to improve our observations and enrich our curriculum!

We have many events happening within the next couple of weeks here at HCP Registration for current and prospective families has begun. As I welcome prospective parents into our school, I am very proud to present our school, our philosophy, our highly educated staff and our wonderful sense of community to them. I hope that they will find HCP a warm and inviting home for themselves and their children. Giving tours and educating families about our school is one of my favorite parts of my job as a director. We have so much to offer and I love showing off our school!

As we transition back into the classroom from our holiday break, please remember that your child/children may have a bit of separation anxiety. This is a normal reaction for a child after a long break from preschool. It is helpful to stick to routines and get a good night sleep for both children and parents!!!

May the new year of 2014 bring good health and plenty of family time to each of our HCP families!

- Ann Marie Berlino, Director

## Important Dates

Jan 9 – Board Meeting at 7:00pm  
in Blue Room. All Parents Welcome!

**Jan 10 – Last day of Priority Registration!**

Jan 10 – Open Registration begins at noon

Jan 10 – Classroom Work Party in evening

Jan 11 – Classroom Work Party from  
9:00am – 3:00pm

**Jan 20 – No SCHOOL – MLK, Jr. Day**

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 18- NO SCHOOL – Presidents' Day**

Feb 24 – Final Enrichment Tuition Payment  
Due

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## HCP Board News – We Need You!!

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday break with your families. It was wonderful to have the kids home but after 2 cold weather days added on to the 2 week break, we were suffering from a bit of cabin fever and we're excited to head back to school.

I would like to thank those parents that have expressed interest in volunteering for next year's parent board; it is greatly appreciated, though we are still in need of some additional volunteers. 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 ~ Vice President

### CHIP (Child Identification Program)

**Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> 9-noon**

**Who can attend?** All HCP families & friends (child must be at least 1yr old)

**What is CHIP?** A program that puts together everything parents need to help the authorities find their lost child. It's the most comprehensive program of its kind ...and it is **FREE OF CHARGE TO PARENTS**. It only takes **10-minutes** and supplies parents with a complete child identification package that can be taken home or carried with the family on vacation. Information is totally private and IL CHIP Program only keeps the parental permission form.

#### What does the package include?

\*Color Photo that records image and height and is digitized on a convenient CD that can be easily circulated by police to the media and distributed across the State within an hour via Illinois' Amber Alert Program.

\*DNA Sample taken through a saliva cheek swab is the latest tool in the scientific arsenal to make positive ID's of lost children.

\*Fingerprints are the oldest form of positive identification since they are unique to every person.

\*Recorded Interview captures on the same CD as the picture the appearance, speech patterns, personal characteristics, and mannerisms for easy media distribution.

**Sponsored by:** Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois

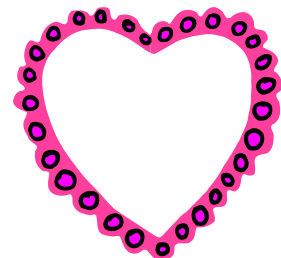
**Hosted by:** HCP



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## HCP Sweetheart Night

February 3, 2014



6-7:15 pm- Drop off your child for a fun night of baking in their pajamas! The children and teachers will bake, read a story and enjoy warm cookies and milk. Don't let your child miss this experience!

There are **only 7 spots left**. Please email Kristin Kohn at [kristinkohn@me.com](mailto:kristinkohn@me.com) if you would like to reserve a spot. Cost is \$25.

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## Parent Education Event

### *All I Need to Know Before my Child Starts Kindergarten*



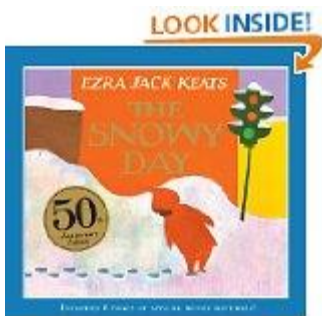
February 6, 2014 - 8:00pm - HCP Blue Room

Mark your calendars for an interactive Parent Ed. Event to be held on Feb. 6th 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 6th at 8:00pm in the Blue room** for the Kindergarten Readiness Parent Panel.

Please r.s.v.p. to Ms. Ann Marie at [directorhcp@aol.com](mailto:directorhcp@aol.com).



### Great Books!

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

#### The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

*The Snowy Day*, a 1963 Caldecott Medal winner, is the simple tale of a boy waking up to discover that snow has fallen during the night. Keats's illustrations, using cut-outs, watercolors, and collage, are strikingly beautiful in their understated color and composition. The tranquil story mirrors the calm presence of the paintings, and both exude the silence of a freshly snow-covered landscape. The little boy celebrates the snow-draped city with a day of humble adventures--experimenting with footprints, knocking snow from a tree, creating snow angels, and trying to save a snowball for the next day. Awakening to a winter wonderland is an ageless, ever-magical experience, and one made nearly visceral by Keats's gentle tribute.

#### Families Can Talk About

- Families can talk about the pleasures of different types of weather: snowy days, rainy days, windy days, and more. Which is your favorite type of weather? Why?
- How easy is it to create fun by yourself? Is it sometimes as much or more fun than playing with others?

Reference: Common Sense Media at [www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org)



## Ask the Director

### What are children learning when they play in the block center?

Blocks are open-ended materials that stimulate young imaginations, provide choices for discovery and invention, and promote the development of problem-solving skills. One day a block may be an airplane, the next day that same block can be a sofa for a house a child is building. Building with blocks helps develop young children's eye-hand coordination, visual perception, and large and small motor skills. It builds self-confidence and provides opportunities for creativity and dramatic play. These things occur naturally when children play with blocks.

The blocks we use in our block center are called "unit" blocks. Combinations of the units make different configurations. Labeling them with the correct names and referring to them with those names when we work with children helps them to have a vocabulary that will translate into kindergarten mathematics.

We also find that working with blocks often deepens children's engagement with literature, literacy and math. Following the reading of a favorite story, a child may be inspired to construct the three bears' beds and chairs, a pirate boat, a horse farm or a princess castle. Since each block is a unit, which is a fraction of a whole unit, the child is ultimately working with fractions. Mathematical and scientific concepts such as balance and gravity are also developed when working with unit blocks.

Blocks as simple as they may seem are fun, engrossing and promote many areas of children's development at any age. Try it at home, put some blocks on the floor, sit with your child or children around the blocks and watch what happens. Even you will want to build something!



# Many Thanks!



Many thanks for a successful food pantry collection!!

Our holiday sing-a-long was a wonderful celebration!!! Thank you all for your donation to the food pantry! Our families collected over 108 food items that were donated to the Hinsdale Community Service Food Pantry!