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## November 2014

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Hinsdale Community Preschool

A Parent CO-OP School Since 1942



THE  
CIRCLE  
TIMES

### Director's News

***"Even if something is left undone, everyone must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn"~ Elizabeth Lawrence***

I am sure you have all taken a few moments to walk with with your child outside this past month and observe the beautiful changes that have been occurring? Have you let your eyes take in the bursts of color? Have you seen the fall transformation through your child's eyes? Accordingly, I am sure that you have taken the time to sit and watch your child and observe the beautiful changes that are occurring. I am sure you can't help but take in the bursts of knowledge that is occurring in your child! Transformation is afoot! Within two months of school we have seen glorious growth in your children! Friendships are being made, knowledge is being shared. Your children are getting comfortable in their classrooms, with the routines, with the teachers. These are all delightful transformations to observe!

Science took a front seat this month as the children learned about trees, leaves, pumpkins and fall colors. The children were engaged in many hands-on exploratory activities relating to the world around them. Treasures were found on nature walks, brought into the classroom and used to explore, weigh and examine. Then it was on to pumpkins, gourds and seeds as the children stuck their hands inside a pumpkin and pulled out the "gooy", "cold" insides. Cutting open a pumpkin is discovery at its best!

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### Important Dates

**Nov 6** Junior Class – Parent/Teacher Conferences

**Nov. 8** Parent's Night Out Fundraiser -Cine

**Nov 10** Final Preschool Tuition Due for this year

**Nov. 12** Senior/Jr-Sr PM classes Parent/Teacher Conferences

**Nov. 13** Junior/Senior/Jr-Sr PM Parent/Teacher evening conferences

**Nov 24-28** NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break

**Dec 1** Second Enrichment Tuition Due

**Dec 1– Dec 19** Priority Registration for 2015-16 School Year

**Dec 15** Parent & Me-Holiday Celebration

**Dec 18** Junior/Senior/Jr-Sr PM Classes – Holiday Celebration

**Dec. 19** **Deadline for Priority Registration 2015-16 - Noon**

**Dec 22 – Jan 2** NO SCHOOL – Winter Break



The JR/SR P.M. class visits the Hinsdale Fire Department as part of Fire Safety Week

## Tech Bites



What is this movie about? Is it appropriate for my child? Is this App. Worth purchasing?

This web site: Common Sense Media provides detailed reviews of movies Apps and Games. It gives specific details about inappropriate content, suggested viewing age, and violence. It also addresses parental concerns in various articles. Check it out at <http://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

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

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Since October is Fire Prevention Month, our Senior class and Jr/Sr PM class went on their first class trip to the Hinsdale Fire Station.

Our Junior class welcomed fire fighters from the Hinsdale Fire House into their classroom.

“What is a good fire?” the fire man asked? “Is a camp fire a good fire?” The children learned the difference between a good fire and a bad fire. They learned that a fire fighter has a heavy hat and must wear a heavy uniform to protect him from the fire. So much to learn, so much to absorb! Our teaching staff also welcomed Firefighter Tom who taught us CPR and First Aid so that we were able to renew our CPR and First Aid certifications!

On the last Monday and Thursday of October the children seemed to disappear and princesses, Minnie Mouse, Mickey Mouse, policemen, batman, Elsa, Olaf, and bumble bees seemed to gather in our classrooms! Even the teachers seemed to turn into different characters! What transformations we saw!!! This was dress up at its finest! It was delightful to watch the children look at each other and realize that even though their friend may look like “Olaf” today, he was still the same friend under that hat!

As we move into November and the weather begins to get colder, please send your child to school with gloves, hats, and warm coats, as we will continue to go outside as much as possible. Please be sure to label your child’s clothing as some may have the same coat, hat etc.

As we enter into the month of Thanksgiving, we give thanks for all of our preschool families! Have a very safe and blessed Thanksgiving. We all have much to be thankful for when we look into the eyes of our children and loved ones. *Ms. Ann Marie*

## Registrar Note



Important Reminder..... **PRIORITY REGISTRATION** for next year (2015/2016 school year) for current HCP families in good financial standing will begin **December 1<sup>st</sup>**! This date has been moved up from prior years so please mark your calendars! Each family's registration form, agreement letter, and fee must be turned in by noon on December 19<sup>th</sup> to be considered for Priority Registration. Registration is also the time when you get to choose your volunteer commitment for next year, and we hope you will consider joining the HCP Board!

A registration packet will be emailed to families, and hard copies will also be distributed in children's tote bags, on November 17/18th. If you have any questions, please contact [Annamarie.pionke@gmail.com](mailto:Annamarie.pionke@gmail.com).

Feel free to stop Ann Marie or myself at drop off or pick up if you have any questions about Registration.

Please tell your friends with preschool-age children that open registration begins on **Jan 5, 2014**. Prospective families can call the school, visit our website, or email Annamarie Pionke for more information and registration documents.  
**Annamarie Pionke**

**P.S.** Are you interested in being on the Executive Board? Does the Registrar role interest you? Now is the perfect time to consider coming on board as an Assistant Registrar to shadow me on Registration for next year! Learning now will make your job as Registrar go much more smoothly next year! Being Registrar is a great way to become familiar with all the HCP families, get to have a voice on the Executive Board, and work closely with marketing to help promote our outstanding school! Feel free to email me or call me at 630.803.4070 with any questions!

## New Friends!



The JR/SR PM class is excited to announce that the Bonthala family welcomed a new baby this month. **Eshan Bonthala** was born on October 5th at 5:01AM. Congratulations to big brother Neil and his family!

The Parent and Me class is excited to announce that the Quirk family welcomed a new baby this month. **William (Will) Quirk** was born on October 25th. He was 6lbs, 11 oz. Mom and baby are doing well!

## Prepared Meals for Your New Baby!

Did you know that the Hospitality Committee offers a wonderful meal delivery service to HCP families with new babies? The Hospitality Committee organizes a sign up email that goes out to the family's class. Meals are delivered Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for 2 weeks! I can speak from experience that having those 2 weeks off from cooking after the arrival of my daughter was a huge help to my family! It was so nice to have a warm dinner already prepared and dropped off by a friendly face. This is just another example of how we have such a supportive community of families here at HCP! **Erin Goodwin**

## Fall Cleaning? Cleaning out your closets and drawers?

HCP needs gently used  
Girls and boys size 4 and 5 pants and shirts  
Sweat pants or pull on pants desirable



## Board News

With Thanksgiving and the Holiday Season just around the corner, I think this would be a good time to express my thanks to the dedicated group of volunteers that serve on the Parent Board here at HCP. This great group of people helps to bring us together, educate us, keep us organized, and keep the school running smoothly. First, thank you to Alexis Braden, the Newsletter Chair, for organizing and publishing this great newsletter with such thoughtful and informative articles like those by Laura Tortorello our Health and Safety Chair, Kristin Achterhof our Publicity and Marketing Chair, who is currently working with Hinsdale Magazine, The Community House, and the Hinsdale Library to continue marketing our co-op preschool. By the way, keep an eye out for our display at the library next month. It has been a busy year for our Treasurer, Heather Byers, and Assistant Treasurer, Kim Lowe, also, both of whom keep our financials in order and invoices up to date. Thank you also goes out to our Hospitality Committee, headed by Kristin Bagull and Erin Goodwin, for putting together the beginning of the year activities and for organizing the dinners of families that have had new additions.

A special thank you needs to go out to the Ways and Means committee: Sonia Patel, Gilesta Bell, Brady Cassell, Megan Peterson, Marni Wright, and Lan Jiang headed by committee chair, Heather Gustafson for all of the hard work and time that they have been putting in organizing the upcoming Parents Night Out Fundraiser. This year's event will be on Saturday, November 8 at Cine in Hinsdale. If you have not already RSVP'd, please do so. It is a fun night out for all of us to get together for good food and drinks and bid on some fabulous auction items.

One last thanks goes out to my Executive Board: Mark Oliverio, Vice President; Grace Scheri, Secretary; Heather Byers, Treasurer; Annamarie Pionke, Registrar; Heather Gustafson, Ways & Means; Kristin Achterhof, Publicity and Marketing; and Ann Marie Berlino, Director of HCP. The amount of appreciation that I have for this group of people is hard to describe. They put in hours of their time each week and I am grateful to have them as a part of this team.

Thank you again to all of the people that I mentioned above and to all of the families that are a part of our HCP community, for your commitment to your child's early education, and the success of our school. **Aline McGivern - President**



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



We are having so much fun in music class! I am starting to get to know all the children and I look forward to class as much as they do! I have received a lot of great notes from parents letting me know what their child's favorite songs are and what their favorite activity is. I have gotten great feedback on our interactive improv stories, so I will continue to incorporate a story in each class.

To go along with the "Fire Safety" theme a couple weeks ago, we did an improv story that involved going to the firehouse and helping put out a fire. The kids had a blast! This week we did an improv story about going to a "Fall Fair"!

We continue to work on our rhythm and tonal patterns and have now added a couple more instruments for our "Clap With Me" song (i.e. sticks, bells, shakers). All the children were given an opportunity to touch my keyboard and they were thrilled! I pointed out high notes versus low notes and I had a couple requests from the kids that they get another opportunity to touch the keyboard so I will incorporate that in our next class.

I use the Musikgarten lesson plans as a base for what I will be doing each class with some tweaks here and there. Musikgarten does a wonderful job in making sure various "Functions" are touched on each class. The different functions I am referring to would be body awareness, patterns, travel movement, call and respond, listening games, dance, stationary movement, singing games, and stories.

For those of you who purchased the CD, it sounds like you are enjoying the songs and the kids are relating what they learned in the class to the CD. Ashley and I always have the Musikgarten CD playing in the car and they are definitely catchy tunes.

I hope everyone has a fun and safe Halloween!!! -

***Miss Annie***

## ***Did you know...***

For the Young, life is a celebration! For the young child every day is new, fresh, exciting, and filled with new people, things and events. Events that appear prosaic and ordinary to us as adults are a never-ending source of wonder and engagement for the child. With no sense of time but the present, the children live each moment completely. The smallest happening is a momentous event for which there is no precedent in their life experience. Children's intuitive intelligence is superbly tuned to the living world around them. They possess an extraordinary capacity for assimilation and have an innate ability to observe the tiniest things, which hardly even exist for the adult. These capacities of early childhood will never be repeated in life with the same clarity and ease. The child's perception of and identification with all life forms and events will never again be possible with the same spontaneous enthusiasm.

***-Musikgarten Cycle of Seasons Guidebook***



## Annual Parent's Night

**Nov. 8th from 6-10:00pm at Cine in downtown Hinsdale.**

Please save the date for our Parent's Night Out Annual Fundraiser November 8th 7 - 9 at Cine in Hinsdale. This is a night you don't want to miss with cocktails, dinner and an amazing silent auction! We are taking auction donations through October 15th so be sure to drop your donation off at HCP. Please contact the Ways and Means Chair Heather Gustafson at [heather.d.gustafson@gmail.com](mailto:heather.d.gustafson@gmail.com) or 312.399.9816 with any questions.



## Online Auction Live

The Ways and Means Committee is very busy putting the finishing touches on what is sure to be a really wonderful evening! As part of the evening, we will have so many amazing one-of-a-kind items on which to bid.

As a sneak preview, and to make our auction available to everyone (even those who can't attend), below is a link to our online auction with a few select items. The online auction is live now and will end the morning of our Benefit on November 8th at 10 am. You can register on this site, bid on items and even "but it now"!!

<http://hinsdalecommpreschool.charitygrow.org>

**Heather Gustafson**

## Parent Education Corner

A big THANK YOU to **Rosemarie Giannini** (daughter Olivia, Jr/Sr PM class) and to Ms. Sharyn Grey SLP, d181 for presenting a very informative session on Speech and Language for the Young Child at the Hinsdale Library on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Both Sharyn and Rosemarie covered a great deal of information during their presentation! We truly appreciate the time they took from their schedules to develop this presentation and offer it to our HCP families! Many, Many thanks!

### **Here are some takeaways!**

**What is Speech and Language?** Preschool speech and language skills consist of language (comprehension/ expression), speech (articulation, voice and fluency) and social/pragmatic language.

**Red Flags:** Difficulty with:

Following directions with daily routines and activities; lack of response when name is called

Asking and answering questions appropriately; interacting and using language with peers

Putting words together into sentences; Using correct pronouns, like "I", "he" or "she"

Difficulty remembering the words to favorite songs or repetitive stories

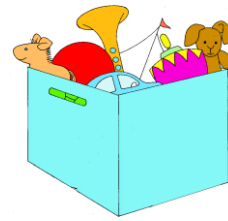
Identifying and naming objects and pictures; Taking turns when talking with others

Using eye contact; difficult to understand due to numerous sound errors. Errors seem to follow patterns of errors (ex: tup for cup, tookie for cookie, poon for spoon)

Check out the Parent Information Board in the hallway of HCP for Language Milestones for 3's and 4s'

## Clean Toys Help Prevent Disease

*(adapted from DuPage County Health Department)*



Germs can easily spread among children as they share toys. Regular cleaning and sanitizing toys helps prevent the spread of germs.

Washing is the important first step, and sanitizing is the second cleaning step. Washing removes most of the dirt and grime but not all of the germs. Therefore, it is necessary to also sanitize toys to remove or kill most of the germs on an object or toy.

Choose washable toys whenever possible. Toys can be washed by hand (with hot water and soap or detergent), followed by immersing toys in a sanitizing solution. Unscented household chlorine bleach is safe and effective for sanitizing toys. Chlorine evaporates off the toys so no residue remains. Mix  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon of unscented chlorine bleach to 1 quart of cool water. Toys such as stuffed animals and play clothes can be washed in a washing machine using the hot water cycle. You do not need to immerse or wipe toys with a sanitizing solution if they are washed by machine. Finally, some hard toys such as wood, plastic or metal may be washed in a dishwasher. Run toys through the complete wash and dry cycle on the top rack only. You do not need to use a sanitizing solution with toys washed in the dishwasher. **Laura Tortorello**



The  
JR/SR  
P.M.  
class  
showing  
off their  
spirit

## Ask the Director!



### *What can I do in the classroom?*

This is a question many parents ask me regarding being a parent helper in the classroom.

Here at HCP we want you to enjoy your experience in our classrooms and engage in the activities your child enjoys. We also want you to be an observer. Observe your child during circle time, music time, free choice time. Does your child use his/her manners at the snack table? Is your child able to follow the teacher's direction. Does your child interact in a positive manner with the other children? These observations can be very beneficial for a parent. Please be aware that the classroom is your child's "domain". This is where they have the freedom to make their own choices and demonstrate their "independence"! Be careful not to judge your child's artwork, block structure, lego creation etc. or compare it to another child's. Remember it is the process, not the product of the creation! You can encourage creative expression and learning by using observational words as well as encouraging words. Instead of telling your child "good job" use words such as "I see you are using red in your painting." Let your child lead you.

We have found that some children, however, find it hard to share mom or dad with friends. So don't be surprised if your child wants your undivided attention!

Here are some tips for a successful parent helper visit!

**Snack Time:** One of the primary duties for parent helper is to set up the snack in the room and clean up the snack/floor/trash etc. Ask the teacher how she would like snack set up, how much snack to set out or any other questions that you have.

**Free Choice/Exploration Time:** Join in the fun! During free choice/exploration time join in the activities with your child. Engage your child and other children in an activity on the floor – a game, a puzzle, play dress up. Join in the block building fun! Help build a structure with blocks, legos, Lincoln logs etc.

**Story Time:** If you like to read stories ask the teacher if you can read the story that day. Or you may want to gather several children in the story corner and read a few stories.

**Creative Art:** If you like to do art work, join in at the creative art table and engage your child and other children in making a piece of art!

**Table Time:** Ask the teacher if she would like you to assist at a table during learning center time.

If you have a special talent/job that you can share with your child's class be sure to speak to the teacher about presenting that talent/job to the class. We love to have our parents share their talents and experiences with us!!

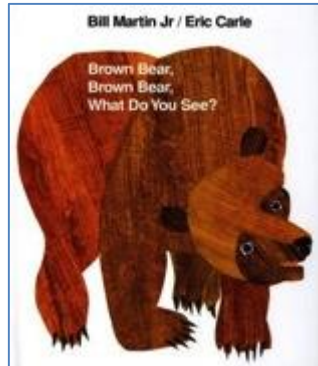
Your time in the classroom with your preschooler is very special. Enjoy these precious moments!

***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. Of course we all have many favorite authors and books but here are our top three! We will continue this in the December Newsletter with four more teacher favorites!



### ***Ms. Ann Marie's Favorites:***

*A Turkey for Thanksgiving* by Eve Bunting

*Dear Mr. Blueberry* by Simon James

*Guess How Much I Love You!* By Sam McBratney

### ***Ms. Heather's Favorites:***

*Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* By Bill Martin Jr.

*Good Night Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle

### ***Ms. Wendy's Favorites:***

*Can I Keep Him?* by Steven Kellogg

*The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash* by Trinka Hakes Noble

*Owen* by Kevin Henkes

### ***Ms. Rosemary's Favorites:***

*The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle

*If I Could Keep You Little* by Marianne Richmond

### ***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!

# Halloween Fun!

