
February 2016



Hinsdale Community Preschool

A Parent CO-OP School Since 1942



THE CIRCLE TIMES

Director's News

February at HCP is a fun month full of hearts and love! In our classrooms this month, we learn not only that friendship is important but that we need to also love ourselves. We love ourselves by taking care of ourselves by eating healthy, exercising, getting enough sleep. Our lessons will include discussions on how members of our community show their love by working for us and dedicating their careers to help each other. We will help each child to develop positive self-esteem by feeling good about who they are. Early childhood expert *Lilian Katz* reminds us that *self-esteem is conveyed to children when adults treat them with respect*. We respect children when we ask them for their views and preferences and when we provide opportunities for real decisions and choices about those things that matter to them.

As a teacher I always loved to discuss random acts of kindness with my students especially at this time of year. What does it mean to be kind? How can you surprise someone by doing something kind for them? How does it make you feel to be kind to someone else? How do you think it makes them feel?

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Important Dates

February 4th –Parent Board Meeting,
7:00pm – Blue Room

February 4th – Parent Education Kindergarten Parent Panel- HCP Blue Room, 8:00pm

February 11th – Sweetheart Night

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

February 22nd– Final Enrichment Tuition Payment Due

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

March 2nd & 3rd – Junior Class Parent Teacher Conferences- daytime

March 8th & 9th – Senior & Jr.Sr PM Parent Teacher Conferences- daytime

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Random acts of kindness do not have to be something big. It could be a hug, a helpful act such as getting daddy's boots for him, bringing mommy her hat etc., holding the door for a friend. Webster's describes a **random act of kindness as a selfless act performed by a person or persons wishing to either assist or cheer up an individual.** Have a discussion with your child about kindness and friendship, give them opportunities to make choices about things that matter to them. Discuss how we treat family and friends lovingly and how we can be kind to our family and friends.

Purposely thanking your child for their random act of kindness with a hug, a kiss or a smile will make them feel respected. Helping your child develop a sense of kindness will not only instill empathy for others but will help your child develop selflessness, a true sense of respect for themselves and others and heart which truly touches our soul.

-Ms. Ann Marie Berlino, HCP Director

Hinsdale Community Preschool Presents

Mother Goose and Friends!



Date: February 21st

Time: 2:00pm

Place: Hinsdale Library Children's Section

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!

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

All HCP families and friends are invited to register for "Mother Goose and Friends" **through the Hinsdale Library.** Attendance is free. Registration is now open!

HCP Sweetheart Night

February 11, 2016

6-7: 15 pm

Drop off your child at HCP for a fun night of frosting cupcakes, creating a sweet craft and hearing a story all in their pajamas! Just for Me Two drop off is optional.

There are still a few spots left. Cost is \$30.00. Please e-mail

Heather Gustafson at heather.d.gustafson@gmail.com or Ms. Ann Marie at directorhcp@aol.com

if you are interested in attending



Board News:

HCP Families,

I hope everyone is healthy and staying warm.

I'd like to thank Megan Quirk, Megan Mikhail, Ann Marie Berlino and the building and grounds committee for cleaning the HCP facilities and toys. The school looks great.

The parent board nominating committee had a very productive meeting last on Monday the 25th. If anyone is interested in volunteering for a position on the parent board please let myself, Ann Marie or Megan Mikhail know. We can also answer any questions you may have in regard to responsibilities.

I would also like to thank everyone for their time and dedication to making HCP the best preschool for our children. HCP, unlike any other preschool in Hinsdale, is administered by our students' parents. Our parent body also participates to high degree in the classroom. Commitment like this is why HCP has been around for 73 years. Take pride in your involvement and thank you again.

Eric Makstenieks
HCP Parent Board President

REGISTRATION NEWS!

Classes are filling!

Open registration has begun and classes are filling! Please share with your friends and family that the we are busy accepting applications for the 2016-2017 school year. Our spots fill on a first come, first served basis, so now is the best time to enroll in the class of their choice!

If you know of someone that would like more information about HCP, please share d my email address (registrar@hinsdalepreschool.com) or Ms. Ann Marie's email address (directorhcp@aol.com). All interested families can also schedule a tour to observe the classes.

Thanks!
Lynn Mayer

Real Art For Real Children

“We grown-ups provide, the time, the space, the materials, and the atmosphere needed to create the wonderful works of art that only children can create. In valuing a child’s first artistic attempts, however, we should appreciate the beauty of the color and design rather than the finished product.”



This is a statement in a publication of National Association for the Education of Young Children and one that I have come to fully appreciate. I have very vivid memories of art pictures in my childhood years that were never as beautiful as the next child’s. They did not look like the teacher’s. This did nothing for my self-esteem. Now I know that I should have been allowed to “mess around” with all sorts of media in those younger years. I should have been encouraged in the **process of creating** rather than the **finished product**. Louise Beem, a founder of HCP, has often said that replicating a teacher example is best left to children older than seven.

At HCP we know and understand the importance of exploration with art material and allow creativity to flow. Last week in one of the classes, snow men were created after the children heard a story about what materials may have been used to make the snowmen. One of the children put many small orange pieces of paper in the snowman’s stomach in his picture. The child said that the orange pieces were all the carrots that the snowman might have eaten. What great creativity! When children are encouraged to make what they are thinking, we nurture cognitive growth and see things in new ways. Whenever we link stories with art we promote early stages of reading and writing.

The youngest children in our program are just learning how to use the material. Recently, I watched one of these children take a brush full of paint in her left hand and make a long vertical line on the paper. Then she transferred the drippy paint brush to her right hand and dragged the brush from the bottom of the paper to the top as it hung on the easel. She was experiencing real learning of the density of the paint, the fluidity of the paint and the joy of creating a great purple, white and blue painting. As she gains strength in her hands she will make continuous strokes with just one hand.

From the young two year old in the Just For Me Two class to the kindergarten bound young five year old in the senior class or Jr/Sr PM class, we encourage “real art” for our children. As N.A.E.Y.C. states real art for real children should be **personal, spontaneous, inventive, imaginative, unique, therapeutic and fun**. Art can be as simple as colors representing a pretty day or as complex as color on paper expressing an emotion. We should always be ready for that creative moment! Children need to have access to a variety of materials. Cows can be purple; a moon can smile or a person can have six arms. An original idea encourages ownership and a positive sense of self-esteem. No two works of art look the same when young children are the artists. Art provides children with the means to gain control over their feelings. A positive, enthusiastic atmosphere of enjoyment is essential. We love being creative in all the many aspects of classroom art.

Jane Youngs

(with excerpts from “Family Friendly Communication for Early Childhood Programs”)

Preparing for 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.



This spring the Junior class, Senior class and Jr/Sr PM class parents will have approximately fifteen minutes with your child's teacher for a conference. You will 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!

“Construction is superior to instruction: Children learn best when they are actually doing the work themselves and creating their own understanding of what is going on. Children need every possible opportunity to do things for themselves.”

~Jean Piaget

Winter Work Party Thank You!

Thank you to all of the families that participated in our winter work party last month! Our classrooms shined and our toys were refreshed. It is a big job and we all truly appreciate your dedication and efforts to keep make our classrooms sparkle! A Big Thank You to Megan Quirk, Building & Grounds Chair, for organizing and making sure all was well!

Product Recalls

Did you know you can find valuable information regarding product recalls on this website: Kids In Danger, Improving Children's Product Safety?

Kids In Danger (KID) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety.

What is a recall? A recall is when the government and the manufacturer remove a product from the market because it is dangerous and poses a risk of serious harm. While both the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recall products, most children's products are covered by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Even if the product is removed from store shelves very few steps are taken to remove the product from homes, childcare facilities, secondhand stores and garage sales. Millions of recalled products are still in use.

What can be recalled? Everything. Toys are recalled, along with most infant and toddler products, such as cribs, strollers, high chairs and more.

How do products get recalled? Hazards in products come to CPSC in various ways. Sometimes a company will find a flaw in their own internal testing. Other times, unfortunately, it is found when a child is injured or killed. CPSC is limited in most cases to convincing the manufacturer to do a voluntary recall, so sometimes products remain in use, even if they have injured children.

How many recalls are there? Children's products are recalled more than twice a week. That means there are on average over 100 children's products recalled per year. Chances are you have a recalled product, which is why it is so important to check.

If two children's products are recalled every week why don't I hear about them? When a product is recalled – even a product that has killed multiple children – manufacturers rarely pay to advertise the recall. Instead, they issue a press release. This news is very easy to miss. In fact, when a baby product is recalled, manufacturers typically only retrieve 10 to 30 percent of the units. This means that millions of dangerous recalled products are still in use, maybe even by you.

I think that a product is unsafe, what can I do? You are not alone if you have had a bad experience with children's products, often it is not an accident but a product flaw. The best way to ensure that it doesn't happen again or to someone else is to report any incidents or other problems to the product manufacturer and to CPSC. You can also review other consumers' reports at SaferProducts.gov.

Help! I have a recalled product, now what? First thing is to stop using it! Products are recalled for a reason, because they are dangerous. Don't take any chances by continuing to use a product that is not safe. Find the recall notice either by searching for it on the [CPSC web site](http://www.cpsc.gov), or by calling CPSC at 1-800-636-CPSC. The notice will tell you if you need to return the product for a refund, or order a replacement part to make the product safe.

Please visit <http://www.kidsindanger.org/product-hazards/recalls/> for valuable information!