
November 2015



Hinsdale Community Preschool

A Parent CO-OP School Since 1942



A large red circle with a white border. Inside the circle, the words "THE CIRCLE TIMES" are written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, stacked vertically.

Director's News

"The happiest business in all the world is that of making friends" author unknown

As we moved into October we have observed the children conducting the business of making friends and exhibiting a vast amount of empathy and understanding of how each of us are so different but yet so alike. As you participate in your child's class observe how your child accepts the other children playing around him/her. Listen as the teacher uses words to encourage cooperation and cooperative play. Observe how the children include each other in their imaginative play. Watch the negotiations, compromise and how your child goes beyond their own self-interest. I truly enjoy going into each classroom and observing the children making friends and building relationships.

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.



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Important Dates

November 2nd – HCP Fall
Parent Board Meeting 7:00pm
Blue Room

November 4th – Junior Class
Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 7th – Parent's Night
Out Fundraiser 7pm at
Gibson's

November 9th – **Final Preschool
Tuition Payment Due for
2015/16 School Year**

November 10th – All Classes
Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 11th – Senior and
Jr/Sr PM Parent/Teacher
Conferences

November 23rd–27th No School
Thanksgiving Break

November 11th – All Classes
Back to School

December 1st – Priority
Registration for 2016-17 begins

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Treasures were found on nature walks, brought into the classroom and used to explore, weigh and examine. Using all of our senses we explored the inside of a pumpkin! What a wonderful sensory experience!

The Senior class went on their first class trip to the fire station and the Junior class welcomed fire fighters from the Hinsdale Fire Station into their classroom. The children practiced Stop, Drop and Roll with the firefighters. They learned that a fire fighter has a heavy hat and must wear a heavy uniform to protect him from the fire. Exploring the awesome fire truck was so fun too! So much to learn, so much to absorb!

The end of October brought us pretend and dress-up all rolled together for Halloween. We came in costume, sang songs, and had lots of giggles and lots of fun!!

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.

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 Berlino, HCP Director

Holiday Outreach



The Hinsdale Junior Woman's Club will be sponsoring their annual "Gift of the Season" event again this year. The event will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2015. Families who are clients of HCS Family Services attend the event and choose gifts to give their children during the holiday season. HCP hosts a basket for donations of new children's hats, mittens and scarves for this wonderful event each year.

If you would like to donate to Gift of the Season, please do so by **November 20th**. A basket will be placed in front of my desk on November 1st, for the collection of new hats, mittens and scarves for children.

Our Just for Me Two mom, Nikita Thakkar will pick up your donations on Friday, November 20th and bring them to the Junior Women's Club event. Thank you in advance for your very generous donations!

Board News:

With Thanksgiving on the horizon, I would like to thank the dedicated group of volunteers that serve as the Parent Board for HCP. This incredible group of people work not only to keep our school running smoothly, but they keep us organized, educated, and bring us together as a community. Thank you first to **Andrea Conlan**, the Newsletter Chair, for publishing a newsletter that gives us such an informative look at our school. **Kristin Achterhof**, Publicity and Marketing Chair and her committee, have been working on submissions to The Community House's Fall and Winter brochures. It has been a busy year thus far for our Treasurer, **Stephanie Wolfe**, and **Kim Lowe**, our Assistant Treasurer, whom both keep our financials in order and invoices up to date. **Elayna Lindstrom**, the chair of the hospitality committee, **Jill Sparks**, the Health and Safety Chair, and **Meghan Quirk**, the Buildings and Grounds Chair, made sure we started our year out right and keep our school prepared for any emergency. **Courtney Headley**, the Parent Education Chair, and finally the room parents **Ilysha Havens**, **Sandra Wasson**, **Lauren Lange** and **Jennifer Govostis**.

A special thank you goes to the entire Ways & Means Committee chaired by **Heather Gustafson**. I know everyone on this committee has been working hard to make the Parent Night Out on November 7th a great success. If you have not already RSVP'd, please do so. It is a fun night for all of us to get together for good food and drinks and bid on some fabulous auction items.

My biggest thanks goes to the Executive Board: **Megan Mikhail, Vice President; Grace Scheri, Secretary; Stephanie Wolfe, Treasurer; Annamarie Pionke, Registrar; Heather Gustafson, Ways & Means; Kristin Achterhof, Publicity and Marketing and Ann Marie Berlino, HCP's Director**. There are no words to express how much I appreciate the hours of time this group of people put into supporting the school. I am truly lucky to be a part of this team.

Thank you again to everyone mentioned, and to all who are a part of the HCP community, for your commitment to your child's early education!

Eric Makstenieks
HCP President

Please SAVE THE DATE!!!

Our annual **Parent's Night Out** is our little school's best night of the year and by far our most important fundraiser! This year it will be held on November 7th from 6:30 - 9:30 at Gibson's in Oak Brook. Questions, Comments and Suggestions, please contact Heather Gustafson at [312.399.9816](tel:312.399.9816) or heather.d.gustafson@gmail.com



Ask the Director

How can help my child at home with handwriting?



Children learn about writing by observing people who already know how to write. Encouraging your child to tell you what they have written or drawn and model it on paper in the proper letter formation also peaks a child's interest in writing. Writing is a developmental skill that begins at an early age. A two year old for example will write on a piece of paper in what seems to be cryptic scribble. However, that scribble is the beginning of reading and writing. A three and four year old will begin to develop their dominant hand as well as pencil grip while writing or coloring as well as doing other fine motor activities. Some children develop their dominant hand earlier than others. Using small pencils or broken crayons at home can help a child develop the correct pencil grip instead of the "fist grasp" that some children use. Watching a parent or older sibling write words is another way to reinforce the idea of writing. Help your child create small paper books so that they can write their words. Encourage them to write a menu for dinner. It may not look like a menu or have any legible words but it is the beginning to understanding that oral language transfers to written words. Here at HCP we use the Handwriting Without Tears writing program. This program focuses on developing fine motor skills, learning to follow directions and draw lines in the correct direction. It gives our students the opportunity to play with play dough to form letters, wooden shapes to form letters and use small crayons to develop the proper finger grip. For more information on this program and tips to work with your child visit: www.hwtears.com

Ms. Ann Marie



Baby News!

Melissa, Thai, and big sister Samantha welcomed 7lbs 11 oz. Sloane Erica, on Sunday, October 4th. Congratulations and best wishes to the Nguyen family from everyone at HCP!!

Holiday Shop and Support HCP!

We have a wonderful opportunity to easily generate money for HCP through eScripts.

eScript's Online Mall is your way to make a difference every time you shop online!
You shop and their online retailers generously give savings for you, plus a percentage back to HCP!

Whether you want to shop the latest fashions from Bloomingdales or Nordstrom, or if you are gearing up with the latest gadgets from the Apple Store, Amazon or bargain hunting at eBay, your shopping will make a difference for the causes you care about. There are many stores to choose from!

The Online Mall also provides timely money saving offers as an added benefit to you for shopping with them through the Online Mall.

Visit the link: <https://shopping.escrip.com/ref/pghiw> and support HCP!

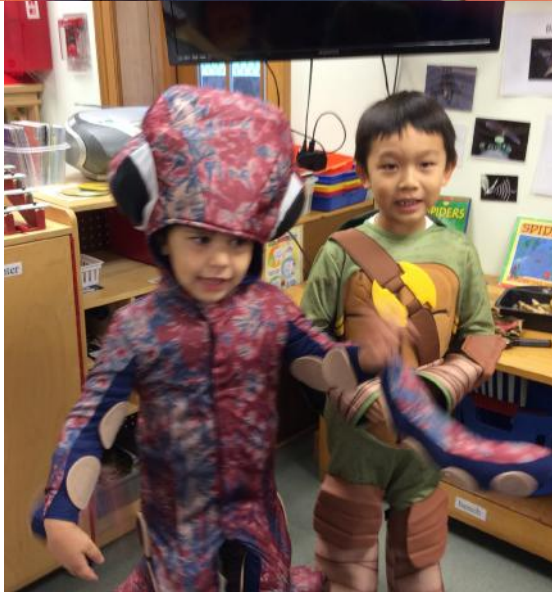
Pumpkin Time!



This month in the Just for me 2's group, the students explored the inside of pumpkins! This great sensory activity brought out new and fun adjectives such as slimy, gooey, stringy, and yucky.



Halloween Fun at HCP!



From Our Registrar:

PRIORITY REGISTRATION for next year (2016/2017 school year) for current HCP families in good financial standing will begin December 1st! Each family's registration form, agreement letter, and fee must be turned in by noon on December 18th 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 16/17th. If you have any questions, please contact me at registrar@hinsdalepreschool.com

Feel free to contact Ms. Ann Marie or myself if you have any questions about Registration.

Please tell your friends with preschool-age children that open registration begins on Jan 4, 2015. Prospective families can call the school, visit our website, or email Lynn Mayer at for more information and registration documents.

-Lynn Mayer, HCP Registrar