



# Highland Park Community Nursery School & Day Care Center

## April 2010 News

### Director's Comments

We hope you were able to conference with one of your child's teachers. If not, please schedule some time to meet at your earliest convenience. A gentle reminder that parent conferences are mandatory for "Preschool For All" students. We want to hear from you, share what your child looks like in a classroom of peers, and discuss the progress he/she has made since the beginning of the year. We often see significant developmental strides during these early months of the new year. Please continue to give your child opportunities to become more independent and self sufficient (even though it is easier to put their boots on for them). Self esteem comes from competency. It is also a good time to revisit goals for the children and strengthen our partnerships. Working together can make the next few months even more fruitful.

For those of you with children who will be going to kindergarten in the fall of this year, we hope you were able to attend "Kindergarten Round-up" at your local elementary school in February. If not, be sure the school knows your child will be attending in the fall. You should have received, completed and returned a packet of information from District 112.

If you are planning to work in the fall and would like your child to attend our After Kindergarten Enrichment Program, be sure to request morning kindergarten placement at the elementary school. Please request registration information from our office and return your completed forms as soon as possible to reserve a space in the Enrichment Program. Registration is currently open to the community at large. Sixteen places have already been filled.

If your child needs child care and is going into first grade, please contact Family Network's After School Activities Program (ASAP). The number is 847 433-0377. The ASAP program is held in two District 112 schools. Space is limited, so don't delay.

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All current day care students have received registration information for summer and fall. If you have a student in the Orange or Blue Room and would like information about summer or fall day care, please request it from the office. It will not be routinely distributed. Current students and alumni have priority, so notify our office if you are interested. We have begun to contact the 69 families on our waitlist.

Please be reminded that we are fortunate to have Lynn Borenstein as our social work consultant. Ms. Borenstein enjoys visiting in all our classrooms, and is available through our office if you would like to speak with her about concerns you might have. She will be meeting with parents in April (times to be announced) to discuss transitioning your child for one class to another or one school to another. Please watch your e-mails for more information. Parents have found this presentation to be very helpful. We hope you can attend.

A gentle reminder of the importance of getting your children to school on time, and picking them up on time. Children really enjoy free play with their friends, and miss the opportunity for free choice when their play time is cut short. At the end of the school day, they look forward to seeing you with all the other Moms and Dads. It can make the transition to home more difficult when they are picked up after everyone else. Sometimes it is unavoidable, but I would be remiss if I did not let you know that it does matter to most children.

Please be sure to call the office if your child has a confirmed case of pink eye, strep throat, or any other highly contagious disease. A child needs to be treated with antibiotics for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school. We notify the parents of children who have been exposed so they can watch for symptoms. Further, your child must be fever free with no vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school. These guidelines are an efficient way to control the spread of infection. We appreciate your continued cooperation in helping to keep everyone healthy.

Have a wonderful spring break! Remember that Nursery School is closed from March 29<sup>th</sup> through April 5<sup>th</sup>. Child care will be available for kindergarten and PFA students.

Thank you for completing our Board survey. It was very helpful information. Now, be sure to complete your census information and mail it in by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Our local representation and tax dollar distribution depends on it. We are counting on you!

Jean Wallace-Baker

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER.....**

**Monday, March 29-**

**Monday, April 5**

Nursery School Closed for Spring Break; Day Care available for kindergarteners and PFA students

**Tuesday, April 6**

Nursery School resumes

**Friday, April 9**

Yellow Room PFA field trip to Kohl Museum

**Friday, April 16**

Green Room PFA field trip to Kohl Museum

**Friday, April 23**

Kindergarten Enrichment field trip to Lincoln Park Zoo

**Sunday, April 25**

Community Mitzvah Project  
Please join us and other members of the community in turning our back hall into an art gallery. Watch for a flyer to see how you can participate!

**Wednesday, April 28th**

Individual and Class Photos

## Board of Directors News

### Parent Survey Results are In!

The Board of Directors would like to extend a special thank you to all who completed this year's survey. With input from every classroom, we gathered constructive insight on how you feel about the school, staff, curriculum and culture. Respondents ranked our staff, the curriculum and the art/music programs as the leading factors in choosing an early childhood learning program and 100% said they would recommend Community. E-mail has become the most popular communication method, but many still like paper announcements. The majority of respondents enjoy the social events and attend whenever possible. All respondents said they felt comfortable at Community and felt that they could resolve any issue that may arise. We will use this information to inform future decisions and help market our programs.

Tricia Goldfarb, Parent Survey Committee Chair

# got raffle tickets?

please sell 3 sheets to family, friends, and neighbors  
winners will be drawn at the Annual Spring Benefit

Friday, April 30th - Celebrate Community - Deer Path Inn

## Classroom News

Please click on the links below each classroom to read about what our children are doing in each of their classes.

Orange Room:

<http://www.hpcommunity.org/files/Orange%20Room%20News%20March.pdf>

AM Blue Room:

<http://www.hpcommunity.org/files/BR%20AM%20March.pdf>

PM Blue Room:

<http://www.hpcommunity.org/files/PM%20Blue%20Room%20News%20March.pdf>

Yellow Room:

<http://www.hpcommunity.org/files/Yellow%20Room%20Newsletter%20March.pdf>

**Kindergarten Enrichment Program:**

<http://www.hpcommunity.org/files/Kindergarten%20March.pdf>

**Art Studio:**

Wow, have we been busy in the Studio this year. I'm so impressed with all the effort the students have been putting in and it really shows in their finished pieces.

I hope many of you were able to attend the Fiesta/ Art Show and see all the amazing art created by your fabulous children.

Since then the children have been building on what they have learned during the first part of the year. So, here is what each room has been up to:

**Orange Room:**

I've been working with the Orange Room teacher's and student exploring music and art. During this time they are starting to come to the studio to do their work. I'll refer you to the Orange Room newsletter for all the details.

**Blue Room AM:**

This year in the Blue Room we've been concentrating on 3-Dimensional artwork. I hope all of you enjoy the "Tin Can" creations! The children worked hard drawing a plan of what their tin can would be...pig?...robot?...girl? Then they chose the materials they would use on their tin can to represent their idea. And, lastly one at a time they came to the studio and directed where we would glue (we used hot glue guns) their items onto their tin can. I think all the children in the school have enjoyed seeing this project on display.

Now we are working on a relief sculpture of each child's chosen wild animal. After choosing their favorite wild animal, each child chose just the right wood pieces and laid them out to create their representational relief sculpture. Next we will paint and add details. These are works in progress right now but the children will finish them up after Spring Break. Watch for the display.

**Blue Room PM:**

The Blue Room children have been exploring Highland Park for their "map project" and one thing they have noticed consistently are the beautiful sculptures we have in our city. So, I've been working with small groups of children in the Studio exploring wire and clay. After Spring Break they will be designing and then creating a sculpture using these materials. Please refer to the Blue Room PM newsletter for more details on the "map project".

**Yellow Room:**

The yellow room children have been working on their fine motor skills through sewing. Using a variety of colors of thread and embellishments they have created a beautiful piece of "sewn" art. Watch for these to go on display after Spring Break. Now they are moving on to weaving. This will also increase their fine motor skills and pattern recognition as they weave ribbon and yarn "over" and "under" through a large loom. This is a collaborative project where the children take turns adding their favorite yarn or ribbon. Once finished this will be on display outside the Yellow Room. When this is finished the children will then each have their own "mini" loom to work on individually and bring home.

**Green Room:**

The Green Room children have been working very hard on their fine motor skills and pattern recognition by weaving a large loom using a variety of ribbons and yarns. I hope all of you have seen the end of the loom which was woven by the Green Room children. That was the kick-off for weaving the loom. This was a collaborative project where the children took turns adding their favorite yarn or ribbon. They finished the loom just before Spring Break. Watch for it to be hung outside the Green Room. After Spring Break the children will continue to develop their fine motor skills during the creation of a sewn art project.

Non-nappers:

This small group of 5 girls from the Yellow Room have been exploring different paint mediums. They created a Kandinsky inspired piece of art using oil pastels and watercolors to explore a resist. When the watercolor is washed over the oil pastels it does not stick and the design shows through. Most recently they are exploring George Seraut and his pointillism technique. Using the eraser end of a pencil they are painting pictures using a variety of colors of dots instead of brush strokes.

Kindergarten Enrichment:

The Kindergardeners have been very busy exploring color this year. We've just finished an "Insoluble Painting" project. This project used liquid watercolor and mineral oil combining science and art. Water-based paint (liquid watercolor) has a higher density than mineral oil; therefore, the paint and oil will not mix but repel each other. The children combined the two liquids which will create patterns that continually flow and react with one another. They poured the liquid along with foam shapes into a laminating pouch. This keeps the painting from drying out, so the liquids remain interactive and manipulative. Paintings can be rotated and enjoyed as the colors reflow and remix themselves. The foam shapes inside the pouch add an element of design and act as obstacles around which the liquids will flow.

And, a great big Thank You to all who helped with and attended the Teacher Appreciation Dinner. I appreciate your time and hard work to make the evening successful. I really enjoyed the beautiful flowers and having the opportunity to have dinner with you.

Happy Creating,  
Heather Lowery

**EDITORS NOTE: Per information gathered by our Parent Survey Committee, individual classroom information will no longer be included in our Monthly Newsletter. However, the individual classroom news will continue to be distributed via email and is available for all to reference by clicking on the links provided above or on our website at [www.hpcommunity.org](http://www.hpcommunity.org). Thank You.**

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