



Highland Park Community Nursery School & Day Care Center

December 2009 News

Director's Comments

Our thanks to all who came to help us with our Saturday Morning Cleanup in November. We were able to wash many toys and shelves, and complete several projects with the help of our families, staff, and volunteers from Northern Trust Bank in Lake Forest. Please know how much we appreciate your participation in our activities at the school.

If you are interested in registering for **nursery school camp 2010** or the **nursery school 2010-2011 school year** program, please complete your forms and return them by registration week, December 14th-December 17th. The instructions and deadlines for registration are included in your packet. Please pay close attention to both so your requests can be honored. Do not hesitate to come and talk to the teachers or me if you have any questions or concerns. Also, please be sure to visit both Blue Room a.m. and p.m. classrooms if you are not sure which would be the best fit for your child. Finally, if you know of any children who will be three or four years old by September 1st 2010, please tell them about our school. I would love to show them our programs. Thank you in advance for being an ambassador for "Community"!

Now that winter is almost here, please remember to dress your child for outside play. We find that layers work well to prevent over-heating indoors. All children should come with warm jackets; hats (if no hood on jacket); two pairs of mittens for children who are here all day, and one pair for children who are here for half a day; boots and snow pants. It is a good idea to include an extra pair of dry socks and pants after the first snowfall. Be sure all items are clearly labeled with your child's name. Also, please be gently reminded that we do not wear scarves at school because they present a choking hazard.

With cold weather comes more colds and flu. We want to be vigilant about keeping our children home when they are not feeling well. If you are ill, you may want to have someone else bring your child to school. If your child has a sick sibling who is home from school, you may want to call the office and have one of us come out to your car to escort your preschooler to his/her classroom, rather than bring your

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sick child into the building. It is not necessary to keep your preschooler home if he/she does not have symptoms. Please remember that children must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. Often, children will feel better when they first wake up, but if the fever has not broken, it will reappear as the day goes on. A child who has not fully recovered is not only exposing others to illness, but is at greater risk of contracting a new infection.

While we are on the subject of health, let's review our other illness policies in an effort to keep everyone as healthy as possible.

1. Children must have a minimum period of 24 hours of not vomiting or having diarrhea before they can return to school. As teachers, we would like to see them feeling well enough to invest in their play and have a healthy appetite. Lethargic children would be more comfortable resting at home.
2. Children with strep, conjunctivitis or any other contagious bacterial infection must be on antibiotics for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school.
3. Sneezing, productive coughing, excessive green or yellow nasal mucus are all clear signs that a child is not well enough for school. However, we realize children cannot stay at home until their cough is completely gone. If a child is feeling well enough to come to school, has a good appetite and good energy, we will be happy to see him/her.
4. Please remember that this is not Harvard. If your child is ill or if you think they are coming down with something, please keep him/her home where they can rest and begin to feel better. School is rigorous, and all children must be able to participate in the daily scheduled activities, including going outside if the temperature is above 20 degrees F.
5. Following these simple guidelines will assure all of us a healthy year. As always, thank you for your continued and full cooperation.

On a lighter note, we are so thankful for the children, families and staff that are "Community". Your children are the one gift that continues to amaze and delight us all year long. Thank you for sharing them with us. Our very best wishes to you and your family for a safe and happy holiday season and peace, prosperity and good health in the New Year!

Happy Holidays!

Jean Wallace-Baker

Board of Directors News

Giving Thanks

In November, I attended the afternoon Blue Room's Thanksgiving Feast. So much went into this Feast. Everyday for two weeks prior to the Feast, teachers planned and preped food. Parent volunteers came to help the children make the food. The children were all so excited about this Feast that it was not surprising to see everyone's family attend the big event. Even staff that doesn't teach in the Blue Room

DATES TO REMEMBER:

DEC 9 - Hearing and Vision Rescreening for Nursery School and Day Care

DEC 10 - Day Care Tuition is Due

DEC 18 - Last Day before Winter Break for Nursery School

DEC 21, 22 & 23- Day Care in Session (No PFA), Nursery School Closed, Kindergartners Welcome

DEC 24 & 25 - Community Closed

DEC 28 & 29 - Day Care in Session (No PFA), Nursery School Closed, Kindergartners Welcome

DEC 30, 31 & JAN 1 - Community Closed

JAN 4 - Nursery School Tuition is Due

FEB 7 - Friendship Fiesta from 3:00PM to 5:00PM

pitched in-- Mrs. Wallace-Baker and Mrs. Darin's husband helped serve the food, and Mrs. Carlson took pictures. Songs the children had been practicing were sung and all their beautiful art work was on display. You could see the pride in each of the children's eyes. It was a fun and special evening for all. I couldn't help but think that this is an example of what Community is all about. It's the dedicated teachers and staff, the parents volunteering time when they can, and the children participating in a meaningful experience.

This Thanksgiving, I will be giving thanks for each of you. Thank you to the teachers and staff that provide such a wonderful environment for our children. Thank you to the parents that volunteer their time and talent. And thank you to the children who eagerly share their ideas and questions.

With heartfelt thanks,
Cathy Spencer
President

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WANTED: Clean tin cans for use in the Art Studio-Thanks

SAVE THE DATE:

Friendship Fiesta
Sunday, February 7, 2010
3:00-5:00 PM

Heat up your winter and make some new friends at Community!

Bring the whole family for a celebration of art & music. The event will include student music programs, dancing, live DJ, refreshments, door prizes, games and more! Questions? See Patty Velazquez or Mila Love.

Special Thanks to Jose L. Jacobo and Gerardo Arredondo

Please think of DJ Elegance & DJ Galaxy when planning your next fiesta! (See Below)

JOSE L. JACOBO - DJ ELEGANCE
847-714-3185

GERARDO ARREDONDO - DJ GALAXY
224-399-7860

GROOVES ENTERTAINMENT

PREMIER DJ'S FOR ALL TYPES OF EVENTS

The advertisement features a blue and red background with a central graphic of silhouettes of people dancing. Below the main text are six small images representing different event types: a wedding couple, wedding rings, hands holding a glass, a tiara, a graduation cap, and a stage performance.

Classroom News

Blue Room AM

November was a fun filled month in the morning Blue Room! Just before Halloween, we read a book called The Big Pumpkin by Erica Silverman. This book has been a class favorite and the teachers are asked to reread it daily. It is a story about cooperation and working together to achieve a common goal. We decided it would be a fun story to act out one day so each child was given a part. Through this activity we discovered we have some budding actors and actresses in our class. Everyone did a great job and we all had so much fun! Be sure to ask your child about the story.

We are so glad to see the children coming together as a group. We have noticed many children are beginning to branch out and expand their friendships. We hope that you have also noticed that your child is becoming more self confident and independent, two ongoing A.M. Blue Room goals.

The remainder of the month of November was spent learning about the meaning of Thanksgiving. We discussed what we are thankful for, learned about the Pilgrims and Indians at the first Thanksgiving, and had a feast of our own. The children made butter and corn muffins, turkey shaped sandwiches, and ate cranberries and turkey. The children all looked great in their Pilgrim or Indian hats and necklaces. We played Thanksgiving games and made a big tepee for dramatic play. The children also enjoyed making tepees of their own!

~Ms. Mueller and Mrs. Stuart

Blue Room Wish List

- Don't Wake Daddy game
- Water table toys
- Sand table toys
- Power tool toys and batteries
- K'Nex
- 2 color lab mixers from www.kaplanco.com (click on water toys)
- Dress-up clothes (especially for boys)
- Duplo sets ex) Big city, fire station, hospital etc)
- Chunky Construction set
- Shelf for easel paper in easel

Blue Room PM

How quickly another month has flown by in the afternoon Blue Room! We began the month revisiting our fall walk to Sunset Park by creating some beautiful sun catcher plates made from our fall treasure bags. We traced more fall leaves by using our light table and watercolors, changed the color of paper leaves by using cotton balls and dry tempera paint and we created some wonderful leaf creatures all on display on our hallway bulletin board.

Right after Halloween the Blue Room Pm children started to prepare for our very special Thanksgiving feast. The children were involved in every aspect of our feast from making the tablecloth, placemats and dried flower decorations; to cooking all the food except for the turkey breast; to practicing and providing entertainment including a very sweet I Am Thankful For book that was read before the feast. We were extremely fortunate that all our afternoon families could attend! The children were so excited and pleased to "host" this event for their most favorite people! As teachers we are so very thankful to all the parents who volunteered by planning a safe menu and helping the children prepare food for our feast and we are also grateful to our families for rearranging their schedules to attend this event. This was a real miracle as our feast was on the same day, the whole country experienced major airport delays with several of our fathers in route!

As an added part of our feast the children created a very stunning art show. Their idea for the show came from reading the book, The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds and visiting the Highland Park Community art display at the First National Bank of Highland Park. We would like to thank our art teacher Heather Lowery for helping the children explore the idea of negative images, for helping them select their artwork for display and for mounting the whole display in the gym so we could all enjoy it as we ate! Look for more info on this mini-project on our small Blue Room PM hallway bulletin board.

Currently we are happily exploring all the beautiful stuff that the children brought to school in their art studio bags. We had a wonderful "dump" day and continue to be excited about all the interesting stuff they are discovering! We have sorted all the materials and are "practicing" how to use the studio.

Thanks so much for all your help in collecting with your children. The teachers particularly enjoyed several written anecdotes by parents about how the collecting went at their houses!

Finally, thanks so much to those of you who gave of their time on a Saturday to help us clean up the Blue Room, washing toys, furniture, smocks and doll corner clothing. We truly appreciate your hard work and donation of your precious time.

We wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and happy New Year!

Mrs. Darin and Mrs. Weinberg

Blue Room PM Wish List

In lieu of teacher gifts we would very much appreciate any of these additions to our classroom:

- We are looking for a large set of **Brio Mec** toys. This is a wonderful building toy with tools for building wooden structures that is no longer being produced. We have seen it listed on e-bay or Craig's list at very good prices.
- Any **Brio train, accessories or track** to add to and replace our much loved set in the classroom
- Translucent Deluxe set of **Wedgits** building blocks- the regular set we have is so popular that a set for the light table would make a wonderful addition to the classroom
- Small metal construction trucks** to be used in our sand table
- Plastic space set** also to be used in the sand table (may need a double set for all our aspiring astronauts)
- Gift card to pet store** to help us in purchasing supplies for our fish tank and also birdseed for our feeder box
- Wooden barn** to be used in the classroom with the horses that so many children love
- Shepherds' hook** and bird feeders for our bird lovers
- From the **Hearthsong catalog:**
 - Construction City Special Set-
 - Eco Trucks
 - Wheel Town-Gas Station and Fire Station
 - Pallina -a ball and stick strategy game
 - Wooden Foods-Pantry and Fridge Food sets
 - Connectagons-building set
 - Archquest Building Kit-Empire and Arches set
- Match box cars** to replace some of our heavily used and old ones
- Gift card to Borders** to replace some of our well loved hard cover books

Green Room

November was a busy month in the Green Room. We have continued to learn about letters and numbers and are also beginning to learn about patterns. The children have surprised us with how much they have been able to learn about patterns and how well they have done with creating some complicated patterns of their own.

Have you visited La Clínica Verde yet? You may have noticed the housekeeping (or dramatic play) area in the Green Room has been changed into a clinic. This change came about as a result of the ideas of the children. This is the time of year when children visit doctor's offices frequently and the children have begun to incorporate these experiences into their play. During group time the children helped to make a list of all of the things that they see when they visit the clinic or their doctor's offices. When the children returned to school after the Thanksgiving break they found that the dishes, food, and dress ups had been replaced by doctor tools, x-rays, and other medical supplies. Perhaps when flu season is over we can take a walk to the real clinic to see if we have done a good job putting our own clinic together. In the meantime, we are going to see if we can find a real doctor that would like to visit our clinic. If you know anyone that might be interested, please let us know.

Our Wishlist

Lego Duplo

- letter set
- doll set
- playhouse set

Nasco Dry-Erase Handwriting Boards – (Set of 10 9" x 12" Boards)

Magnetic lowercase letters

Stacking Counters

Measuring monkeys game

3 Bears counting set

Any math/science activities such as games, sorting toys, counting, etc.

Noviembre fue un mes muy ocupado en el salón Verde. Hemos seguido a aprender sobre las letras y números, y también estamos empezando a aprender acerca de los patrones. Los niños nos han sorprendido con todo ya saben acerca de los patrones y que pueden crear algunos patrones complicados por sí mismo.

¿Has visitado la Clínica Verde? Hemos cambiado la casita (la área de juego dramático) por una clínica. Este cambio se produjo como consecuencia de las ideas de los niños. Esta es la época del año cuando los niños visitan las oficinas del médico con frecuencia y los niños han comenzado a incorporar estas experiencias en sus juegos. Durante el tiempo del grupo los niños ayudaron a hacer una lista de todas las cosas que ellos ven cuando visitan la clínica o las oficinas de su médico. Cuando los niños regresaron a la escuela después del día de Acción de Gracias se encontraron con que los platos, la comida, y los vestidos había sido sustituido por herramientas de médico, rayos X, y otros suministros médicos. Tal vez cuando la temporada de la influenza se acabe podemos dar un paseo a la clínica real para ver si hemos hecho un buen trabajo creando nuestra propia clínica. Mientras tanto, vamos a ver si podemos encontrar un médico de verdad que le gustaría visitar nuestra clínica. Si conoce a alguien que pudiera estar interesado, por favor, háganoslo saber.

Lista de deseos

Lego Duplo

- Set de letras
- Set de muñecas
- Set para casita

Nasco

- Tablón para escribir a mano que utilizar tinta-seca

Letras minúsculas con imanes

Juegos de Medidas (con monos)

Juego para Contar del cuento "3 Bears"

Actividades de matemáticas/ciencias, por ejemplo juegos para contar, organizer, etc

Kindergarten Enrichment

November was a fun month in the Kindergarten Orange Room. We began the month reading several books about Humpty Dumpty. Each book had a different ending. We even met Humpty's little sister Dimmity Dumpty. Each child made Humpty Dumpty, sequenced the story, and put Humpty Dumpty back together again. You can view a sampling of the children's work on the bulletin board outside the Orange Room.

We finished out the month learning about Thanksgiving. The children had a lot of fun making Native American headdresses and necklaces, canoes, and teepees. They also painted turkeys and made Pilgrim and Native American families. We learned a variety of songs about Thanksgiving. We hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving!

~Ms. Mueller, Mrs. Baldwin, and Tania Toledo

Kindergarten Wish List

- Large container of moon sand
- Chutes and Ladders
- Connect four
- Police station or fire station from Duplo
- Sand and Water toys

Orange Room

We hope in the past month that you noticed the beautiful fall sun catchers hanging in our Orange Room windows! The children made these from the special fall treasures they collected at Sunset Park in October. We used more of the leaves to create a giant leaf sun catcher which also is displayed in the classroom. We created artistic leaves by using cotton balls and dry tempera paint and by using coffee filters and dried out markers. Our most imaginative art was the leaf creatures that the children made after listening to the Lois Ehlert book, Leaf Man. Please enjoy the fall bulletin board which displays all the children's efforts. Finally we used dried flowers to create beautiful "thanksgiving centerpieces" which we hope you enjoyed at your family feasts! We were very grateful that so many parents were available on such short notice to help us with the various activities. We appreciated your help and hope you enjoyed working with the children and observing life in the Orange Room! If you didn't get a chance to help or would like be in the classroom again please let us know so we can call on you for future projects. We would really like to thank these families for helping us on clean-up day: Polonsky, Anliker, Lee, Fulea, Suh, Seligman, Goldfarb, Carlson and Darin. The classroom looked so awesome on Monday AM! Did you know that the family photos that you brought in for the beginning of the school year are now being used in our Orange Room Family Book? Each child has a page or two and the book is kept out in the room for the children see. As you can guess, this book is **so** popular- each child can't wait to see his/her page. We find this is a great way to encourage interactions as children share their stories about their photos with each other.

Art studio update: If you haven't heard, our "dump day" was a huge success! The children were so excited to dump their bags and just mesmerized with all the beautiful stuff. Thank you for taking the time to collect these items with your child and share them with our classroom. We know that this process

of collecting, pouring out together, exploring and sorting the items into containers builds a great sense of involvement in the children with our mini- art studio.

We wish all of our families the very best during the holidays and a safe, healthy and happy New Year.
Mrs. Carlson, Mrs. Darin and Mrs. Weinberg

Orange Room AM Wish List

In lieu of teacher gifts we would very much appreciate any of these items for our classroom.

- Gift card to a pet store** (we always need supplies for Lucky and our fish)
- Brio train toys** (Our Brio train and tracks is among the most used toys in our classroom. New train engines and cars and additional bridges, tunnels and unusual accessories would be a great addition)
- Toys from the **HearthSong catalog**:
 - Wheel Town Wooden toys- City Vehicle combo, Fire Station, Gas Station, Family vehicles
 - Magnetos-72 piece set
 - Chicky Boom game
 - Eco Trucks
- Wedgits** Translucent Deluxe set-a shape building toy for our light table
- Sheperd's hook** to hang bird feeders from in front of our window and birdseed
- Overhead projector**-we are looking for one that we could safely use with children to explore making shadows, translucent versus solid explorations, color exploration, etc.
- Plastic Space set** to be used in our sand table
- Someone to finish the last arch from our loft
- Gift card to Borders** to replace some of our well loved hard cover books

Yellow Room

This month we will be learning about our 5 Senses. We will investigate all the different body parts that we use to hear, smell, see, taste and touch. We will learn how each of these body parts work to send signals to our brain that tell us what we are seeing, smelling, tasting, touching and hearing. We will use our body parts to explore new sounds, smells, tastes, textures and reflections.

Also this month, we will explore and learn about the different Holidays and customs that our kids in the Yellow Room celebrate during this time of year.

As always, we continue to learn new letters and math concepts. This month we will be learning about the letters Ee and Yy, and one to one correspondence.

We look forward to another great month!

-Yellow Room Teachers-

Art Studio

The Art Studio is starting to become a busy place with the school year under way. I'm continuing to go into the Orange Room and Blue Room PM classrooms until the children become more comfortable with their surroundings and then they will venture to the Studio.

Orange Room (MWF):

I've been able to give the teachers an extra helping hand while the children have been exploring fall.

Blue Room AM:

The children have been coming into the studio and working with terra-cotta clay. Since we do not have a

kiln and this clay needs to be fired we use it for learning and experimenting. So, for now the children have been learning to make snakes, balls, pancakes and bowls all in preparation for a bigger project. After the Thanksgiving break we will begin working on a final sculpture using self hardening clay and found objects from the Studio. This piece will need to dry over the Winter Break. Working with clay increases their hand strength and fine motor coordination. Pull out your play dough at home and ask them to show you what they've learned.

Blue Room PM:

I've been able to give the teachers an extra helping hand in their classroom while the children have been exploring color. Recently, I've assisted the teachers as the children have been exploring positive and negative space after listening to the book "Dot". I was so excited to be able to help display their work for their first Art Show.

Yellow Room and Green Room:

In both of these classrooms we've been exploring shapes and primary colors through a variety of mediums: oil pastels, watercolors, play dough. We've just recently begun exploring how mixing the primary colors creates secondary colors. By mixing primary colored play dough they discovered the secondary colors. They then use the play dough to make balls which they flattened into a circle. They also rolled out four snakes which they used in place of lines to make the shape of a square. And then by removing a side and rearranging the snakes they created a triangle. Most recently the children have been tracing shapes to make beautiful circle and square art pieces. After the Thanksgiving Break we'll finish up with triangles.

The Resters:

There is a small group of children that do not nap during the Yellow Room and Green Room nap times. They come into the Studio on Thursdays and we've been exploring nature and art together. Over the past few weeks we've been doing observational sketches of pinecones, leaves, acorns and dried flowers. Recently we pressed a variety of shapes and colors of leaves in preparation for creating a painting of a specially chosen leaf. Using an overhead projector each child was able to trace their special leaf. The next week we mixed paints to match the colors on our leaf and finally we used those colors to paint the large traced leaf.

Kindergarten Enrichment

Over the past few weeks the kindergardeners have been exploring stained glass windows. We've worked with single line drawing where the children were challenged to draw a picture or design without lifting their marker. Then over the course of two classes they used oil pastels and water colors to add color. This represented the different colors and textures that you might see in a stained glass window. Then using overhead projectors the children explored patterns and shapes in addition to the difference between opaque and translucent. This past week the children have explore the difference between cool colors and warm colors while creating a representational stained glass window using those colors on black paper. They cut shapes and laid them out on the black paper leaving space between each shape. When finished it looked like a stained glass window.

I'd like to thank everyone who came out for the artist reception on Oct. 24th. We had a wonderful turnout! The children were so excited to show off their beautiful work. I hope those of you that didn't make the reception had the opportunity to visit the bank.

Happy Creating,
Heather Lowery

Highland Park

Nursery School and Day Care Center

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A United Way Agency