



Highland Park Community Nursery School & Day Care Center

January/February 2010 News

Director's Comments

Happy 2010!

We hope you had a fun and relaxing break/holiday season with family and friends! Thank you for all the thoughtful and generous holiday gifts to "Community" Staff and Classrooms. Your kindness and support are truly appreciated.

Thank you to many of our nursery school families for getting registration forms completed in December for summer camp and next school year. We are happy to report that we were able to accommodate the first choice of all our current families who participated in registration week. We have openings in all nursery school classes for summer camp and next school year. If you know a family who has a preschooler and would like to visit and have a tour of our school, please ask them to call for an appointment.

Please note that we are offering limited schedules for nursery school summer camp. If six or seven weeks are more than you need or want, we will happily work with you to accommodate your schedule.

Registration for Preschool For All/Day Care, Kindergarten Enrichment and Before School Care will begin in March. All children who will be going to kindergarten next year will receive Kindergarten Enrichment forms prior to March registration. Please be aware that we are required to give priority to working parents. All current day care students will receive registration forms in their mailboxes. **If you are not currently part of the day care program you will not receive registration forms unless you request them from the office.**

If your child is age appropriate for kindergarten in September, please be sure to contact your neighborhood school and request a registration packet. Kindergarten Round up and registration at the elementary schools in District 112 is Thursday, February 18th. Contact your neighborhood schools for specific times. If you are interested in the Dual Language Magnet Program, we hope you were able to attend one of the

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informational meetings held at the North Shore School District Office in January. If you were not able to attend, and would like more information about the Dual Language Program, please contact Diego Giraldo at 847 681-6700.

In the next few weeks, the nursery school staff will be holding parent/teacher conferences. We look forward to talking with you about the progress your child has made both at home and at school since he/she began in September. It is an opportunity to share with you what your child looks like in a classroom of peers, and to revisit goals for your child.

The conference schedule for each classroom is different. Since conferences are mandatory for everyone except kindergarten students (they conference at District 112), we will make every effort to accommodate varying schedules. If, however, your child is in kindergarten, and you would like to have a conference with one of the kindergarten staff, please arrange with them a mutually convenient time. Preschool For All students must have three conferences each school year. The second conference for PFA students will be in March. A gentle reminder that conferences are for parents only, however, if you would like to include your child's caregiver, please do so. In the past some parents have found it useful to baby-sit for each other at conference time. This allows both parents and staff to freely discuss a child's progress. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Finally, we have several special events coming up. The Pilgrim Players, a classical music chamber group will be playing two, one half hour concerts for us on Friday, January 29th at 10:45 and at 1:00 p.m. One of the musicians plays for the National Symphony in Washington D.C. The concerts will be memorable, and you are all invited to join us. The concerts are made possible by a grant from the Cultural Arts Commission.

Please be sure to read about our Board sponsored events: "Friendship Fiesta" in February, Teacher Appreciation Dinner in March and our Annual Benefit in April. We are excited about them, and hope you and your family will all be active participants.

Jean Wallace-Baker

Board of Directors News

What Do You Think About "Community"? We want to know about your experience at "Community." What makes Community your choice for nursery school or day care? What are your ideas for making Community even better? This year we have worked hard to completely revise our annual survey. We appreciate your feedback at any time informally and this is one of the formal ways we listen. To ensure you feel comfortable providing feedback, the information you provide will be anonymous. *We're gathering feedback at the end of January so that we can make changes that will impact your child this year and help make community a better place for us all.*

Thanks in advance for taking 5-10 minutes to complete the survey. We truly value your feedback.

Cathy Spencer, President

Dates to Remember

Monday, January 18 - Day Care in Session (No PFA), Nursery School Closed, Kindergartners Welcome

Tuesday, February 2 - Day Care in Session (NO PFA): Teacher Institute Day

Monday, February 15 - Day Care in Session (No PFA), Nursery School Closed, Kindergartners Welcome

Thursday, February 18 - Kindergarten Registration Date for D112. Visit www.nssd112.org for more information.

SAVE THE DATE - Community's Annual Benefit - Friday, April 30th, 2010

The Deer Path Inn in Lake Forest will be the location for the Annual Benefit. This festive night out with friends is filled with great food, raffle drawings, and a live auction. As our primary fundraiser for the year, the benefit's success is critical, perhaps this year more than ever. Due to parental job loss and changes in state funding, a vast majority of the funds raised will be used for scholarships that enable children to continue attending Community.

We're in the final stages of gathering items and services for the raffle packages - but we **STILL NEED YOUR HELP!** In this economy, it's been a much greater challenge collecting quality items that have historically made up our raffle packages. **Please, please, please** - think about who you know - places you or your family members work, businesses you frequent, services you use - people who would want to support YOU by making a tax deductible gift to Community. There's still time to collect donations - any committee member, Jean or Sofia can point you in the right direction!

Questions? Suggestions? Please feel free to touch base with me and/or any of the Benefit Committee members.

We're looking forward to a great evening - but don't forget - we need your help, to ensure it's the best Benefit yet!

Linda Knapp
847.433.7336

The Benefit Committee: Linda Knapp, Chair (Blue Room AM), Lori Kelly, Co-Chair (Blue Room AM), Doreen Avila (Yellow Room), Elysia Garcia, Sharlyn Maciel (Blue Room PM), Kim Matthews, Caitlin Schwenk (Orange Room, MWF), Cathy Spencer (Blue Room PM), Jacqui Wallach (Yellow Room)

Community Events-- Save the Dates

Sunday February, 21st 2010 3:00-5:00 pm *Friendship Fiesta*- Come dance the winter blues away at celebration of art and music for the whole family. Join us for a children's concert, cookies, lemonade and live DJ! Please see Patty Velazquez for more information or if you'd like to volunteer.

March 2010- *Teacher Appreciation Dinner*- Help us honor the teachers that care for our children! Come socialize with other families and celebrate our wonderful staff. Food and entertainment provided. Please see Kristin Lerner for more information or if you'd like to volunteer.

April 30, 2010 - 6:30 - *Annual Benefit* Enjoy an evening out (without the kids) at the beautiful Deer Path Inn in Lake Forest. Attend Community's annual fundraising event to connect with Community supporters and parents old and new while supporting the important programs Community offers. The evening includes cocktails, dinner, live auction and lively conversation

with friends. Please see Linda Knapp with any questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Art Studio is looking for donations of thick cardboard, shirt cardboard (like men get in their newly purchased shirts) and posterboard.

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Nursery School and Day Care Center**
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