



# Highland Park Community Nursery School & Day Care Center

## November 2009 News

### Director's Comments

We have had a very busy and fun fall at "Community". The Staff and I are so pleased to see the children doing so well, and to see so much family participation in our classrooms and at school activities. Thank you for taking such an active part in your child's education and care.

Thanks to our **Fall Fest** co-chairs, Tricia Goldfarb and Kathleen Illes, Mila Love, and all the wonderful volunteers for making the afternoon so much fun for everyone. A special thanks to our Board of Directors for supporting this well attended family event. Our thanks to Art Bloom (Syler Logan's Grandfather) for taking such fantastic photos! We will be displaying them shortly for all to enjoy.

We hope you were able to stop by the First Bank of Highland Park during the month of October (art month in H.P.) to view the art wall created by our art teacher, Heather Lowery, Community's Children and our Staff. It is entitled "Mix it Up, an Exploration of Color". Photos taken at the art reception will be available on CD in the near future. We are also hoping to have some photos in the Highland Park News. Thanks to all who came to admire the children's work. It was impressive!

Please join us November 14<sup>th</sup>, anytime between 8:30 and 12:00, for our annual fall cleanup. We will have some representatives from Northern Trust Bank helping us wash toys and do a thorough cleaning of our classrooms. We hope you and your children can join us for a half hour or so. Please feel free to bring your own bucket and rags. We will also need some rakes to tidy up the playground.

Several parents and staff were able to attend Howard Gardner's inspiring lecture at New Trier High School. Dr. Gardner has written several books, and is the director of Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He is probably most noted for his theory of multiple intelligences. For some fascinating reading, please visit one of the following websites: [HowardGardner.com](http://HowardGardner.com), [GoodworkToolKit.org](http://GoodworkToolKit.org), [GoodworkProject.org](http://GoodworkProject.org), [Pz.harvard.edu](http://Pz.harvard.edu).

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We appreciate your cooperation in keeping your children home when they are ill. There are several viruses circulating in Highland Park at present, and it is a good way to try to keep everyone healthy. We will keep you posted on any new H1N1 developments, but you can also go to the North Shore School District 112's website for information on the flu and the daily absences from each elementary school. Please check with your pediatrician to see if the flu shot is a good idea for your child.

Happy Thanksgiving to those who celebrate this holiday. Please watch for information on upcoming events in individual classrooms.

**Jean Wallace-Baker**

## Board of Directors News

**SAVE THE DATE - Community's Annual Benefit - Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

The Deer Path Inn in Lake Forest will once again 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.

The Benefit Committee has been hard at work gathering items and services for the raffle packages and live auction, as well as selling ads for the Benefit Program. In the coming weeks, you'll be hearing from one of our committee members to answer any questions you have about the Benefit and to explain how your help in soliciting items for the Benefit is crucial. 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.

*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 and, with your help, to making it 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)

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

**Tuesday November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

D112 Closed Teacher Institute  
Nursery School & Day Care in  
Session  
Kindergartners Welcome

**Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup>**

D112 Holiday/Nursery School Closed  
Day Care in Session  
Kindergartners Welcome

**Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>**

Fall Clean Up Day

**Monday November 23<sup>rd</sup>**

D112 Closed for Conferences  
Nursery School & Day Care in Session  
Kindergartners Welcome

**Tuesday November 24<sup>th</sup>**

D112 Closed for Conferences  
Nursery School & Day Care in Session  
Kindergartners Welcome

**Wednesday November 25<sup>th</sup>**

D112 Closed Thanksgiving Holiday  
Nursery School Closed  
Day Care in Session  
Kindergartners Welcome

**Thursday November 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday  
November 27<sup>th</sup>**

Community Closed  
Thanksgiving Holiday

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Kindergarten class is in need of some extra clothes, shoes, and jackets in sizes 5-7. Gently used donations would be greatly appreciated.

Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day. Thank you to all of our Community families who have loved ones in the military. Your service and sacrifice is greatly appreciated.

NURSERY SCHOOL: Registration for Nursery School begins next month. If you know of any families that would benefit from our programs, please have them contact Jean to arrange a visit at 847.432.3301.

VISION & HEARING SCREENING: Yellow and Green Room will be having their Vision and Hearing Screening during the month of November. Date is TBA.

AM & PM Blue Room and AM Orange Room will have their screening on December 2<sup>nd</sup> with a rescreen on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Kindergarteners will have their screenings conducted through D112.

## **Classroom News**

### **Blue Room AM**

This month in the A.M. Blue Room, the children explored colors, learned about shapes, observed the season change from summer to fall, and celebrated Halloween.

We learned about primary colors and then experimented mixing them to make new colors. One of the favorite activities was placing colored ice cubes in the water table and mixing them around to make the water colored. The children also enjoyed mixing colors with finger paints, making rainbow toast, and using eyedroppers to make new colors from primary colors. Our exploration of color will continue throughout the school year.

The class has been observing the season change in many ways. We have been watching our trees on the playground and outside our window closely and have enjoyed watching the leaves change colors and fall to the ground. We also took a nature walk to Sunset Park to collect leaves that we then used for various art projects.

The children have enjoyed learning about shapes in a variety of ways. They have explored this topic as we placed large shapes on the rug and then used them for various activities and games. The children have been having a lot of fun sighting shapes in their environment.

We had so much fun at our Halloween party and parade! We hope everyone had a happy and safe Halloween.

~Mrs. Stuart and Ms. Mueller

## Blue Room PM

We are so busy this fall in the PM Blue Room! Many of the children are so curious about all that's going on outside. Because of their enthusiasm, we have already taken two trips to Sunset Park to explore nature and the park. On our first visit, we encountered several "pipes" in the ground and began to wonder what they were there for. On our second visit, they explored their questions further and made several discoveries. We also found big green balls at the park. From our discussions, some children thought they were mangos, or tennis balls, or limes, or on good authority (Emilie and Syler's families), they were really black walnuts!

In preparation for the Art Exhibit at First Bank of Highland Park, we are exploring color mixing using just the primary colors, white and black in different mediums. The children have been excited to experiment to see what happens while mixing two primary colors together, and what happens when you mix white or black to that color. The children have created a color recipe board that we can use through the year to help us mix that color again.

We have discovered we have avid builders using train tracks, small blocks, roadways, and our favorite building materials; a collection of recyclable objects that we have used to build monster trucks, cities, or even a truck wash.

We are impressed by how well the children have come together as a group already. Their enthusiasm and curiosity is contagious. As teachers inspired by the Reggio Curriculum, we look forward to the reciprocity of learning going on this year with the children.

We are as excited to come to school as the children!

Laura Weinberg & Lynn Darin

## Green Room

October flew by for the very busy Green Room. We would like to send a giant "Thank You" to Christiane Fischer, a Yellow room Mom, for inviting us to come pick out pumpkins. The children had a great time jumping in the puddles on our rainy day walk across the street to pick out our pumpkins.

We have been learning about all sorts of things in the Green Room this month. We have continued learning about colors, shapes, and numbers. We are also beginning to identify letters, especially those that begin our names. We have been reading lots of books and singing some new songs as well. One favorite book was "Growing Vegetable Soup" in which the main character talks about growing a garden so that he can make vegetable soup with his family. Some of the kids in class thought that it would be a great idea to make our own soup in the Green Room. Thank you to all of the families that sent vegetables to school. The children all helped wash and cut the vegetable and our soup was delicious with grilled cheese sandwiches for lunch.

Please remember that we will go outside three times daily as long as the weather cooperates. Children need to be dressed appropriately so that they can be comfortable and warm. Please send hats, gloves, jackets, etc. to ensure your child's comfort when playing outside. As winter approaches snow pants and boots should be added as well. Please note: scarves pose a safety risk when playing on the climber so they are not allowed.

El mes de Octubre pasó muy rápido para nosotros en el salón verde. Nos gustaría enviar un "agradecimiento" gigante a Christiane Fischer, una mamá en el salón amarillo, por invitarnos a recoger calabazas. Fue muy divertido caminar en la lluvia y saltar en los charcos con nuestros amigos. Estamos estudiando muchas cosas en el salón verde. Hemos continuado el aprendizaje de los colores, formas, y números. También estamos comenzando a identificar las letras, especialmente los que empiezan nuestros nombres. Leemos mucho y cantamos muchas canciones nuevas. Un libro favorito era

“A Sembrar Sopa de Verduras.” En el libro el niño habla de cultivando un jardín de verduras con su papa para cocinar sopa. Algunos niños en nuestra clase pensaron que sería una gran idea hacer sopa también. ¡Gracias a todas las familias que trajeron verduras para nuestra sopa! Todos los niños ayudaron a lavar y cortar las verduras y la sopa estaba deliciosa con sándwiches para el almuerzo.

Por favor, recuerda que vamos afuera tres veces cada día cuando el tiempo coopera. Los niños necesitan traer ropa apropiada para que puedan estar cómodos y cálidos. Por favor, envía gorras, guantes, chamaras, etc. Para garantizar la comodidad de su niño. Cuando llega el invierno y la nieve necesitan pantalones de nieve y botas también. Los niños no pueden llevar bufandas porque es muy peligroso cuando juegan en los trepadores y las bicicletas.

### **Kindergarten Enrichment**

The kindergarten started this month (October) with a unit on community helpers. We talked about community helpers, read books, and even got to meet a firefighter! Making police badges and pretending to be police officers was a lot of fun in the Orange Room. The children were very interested in firefighters so we took a walk to the Highland Park Fire Station to see what it looked like. We observed the area and then came back to school and drew pictures of what the fire station looked like. The children then made a large mural of the fire station and a firefighter to go with it. We would like to thank Ms. Wallace-Baker for contacting Fire Chief Wax who came in to talk to the children about being a firefighter and fire safety. This was a very exciting event! Another favorite community helper was the baker. We were all bakers for the day as we baked our own afternoon snack. The Mailman was also a big hit among the kindergarteners. They built a large mailbox and then each wrote letters to each other and mailed them. When learning about zookeepers, the children each drew and cut out their favorite animals and then glued them to our large paper. This project is on display in the Orange Room.

Following our community helpers unit was a unit on fall and Halloween. We took a nature walk to Sunset Park to observe the change of season. Children collected leaves and acorns for our art studio. The children painted a large tree that is displayed on the bulletin board located outside the Orange Room. They made acorns, squirrels, and owls to go in and around our class tree. The children also cut out their handprints to make autumn leaves for our tree.

Halloween was a very fun holiday in the Kindergarten room. We made various Halloween art projects and had a Halloween party on Friday, October 30th. At our party we played games, sang songs, and made a special Halloween snack. We hope everyone had a safe and Happy Halloween!

BOO!!!!

Mrs. Baldwin, Ms. Mueller, and Tonya Toledo

### **Orange Room**

Fall and Halloween have been the focus in the Orange Room lately. Many thanks to all of the parents who accompanied us on our walking field trip to Sunset Park. The children were so excited to explore the beautiful fall environment as they searched and collected natural items for their “treasure” (ziplock) bags. We’ve saved and preserved our treasures to use in future projects after Halloween. While in the park we picked a tree to watch throughout the year. We’ve dubbed it “The Orange Room Tree”.



In the meantime, we've been having lots of fun singing Halloween songs ("Five Little Pumpkins" and "Witches Brew") and doing Halloween art (paper jack-o-lantern faces and cute vegetable jack-o-lantern). We have continued to explore colors and have begun color mixing,

### **Yellow Room**

Last month in the yellow room, we learned a lot about Fall / Autumn. We spent some time looking at apples; how they grow, what's inside, what the different types taste like and we even make cinnamon applesauce. We also took a closer look at pumpkins; how they grow, what shape they are, what's inside and we turned one into a jack-o-lantern for Halloween. We took many walks through the park to look at "Fall"; the different color leaves, the weather, the trees and we took a field trip over to Renaissance Shopping Center to look at all the Fall decorations and pick a pumpkin.

Also in October, we explored shapes in our environment. We found circles, squares, rectangles, ovals and triangles around the classroom. We practiced drawing these shapes and turning the shape into an object. The kids were very creative with their shape drawings.

This month, we will be learning about Food and Nutrition. We will learn about the different food groups, taste new foods, make dishes using healthy food and how to have good table manners. We will use what we learn about food and nutrition to better understand "Thanksgiving" and what the Pilgrims and Indians shared. We will learn about Pilgrims and Indians; who they were, how they got to America, how they lived and what they taught each other.

We look forward to another great month!  
-Yellow Room Teachers-

## Art Studio

Hi Everyone,

We are off to a great start this year. I will be at school and in the classrooms on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am - 3pm.

Through the month of October, Community will be participating in Highland Park's Cultural Arts Month. During the first month or so of school the children are exposed to a variety of art media and color exploration. We decided to focus on the children's color exploration for this exhibit.

Your child's art will be displayed at the First Bank of Highland Park. You will be receiving an invitation to attend an artist reception on October 24th.

The Studio is brimming with donations, so thank you to everyone who dropped something off. This doesn't mean that we can't always use more. You are welcome to drop off clean recycleables and any other items that they children can use in 2-dimensional or 3-dimensional projects. The best place to make a drop off is in the Studio. If you are unsure about your donation please feel free to stop in the Studio.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful year creating with your children.

Heather Lowery  
Art Studio Teacher

### Newsletter Deadline

Items for the December newsletter should be submitted by Friday November 27th.

If you can, please email your items to [sofia@hpcommunity.org](mailto:sofia@hpcommunity.org).

If not, please drop a hardcopy off at the office.

Thank you

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