



The Express

**FEBRUARY
2014**



Dear Parents,

What a winter this has been so far! Although we love the snow, the frigid temperatures have kept us from taking the children outside to enjoy all our freshly fallen snow. We don't let this stop us completely from enjoying it though as I see the teachers hauling in buckets of the beautiful snow and placing it in our water tables. Of course, it has enhanced our science experiments to see how we can change the form of snow into ice or water, as well as enhancing it by adding "colors" to it. Keep watching your morning emails from me letting you know if our temperature is above 20 degrees, allowing us to play outdoors.

I want to familiarize you with a program we have been using at the preschool level to help all our children develop good handwriting skills, correct letter and number formation, and ultimately to be better prepared for their kindergarten curriculum. The program is called "Handwriting Without Tears" (HWT) and was developed by Jan Olsen, an occupational therapist whose own son had difficulty with handwriting skills. This program is a simple developmentally based program that is designed to help prepare children for kindergarten. Instruction activities for HWT begin at the preschool level. By beginning these activities at an early age, children will learn correct letter and number formation from the start so they will not have to unlearn any incorrect formations. We use several HWT materials in the classroom to help our children grow and develop their skills on their level. Some materials we use often in the classrooms are wooden pieces (straight & curved for letter formation), alphabet letter cards (to be used in conjunction with the wood pieces to reinforce letter formation), individual slate chalk boards (for letter formation practice) as well as songs and body awareness games (mat man). All of the HWT materials have visual starting points to help guide the children to correctly form their letters from the top to the bottom as well as from left to right. The program also has strategies to help children develop a correct pencil grip which can be key to successful writing. In our Pre-K classes, teachers are also using letter formation practice sheets in a developmentally sequential order. We have been finding that along with having fun with the HWT program, the children are learning essential kindergarten readiness skills. If you want to read more about HWT you can go to their website at www.hwtears.com

I hope you will all join us at our annual Gala this year on March 8th at Marcello's in Northbrook. Our Gala committee has been hard at work contacting businesses for donations for both our silent and live auctions. There are wonderful items for everyone! It is always so nice to be able to see everyone at a social gathering when we are all relaxed and have time to socialize with all our wonderful families. The teacher's and I look forward to seeing you all there!

As always, should you have any questions or concerns, my door is always open to you.

Warm Regards,

Gail



dates to remember

February

- 17 No School - President's Day
- 19 Hearing & Vision Testing
- 20 Hearing & Vision Testing

March

- 3 No School - Teachers In Service
- 8 Annual Fundraiser Gala
- 9 Daylight Savings
- 24 Start of Spring Break
- 31 School Resumes

NCNS
PRESENTS



A ROARIN' 20'S GALA

SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH, 6:30 PM
MARCELLO'S, 1911 CHERRY LANE, NORTHBROOK



DRESS AS A GANGSTER OR SILENT SCREEN STAR.
COME AS A FLAPPER OR COME AS YOU ARE.
IT'S GOING TO BE FUN — NO MATTER THE DRESS.

THERE WILL BE AUCTIONS,
FOOD AND DRINKS —
PLEASE BE OUR GUEST!

V a l e n t i n e s D a y



A few reminders about Valentines Day

The children will exchange cards with their classmates. The details are in the class weekly email. Please remember that for all classes there is no food or candy

B a b y N e w s

Big sisters Marie & Claire Myers welcomed their new brother James Michael on December 20th.

Congratulations to Jeff, Elise, Marie and Claire Myers for their newest addition to their family!

It's a
Boy!

S a v e t h e D a t e

April 17th 5:00 - 8:00 pm
1346 Shermer Road, Northbrook



Join NCNS for a shopping night at Juniper in downtown Northbrook. Appetizers and wine will make our event even more fun as **15%** of the total sales will be donated to NCNS.

N C N S A r t a t t h e L i b r a r y

NCNS is sharing its students' creativity with the community!

The Northbrook Public Library is displaying 15 pieces of NCNS artwork this month. Visit the second-floor kids section to view our wonderful winter art projects!





Lunch Bunch Signup

Are you interested in extending your child's day?

Join us for Runaway Circus

Thursdays or Fridays

11:20 - 12:40

Interested parties can contact Gail Nemoy @ 847-272-5430 or Andrea Denes @ 312-218-2625 for additional information.



Join the NCNS Board!

Interested in joining the NCNS Board for the 2014 - 2015 School Year?

The Board is currently looking for new members. Being on the board is a rewarding experience and a terrific way to meet friends while supporting your child's school. Positions are available at every interest level. The NCNS volunteer Board of Directors manages all business aspects of the school.

- The duties and responsibilities of each board member include the assigned duties for the particular board position or committee, the solicitation of gifts or funds for the school, promotion of the school and school events, planning and execution of school events and supporting the Director and other board members.
- The Board meets monthly except for the month of July.
- The Board also sponsors and plans the annual NCNS Fundraiser like the Roarin' 20's Gala.
- If you would like more information please contact Paige Wenk at paigewenk@gmail.com

C l a s s H a p p e n i n g s

Parent/Tot

Parker Zima showing off his fire truck driving skills



Turtles

Charlotte Yen shows us her roar as they learn all about dinosaurs



F e b r u a r y
B i r t h d a y s !



Aidan Fernstrom
Averee Smith
Brynn Sellinger
Chloe Wenk
Cole Troutman
Finley Kloepfer
Marin Smith
Ola Dziewonska
Penny Pollak

PAJAMARAMA

at

PumpItUp®



Thank you Dads for showing your NCNS support! The children had so much fun bouncing around in their pj's at our first annual Pajamarama!

A special thank you Paige Wenk and Annie Porthan for coordinating this rama of an event!

