

From The Director's Desk

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November 16, 2009

Thanksgiving--It's hard to believe that it is the middle of November and Thanksgiving is just a little over a week away. At Deer Path we teach the children about the first Thanksgiving and start a unit of study on good nutrition. On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving we have a special communal celebration with the children. Tables are set up in the hallway with placemats and napkin holders that they have created. Children adorn handmade Pilgrim or Native American hats and share a feast of snacks that they have made. It is one of the most special days of the school year as we all join together to give thanks for our many blessings.

Kindergarten News--Our Kindergarten parade on October 30th was a big success as always. The costumes were great and the children were very surprised when I entered their classroom and didn't recognize them. I asked Mrs. Senadira for my Kindergartners and when she replied that she didn't know where they were, the children all answered with smiles, "It's us". Oh, the wonderful innocence of children. I commend all of the Kindergarten parents who came to the school for the 5 minute performance and picture taking session. Our senior neighbors enjoyed the visit as did the full day children. The day ended with Halloween refreshments and activities in the classroom.



On November 2nd John Kraft of Lenape Lifeways visited the Kindergarten class. He brought original eating utensils, toys, tools, cooking utensils and clothes of the Lenapes, the native Americans of New Jersey. Mr. Kraft taught the children about the life of the Lenapes and allowed them to explore the many artifacts he brought with him. The children especially loved dressing up in the animal skin clothing. Mr. Kraft's visits to the school have become an annual event in November in preparation for Thanksgiving and one of the special privileges of our Kindergartners.



State Licensing--In October our license was up for renewal. The process entails submitting an application to the state and an on-site investigation conducted by an employee of the state licensing department. Usually, the process goes pretty smoothly, however, this year there was a new requirement that was quite timely and expensive to complete and has caused us a delay in receiving a permanent license renewal. The requirement has to do with having a preliminary assessment of the property of a pre-school completed to insure that there has been no prior use of the land that may have put harmful substances into the ground. Once the assessment has been completed, it has to be approved by the DEP and then sent to the state licensing department. The state then issues a no further action letter and renewal of the school's license. We have been conducting this process since June and are presently awaiting the letter from the state. In the meantime, we have been issued a temporary license. All of this was accomplished with the help of **John Crow** and his associates at **C&H Environmental**. John's company completed the assessment expediently and were kind enough to donate their fee to the school. Without their kindness this process would have been a huge expense for the school. As it is, we incurred several thousand dollars worth of expenses in state fees and lab testing costs. Thanks John and C&H for all of your help.

Book Fair--Thank you to **Amy Chandler** and **Kate Munning** for organizing the Scholastic Book Fair this year. The school will be receiving a percentage of the total sales in reward points to be used to purchase items out of the Scholastic catalog. We appreciate the time spent by the committee to set up, man the fair and close up. **Barbara Matteis, Dana Lemke, Josh Galster, Lorien Babajian, Li Pan, Meagan Kreydin, Haritha Venkatesh, Vera Solomon, Carmen Florea and Debra Xu** all helped with these chores. Thanks everyone!

Annual Fund--A couple of weeks ago you received an appeal letter from John Crow requesting donations to our Annual Giving Campaign. This year, more than ever, we are dependent on the money raised through donations to help supplement our tuition income. If you were in the building for conferences, you saw a beautiful picture poster created by Jessica Graff depicting some of the items purchased with donations made to the school. This year all the money raised is needed to help meet the expensive cost of the rent for this building, liability and worker's compensation insurance and the payroll--the three largest expenses in our budget. In other words, the money is needed for the essentials of running this school. If you haven't already donated, you will be receiving a call this week from a member of the Parent Advisory Board encouraging you to send in a donation. Please listen to their plea and be as generous as your means will allow. **The future success of Deer Path depends on it.** Remember to check to see if your company gives matching funds and also that the donation is tax deductible.

THANKS EVERYONE FOR SENDING IN YOUR TUITION PAYMENTS ON TIME. IT REALLY HAS HELPED!

^HAPPY THANKSGIVING!