

From The Director's Desk

Maryann Pascarella

April 6, 2009

Grandparent's Day—What a joy! Over 60 grandparents joined us on March 27th. It was such a special day. The grandparents were treated to refreshments provided by the Gibbons Family of the Market Place and even though it took the coffee pot a long time to perk, everyone seemed to enjoy being greeted with a light breakfast, especially since we had some early birds arriving at 9:30. The next treat was the children's performance. Although it was only 10 minutes in length, it was delightful. Thank you to Mrs. Sakowski who directed the show and to the teaching staff who diligently practiced with the children for 2 weeks prior to the day. After the performance, the grandparents were invited into the classrooms to spend a half an hour working with the children. Everyone was impressed with the work cycle and the children's ability to concentrate in spite of all the visitors. Of course, Ms. Cora was on hand to be a substitute grandma when needed. It was personally a very gratifying day for me because Pop Pop Pascarella (my husband) was able to spend time with our grandson Anthony and be impressed with all that he is learning. Thanks for coming Grandparents!

Fundraising at Deer Path—As you all know, we are dependent on our fundraising efforts to help offset the deficit in our operating budget, to pay for enrichment programs, to help purchase educational materials and to help with the cost of maintaining the play ground. This task is a challenging one for all of us especially during these difficult economic times. At our school we depend on the parents to run these fundraising events. This year we had a dedicated committee working on the Art Auction. As you know the Auction was cancelled. The cancellation was not due to a lack of effort on the part of the committee so at this time I would like to recognize the committee chair persons: **Divya Singh, Gioia Trendafilov, Jackie Alfieri, Colette Tarallo, Aleksandra Shepherd, Clara Tas Castro, Varsha Mistry** and all of the other parents who worked on the individual committees. Thanks also to **Rachel Savokinas** and **Lorien Babajian** for putting together the Ad booklet. We are able to still print and distribute this booklet and have received approximately \$4,000 in profit from the sale of the ads. The entire school community appreciates your efforts.

Annual Fund—Since we were unable to conduct the Art Auction, donations to the Annual Fund become even more important and necessary. In December you were asked to consider giving a donation to the Annual Fund. At that time our goal was 100% participation of the 65 enrolled families with a minimum donation of \$30. To date 34 families have participated. If you are not one of these families, would you please consider giving to the fund to help offset the loss of income from the Art Auction. Perhaps you have received a tax refund from which you can spare a few dollars or maybe a returned check that would have paid for the auction tickets. It would be wonderful if we could reach our goal by the end of May.

The following families have given to the fund:

Bieniecka	Baek	Graff	McBride	Chandler	Menke	Vlossak
Galster	Reilly	Moose	Schickinger-Hand		Pradhan	Rao
Pucci	Ginalski	Crow	Tarallo	Matteis	Porter	Lee
Alfieri	Ariemma	Battista	Maietta	Gallo	Singh	Scott
Wang	Hruby	Thyagarajan	Ibanez	Liu	Sharo	Murphy

THANKS TO ALL!

Field Trips—During the school year, the teachers plan field trips to enrich the children’s learning experiences. On April 29th the multi-age and kindergarten children will go to Fosterfields Living Historical Farm. In the past this has always been an enjoyable and informative trip for the children. On May 6th the Stepping Stones children will take a family trip to a near-by farm. They love seeing all the baby animals.

Conference Days—Please let us know what you think of the new format for our written reports. Also, was it helpful to receive them just prior to conference days? Remember, conferences are this Wednesday and Thursday, April 8 and 9th. If you haven’t signed up, call for an appointment.

THE POWER OF PLAY by David Elkind, Ph.D.—Every once in awhile I begin to read a book that I immediately want to share with everyone. Dr. Elkind’s book is that kind of book. Although I have only read 30 pages, I have already encouraged my entire staff to read it. It was written in response to today’s overemphasis in our children’s lives on academics, competitive sports, and passive, electronic entertainment at the expense of play. Dr. Elkind encourages parents to trust their instincts and suggests ways to restore play’s necessary and respected role in our children’s lives at home, at school, and in the larger community. I encourage you to read this book. Dr. Elkind offers simple and practical guidance for all of us who have an effect on children’s development.

Spring Break—School is closed from April 13th through 17th for Spring Break. Vacation Care will be in session. If you are able to take a vacation at this time, I hope it is wonderful.

HAPPY SPRING!

**DON’T FORGET THE SILENT AUCTION FOR THE CHILDREN’S ART
APRIL 8TH AND 9TH**