

# From The Director's Desk

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March 10, 2009

**Merry Month of March**—Even though we had the biggest snowstorm of the winter on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, we are looking forward to Spring now that March has arrived. Warmer weather means more outside play for the children--activities that both the children and the teachers love. Although the children have opportunities for gross motor activities during the winter using our spacious hallway, there is nothing that can compare to going outside. A child's behavior and ability to concentrate often improves when he can get outside, breathe in the fresh air and have an opportunity to release some pent up energy. The teachers enjoy the break in the daily routine, especially knowing how important it is for the children to exercise and work on large muscle development.

March is special at Deer Path this year because of two events that are coming up at the end of the month—**Art Auction and Grandparents' Day**. Grandparents' Day has become a very special event at our school. The children look forward to the special people in their lives, their grandparents, visiting and sharing their school experience. The teachers and I also enjoy meeting the people we hear so much about from the children. The celebration starts with refreshments, a short performance and then a visit in the child's classroom. Grandparents, please plan on joining us on March 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 11:30. I know that Anthony's (my grandson) Pop Pop is looking forward to sharing the morning with him. The next day, March 28<sup>th</sup>, is the Art Auction—an annual event which is enjoyable for all who attend. It is an important event for the school because it helps offset operating expenses and enables us to keep tuitions affordable. The preview is from 7:00 to 8:00 with the Auction following. If you haven't purchased tickets by now, please consider doing so by **March 14<sup>th</sup>**. Bring family and friends—the percentage of the school's profit depends on the number of people attending.

**Visitors' Days**—On February 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> our doors were open to parents, relatives and friends of the Deer Path children. Thank you to all who attended. It was such a pleasure for me to walk through the hallways and see adults and children joyfully working together. Many of you expressed appreciation to me and the teachers for allowing you the chance to have this experience with your child. It was our pleasure to share with you the wonder of learning that we experience every day at Deer Path.

**Kindergarten News**—The children in Kindergarten have been studying the solar system. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, they took a trip to the County College of Morris' planetarium. As in the past, this visit was a wonderful experience for the Kindergartners—fun and educational. The truth be known they enjoyed the drive there on the big bus as much as they enjoyed the stars.

The kindergartners will begin an art appreciation unit with the study of Vincent Van Gogh. They will learn about the life of this famous artist and will discuss his paintings. It is very interesting to look at a familiar painting through the eyes of a child. Their comments can be very enlightening.

**Study of China**— Starting this month, as in years past, the children will be learning about one country in depth. This year the teachers have chosen China for this study. Through books, hands on activities, art and cooking projects the children will become familiar with the land and its people. If you are a native of China or have visited there, please contact your child's teacher and plan a visit to school to share your experience. The children always enjoy having adult visitors in their class. The next time you visit the school, be sure to enjoy the paintings and art work honoring China hanging in the main hallway. These masterpieces were completed by the children in Mrs. Sakowski's class.

**Parent/Child classes**—Our third session of Parent/Child is underway. Designed for children 6 months to 30 months, it is an excellent way for young children to become familiar with our environment and method. It is also an educational program for the parents who attend with their child. There is still room in this session and another one is planned immediately following. If interested, please contact the office for more information.

**Looking Ahead**—The teachers are presently busy working at written progress reports for each child that you will receive on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mrs. Vlossak together with the teachers have created a new format for these reports which is very comprehensive. I think you will be pleased with the amount of information that you will receive regarding your child's progress. Scheduled conferences will follow on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. At these conferences you will have the information from the reports to discuss with the teachers. We think that this new procedure will be beneficial to both parents and staff. Let us know what you think.

**THINK SPRING!**