

From The Director's Desk

Maryann Pascarella

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAM PLEASE READ

June 4, 2010

Staffing for 2010/2011--Contracts for next year will be handed out on June 7th and if they are accepted by the teachers, there will be many changes that will affect our program. First of all, **Deshika Senadira**, our Multi-Age/Kindergarten teacher, will not be returning. Deshika, Manesh and Rehan will be moving back to their home country of Sri Lanka. While I know it will be wonderful for them to be back with their families, we here at Deer Path will miss all of them very much. Deshika has been with Deer Path since September of 2005. She has always been a dedicated and loving teacher. She has always been a co-operative staff member. Whenever challenged, (like being asked to take on the responsibility of Kindergarten), she has always met the challenge with hard work and determination. I will miss her most for her calming effect not only on our children but also on her co-workers and especially on me. She is blessed with a wonderful, positive attitude toward life that is contagious to all who come in contact with her. I guess, Deshika, we'll all have to start taking yoga to replace your effect on us. We wish Deshika, Manesh and Rehan a safe journey to Sri Lanka and many years of health, happiness and peace.

Nancy Martinson will move to Room 102 and take on the responsibility of the Kindergarten program. Nancy has also been with Deer Path since 2005 and has worked closely this year with Deshika in the afternoons to become familiar with the Kindergarten program. I know that her years of experience, her excellent organizational skills and her enthusiasm for this new endeavor will make the transition a smooth one. She will have a very experienced assistant in the morning, Roberta Wichowski, who has been at Deer Path since 2001.

Deborah Blasdel will remain in room 103 and will take on full responsibility of the Full Day program. She will be assisted by Mrs. Nilsson and Mrs. Francisco. Deborah has been a part of the full day program since she started at Deer Path in 2007. With the help of Nancy Martinson, she has been preparing to take on the sole responsibility of the program and I know that her experience will make this change a successful one.

Heather Sharo will be having a baby at the end of October. Ellen Van Glahn will be returning in September to teach 3 days in the toddler program. Heather's responsibility will be the Thursday/Friday class. While on maternity leave, Ellen will substitute for Heather. I think that the division of responsibility between the two teachers will help to make the period of time while Heather is out less disruptive. Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Morelli and Mrs. Anelli will be the assistant teachers. The teachers' schedules will still maintain a 1 to 5 ratio in that classroom. We congratulate Heather, Andrew and Aidan and look forward to welcoming a new member to our Deer Path family.

Aneta Sakowski will continue to teach an AM multi-age class in room 101. **Laura Ellis** will not be returning as her assistant. Laura will be taking on the responsibility of caring for Heather's baby while

Heather is at school. We will miss Laura. She has been a very pleasant, accommodating, flexible co-worker who is very loving and nurturing. The Sharos will be fortunate to have her care for their newborn. We are happy about this arrangement as well because we know it will keep Laura close to the school and free to do some substituting.

Enrollment--At this point in time, we have a significantly low enrollment for the 2010/2011 school year. It comes at a particularly difficult time for the school because this will be year five of our lease which requires the largest rent. You can help us tremendously by encouraging neighbors and friends to visit the school. Our next Open House will be Tuesday, June 8th from 4 to 6. We also maintain office hours from 8 to 12, Monday through Fridays during the summer months. There will be an administrator available for a tour of the school and to answer any questions. Appointments for a later time can be made, if necessary. We will be accepting applications throughout the summer and fall in the hopes of filling our classes to the maximum. **If you are happy with our program, please invite someone to visit. Deer Path has a referral program which gives tuition credit to any family who sends a prospective family who enrolls.**

Kindergarten Graduation--On June 17th, 18 kindergartners will be completing their time at Deer Path. We are very proud of all they have accomplished in the years they have been with us. Some started as toddlers just beginning to talk and become steady on their feet and now, not only are they talking and running, but many are able to read and complete four place addition. All are loving, respectful children who care for each other, the adults in their lives and the environment. Over the years we have grown to know and love each one of them for their uniqueness. We say good-bye knowing that they are well prepared for their next step in life.

Summer Camp--We still have openings in our summer camp program. Call the office for more information and to enroll. Camp is open to all children ages 2 1/2 to 6. A child does not have to be a student at Deer Path. Perhaps your child would like to attend with a neighborhood friend. Activities are designed to be developmentally appropriate for the young child.

For Grandparents--I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know many of you this year. For those of you who have graduating kindergartners, I wish you well. I will miss your grandchildren. They have each won a special place in my heart. For those of you who are returning, I look forward to continuing our relationship. I hope you all are able to spend some quality time with your grandchild this summer. I know I'm looking forward to some lazy days in Vermont with Kevin, Thomas and Anthony--my three boys.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time this year. The school could not function without the help of volunteers.

Have a wonderful summer!