

Harborlight Happenings

Enhance | Nurture | Educate

Intentional Play

Fred Rogers has said, "Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood." At Harborlight Nursery School we follow a child-centered, play based philosophy. But, what does that really mean? We believe children learn best when exploring their own environments. When children interact with materials in various ways it allows for problem solving skills to develop and builds resilience. Additionally, when engaging in dramatic play, children learn basic skills such as how to negotiate conflict, develop critical social skills, and an increased sense of self awareness.

What words would best describe children at play? Spontaneous, creative, enthusiastic, cooperative, experiential, fun, reflective, exploratory, and joyful are just a few that come to mind. More importantly, as facilitators of play, we continually ask ourselves questions such as:

- How are we recognizing and acknowledging children's roles in play?
- What are our intentions as facilitators during play?
- How can we capture the value of learning through play?

What can you do as parents? One of the most important things you can do is to play with your child! Follow your child's lead and encourage him/her to talk about what they are doing. Listen to their ideas, and suggest next steps such as "It looks like you are trying to..." or "I wonder what would happen if..." and then allow plenty of time for your child's ideas to unfold. Other ways to engage are by going on a walk, taking your child for a picnic, or playing hide and seek. The Boston Children's Museum also believes in creating a play based environment for children. Please find their resources on play here: <http://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/power-of-play>.

As we continue our ongoing theme of Fairy Tales and Nursery Rhymes, we look forward to the opportunities we have to share in playing and learning alongside our preschool students. After all, as Maria Montessori has said, "play is the work of the child."

Sincerely, Jessie Vogel





CLASSROOMS

Your child's classroom teachers are always busy planning and implementing thoughtful curriculum! It was wonderful to have the opportunity to conference with so many families and to connect face to face.

It is so important for us to partner with parents, each child's first teacher on this educational journey. The Red Room completed a unit on ABC's and 123's, and also added a post office into their classroom. The children made their own mailboxes, and practiced making and delivering letters to one another.

They are now onto a unit about castles and building and exploring the art of woodworking in their classroom with "real tools!"

The Blue Room and the Green Room hosted two very successful "Castles Days" in February to culminate their studies of castles and dragons. The children used catapults, decorated crowns, built castles, and completed a jousting activity to celebrate the learning that had occurred in their respective classrooms. These two groups of four and five year old students have now sprung ahead into curriculum related to "The Three Pigs" and "The Three Billy Goats Gruff." Please be sure to check the ongoing work in each of our classrooms and the documentation that teachers post on a regular basis.

EXTENDED CARE

DID YOU KNOW that your child can use Extended Care on **ANY DAY OF THE WEEK**? Simply email: extendedcare@harborlightnurseryschool.org to sign up your child anytime from 12:00pm-5:00pm (Monday-Friday). *This is a great benefit to being enrolled in our program!* Extended Care just completed a mapping unit, focusing on homes, addresses, neighborhoods, and directional vocabulary. Their unit culminated with a treasure hunt, using a map to search for their "treasure" where "X" marked the spot! The next unit has begun and the children will be exploring pets, groomers, pet shops, and the work of Veterinarian's. They also welcomed a pet fish, Wiggles, to take care of as part of this new unit. Early Care is still offering BREAKFAST on Wednesdays and/or Thursdays between 7:45-8:15. The price is \$2.50, and the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside of the Orange Room, with the food items posted weekly.

SMARTCARE

We are still very excited to be able to offer families new payment options this year via SmartCare. We are hoping that you are also finding it easy to use. As stated earlier, please feel free stop by the office if you have any questions, or need a brief tutorial. You may view your account through the mobile app.

You may also manage your tuition by paying with a credit card, or having payments automatically debited from your checking account all through the mobile app. If you are utilizing the app, we welcome your feedback, as this is a new program for us at HNS and we are always looking to improve!

UPCOMING DATES

March 10: Pancake Breakfast (8:30-11:30 @ HNS)

March - April TBD: Parent Visiting Days (sign-up : Coming Soon)

March 30: Good Friday/NO SCHOOL

April 16-20: April Vacation/NO SCHOOL

April 23: School Resumes

May 4: Family Fairy Tale Family "Knight" (6:00-7:30 @ HNS)

May 15 - May 16: Once Upon A-Thon (@ HNS)

OTHER NOTES

*Thank you to all who have **registered** and/or **re-enrolled** for the upcoming school year. If you have any questions about this process, or know someone else interested in joining our school, please email: hnsdirector@harborlightnurseryschool.org

*Thank you to all who have **volunteered** in some way for our preschool program this school year! We are incredibly grateful for the support you offer to our school and couldn't possibly do it all without you!

*Thank you to all who **participated** in Parent-Teacher Conferences! Our teachers appreciated the time to connect with each of you and look forward continuing to learn alongside your child this school year!

*Want to come to the Pancake Breakfast in style? Purchase your **HNS T-shirts** from the office (\$12/child; \$14/adult)

SCHOOL CLOTHING

*Please make sure your child is coming to school with appropriate footwear. Sneakers are most appropriate for playground and gym play at this age. If you happen to send your child in boots or "fancy shoes," please pack a pair of sneakers in his/her backpack so that they may change when it is recess time. Also, please check to make sure you have appropriate seasonal clothing in your child's backpack. Your child should pack at least 1 "just in case" change of clothes, which should include socks/undergarments as well.

COMING SOON . . .

We look forward to seeing you at our **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** on Saturday, March 10, 2018! Thanks to all who have committed their time to make this event possible!

Parent Volunteer Days are coming soon. These are great days to come in and volunteer your time/talents with our preschoolers during designated dates/times. There are many ways to volunteer throughout the school year, so your time is certainly not limited to these days, though we offer them as a way for you to feel connected to your child's classroom and for them to be able to share their teachers and friends with you. Simply look for a sign-up genius link soon.