



# Hancock Hullabaloo

Hancock Nursery School  
Newsletter Editor ~ Judy Kelley

Fall 2010  
[www.hancocknurseryschool.org](http://www.hancocknurseryschool.org)

## From the Director's Desk

The saying goes: "All I ever learned I learned in Preschool" does hold true. We learn to interact with others, to share, to tell a teacher how we feel, to wash our hands before we eat, dress ourselves and above all hold hands and join together when we go out into the world. I know this may sound rather simplified, but these are the foundation and building blocks of our education. What we learn in preschool is through the experience of play. Children use play to actively construct knowledge, meet social/emotional needs and life skills. I recently attended a lecture by Dr. Elkind a well known educator and author. He wrote an outstanding and must read book: "Power of Play". We believe at HNS that the content of play comes from the child's experiences. The more classroom experiences and play opportunities a child has to practice and explore the more confident and secure they become. As educators we want your child to be best that he/she can be. We feel honored and privileged that you have chosen us to guide, nurture and support your child during these most important early learning years.

"Play does seem to open up another part of the mind that is always there, but that, since childhood, may have become closed off and hard to reach. When we treat children's play as seriously as it deserves, we are helping them feel the joy that's to be found in the creative spirit. We're helping ourselves stay in touch with that spirit, too. It's the things we play with and the people who help us play that make a great difference in our lives" *Fred Rodgers*

## Important Dates

Date/Time	Event
Wednesday, October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Back to Nursery Night
Tuesday, October 19 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Committee Meeting/Social
Friday, October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Pumpkin Painting
Saturday, October 23 <sup>rd</sup>	HNS Open House
Thursday November 11 <sup>th</sup>	HNS Closed Veteran's Day
November	Parent Committee Pie Sale
November 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup>	Parent/Teacher Conferences <b>(school closed)</b>
November 25 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Recess
Friday, December 17 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of School before Winter Break

# Transitions to Preschool Can Take Time

The air is getting colder, the leaves are changing color and the children have been in school for about a month. As the novelty wears off and the routine sets in, children can start to feel anxious which can actually cause them to regress a bit in the weeks and months after preschool begins. You wonder what is happening when suddenly a child who felt comfortable and at ease at school is having separation issues. Crying and clinginess are normal responses to separation for preschoolers and some children have a delayed reaction. They have been distracted by all the excitement when school began and then they realize what has happened, and it's natural for them to suddenly get teary during goodbyes. Don't avoid talking to them about what is bothering them. Set aside a few moments each night when you can give him your undivided attention and he can tell you about his day. It can take many months for a child to feel totally comfortable at school, so don't be concerned if he falls back into a clingy mode now and again.

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

HNS will be having Parent Teacher Conferences, on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be NO SCHOOL - and child care will be available during your scheduled conference time. Look for sign-up sheets from your teacher in the coming weeks.

## Early Drop-off Program



This is available for families who need the extra child care from 8:30 - 9:00 Monday thru Friday. There is always space available. Sign-up sheet is on the table. Please see Judy with any questions.

## EXTRA CLOTHES

If you are cleaning out your children's closet and have any sweatshirts, sweatpants, long-sleeve shirts, socks for ages 3 - 5. Please drop them by the office. We need to replenish our extra clothes supply here at HNS. Thank you.



## Did you know?

(Interesting facts about HNS teachers)

- Mrs. Kelley loves to dance and even went to camp this summer to learn some new moves.
- Ms. Lyons is a painter and been commissioned by the State of Maine to paint scenes from their state parks.
- Mrs. C is one quarter Native American and I belong to the Shasta Indian Nation in Northern California.
- Mr. B worked in the Film business in NYC, as an assistant film editor for six years. Big claim to fame: worked on Robert DeNiro's film **A Bronx Tale**, you can see my name in the credit roll at the end!
- Miss Jodi has jumped out of a perfectly good plane, and loved it!
- Mrs. Blauer loves to snow board!
- Mrs. Healey wishes she could be a singer in a rock and roll band.
- Mrs. DaRu loves to garden.
- Mrs. Andrews belongs to a cooking club.
- Miss Michelle likes kickboxing. You go girl!
- Suneeta speaks seven languages...
- Mrs. Christine loves to play soccer.
- Mrs. Brosgol and her whole family ran a 5K in September, which includes 3 children (ages 7, 4 and 1).
- Patricia's passion for mountain climbing has taken her to seven different countries.

## A GLIMPSE OF THE GREEN ROOM

This past month the children of the Green Room have been working on their own "All about Me" booklet. It's been a long project that got the children to think about their bodies and how they are made up of different parts.

The kids all became rappers as they learned the Body Rap:



This is my body, this is my body  
2 hands and 2 feet

This is my body, this is my body  
Clap hands to the beat!

This is my body, this is my body,  
2 ears and then 2 eyes

This is my body, this is my body  
One brain to make me wise!

This is my body, this is my body  
A heart pumping inside

This is my body, this is my body  
I'm growing and alive!

When we weren't singing, the children experimented with finger paints and shaving cream. The class had a lot of fun making a huge painted footprint mural; it's on display up in the loft. We also looked at the color of skin and how everyone's is a bit different. And lastly, we talked about the bones and muscles that are inside of us. (It seemed appropriate that we were talking about skeletons right before Halloween!) The booklets should be ready by the Parent Open House.

Also, if any parents are having trouble signing up for the blog, please email Mr. B. for help.

## Back to School Night

October 13<sup>th</sup> 7:30 - 8:30



Have you asked your child what she/he has done at school and they answer "nothing" Here's your chance to find out.

The classroom teachers are planning an evening that will provide you with information about the daily schedule, curriculum activities, developmental milestones and a hands-on project that will allow you to use your creativity and imagination. Come and experience what it feels like to spend an hour in pre-school. This evening is for parents only.

### *Yellow Room Classes*

*T/TH 7:30 - 8:15 and M/W/F 8:15 - 9:00*

## HNS OPEN HOUSE

It's hard to believe, but we are starting our enrollment process for next year. Our Open House for perspective families is Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 - 11:00. Please tell your neighbors and friends.

## New Website under Construction

We would like to display a testimonial section on our new Website. If you would be willing to write a few words about why you chose HNS and how your child has benefited from our program we would greatly appreciate it. Please send it along to Christine via email.





## HNS Staff Article



**Plan Ahead for Halloween!** Halloween is always about fun and festivities with preschoolers. Unlike older children, the preschool crowd is not into getting scared. Your three, four and five year olds will instead enjoy making neat crafts, playing festive Fall games and hearing fun Halloween stories. Here are a few spooky (but not too scary) picture book suggestions from Scholastic.

**The Bumpy Little Pumpkin** by Margery Cuyler  
Little Nell proves that any pumpkin can become a perfect jack-o'-lantern.

**Cinderella Skeleton** by Robert D. San Souci  
In this fractured fairy tale, a very bony Cinderella attends the Halloween Ball.

**The Hallo-Wiener** by Dave Pilkey  
The brunt of many hot dog look-a-like jokes, Oscar the dachshund wants a fierce new look for Halloween, but his mother dresses him as a real wiener — complete with bun and mustard.

**One Halloween Night** by Mark Teague  
Kids and adults will enjoy this popular author and illustrator's take on All Hallow's Eve.

**Spooky Hour** by Tony Mitton  
Prepare for the witching hour with a cute (and just a little bit scary) cast of characters.

**Ten Timid Ghosts** by Jennifer O'Connell

Count down from ten to one with ten ghosts, a witch, and a haunted house in this spooky rhyme.

**There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Bat**  
by Lucille Colandro

What won't this spunky senior swallow? This time, a bat, cat, even a ghost and a goblin are on the menu.

**Trick-or-Treat, Smell My Feet** by Lisa Desimini  
Twin witches Delia and Ophelia are delighted when their spell to keep neighborhood children from collecting candy on Halloween is successful. Find out what happens when a mysterious ingredient causes the spell to backfire!

**Who Will Haunt My House on Halloween?** by Jerry Pallotta and David Biedrzycki  
Werewolves, zombies, ghosts, and witches are all stopping by the house. But are they really real?

Wishing everyone a Safe, Healthy, and Fun Halloween!

*Article written by: Mrs. C. (Yellow Room)*

### Just a reminder

In the parking lot - please hold your child's hand while crossing to your car. This is a great learning time for your children: stop, look and listen. When we begin teaching this early it becomes second nature for them as they grow.

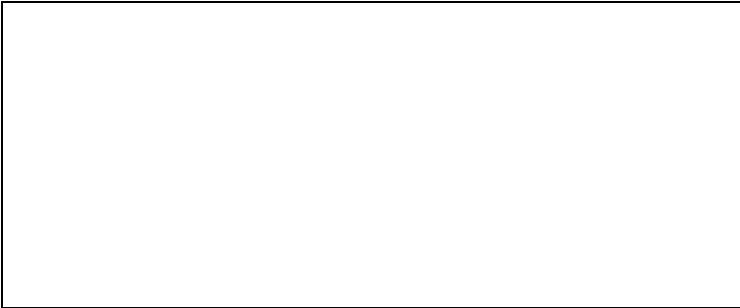


### THINGS TO BE KEPT AT HOME

- electronic devices
- toys of violence
- candy
- anything unlabeled
- a frown

## Apple Picking Field Trip

On Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> the two Pre-K classrooms went on a field trip to Honey Pot Orchards. The children went on a hayride out to the orchards to pick apples, drank cider and ate apple cider donuts. It was a beautiful day!



## Friday Red Room

The Friday Red Room Program was very busy today... After pretending to play ice cream stand in the playground they chose to make a real one for the classrooms to visit. Everyone had a job either: scooping, taking tickets, recording what flavor customers liked best and gave out wipes for people to clean up.

### Here are a few quotes:

Marco - "I liked taking everyone's ticket."

Eric - "Lots of people needed wipes"

Sophia - "I liked scooping ice cream"

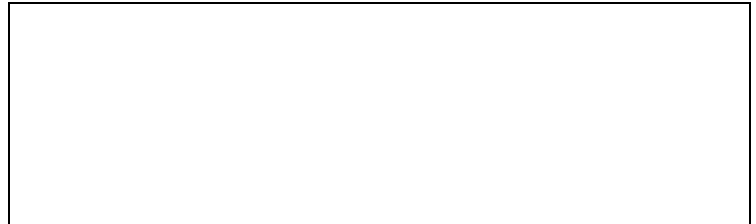
Jed - "chocolate was the favorite"

Charlie - "best of my job was taking a break..."



## Parent Committee News

We hope that everyone who was able to make our playground get-together had a wonderful time. It was a great chance for HNS families to get to know one another.



Our **Annual Pumpkin Painting Party, Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:15 - 7:15.** Thank you to Flo Donaghy and Bonnie Mottola for planning this event - details to follow in the coming weeks.

There will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer that evening, so please keep your eyes out for a sign up sheet on the Parent Committee board!



**Parent Committee Meeting/Social ~ Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00pm.** This next parent committee meeting, our Kaser Family (orange room) has offered to host this in their home. This will give parents (both mom and dad) a chance to meet others from HNS and an opportunity for input when you cannot make the meetings held during the day.

The parent committee holds a Pie **Sale** in November where families are offered the opportunity to purchase pies from Wilson Farms which will be delivered in time for

Thanksgiving. Carrie Pitts will be organizing this and details will be posted on the bulletin board.

