



Harborlight Happenings

It's a Magical Month!

Magic is in the air. The teachers are performing tricks of amazing prestidigitation, the children have a few tricks up their own sleeves as well as a surprise project for "you know who" coming home soon. Children waving magic wands and brandishing magic scarves are appearing before our very eyes. The school year will conclude with a visit from a real live magician and the children will be showing off their magic at the closing programs.

The magic theme in preschool includes some real, "we can't tell you how we do

it" secrets as well as lots of opportunities for children to plan, organize their actions and coordinate their thoughts, use new reasoning skills and enjoying the magic all around us. To children, everything is a little magical. Think how easily you can surprise your young child with the simple trick of making a favorite relative arrive for a visit, blowing out candles on a cake, playing peek-a-boo with children as babies and then hide and seek when they are older. Think of how amazing they find the wave chasing them on the beach or filling up the hole

they have dug, the hermit crab popping back into its shell, sudden rain, the moon and stars at night, flowers that grow from a small, small seed, snow...science magic lends itself so well to preschool exploration. So we will accomplish so much growing and learning this month it will be magically amazing. We will practice our tricks, find out about real and pretend, and watch caterpillars become butterflies. We will think, really hard, about how it all works and we will laugh together and enjoy the world all around! It's great to be a child in a magical world!



The Climb-a-Slide-a-Thon!

The big days are almost here! The **Climb-a-Slide-a-Thon** championship climbers and sliders (your children) will be on the playground to perform their marvelous feats of climbing and sliding on **Tuesday, May 11 and Wednesday, May 12.**

Of course if it rains, your amazing children will be waiting until Thursday or

Friday to get their exercise. The sponsor sheets have been sent home. All sheets should be returned with the permission portion at the bottom of the sheet signed so that your child can participate—even if you do not wish to collect any contributions. We hope, of course, that you will help us out. The funds we raise will be used for enrichment programs and

special materials for the classrooms. We are also looking for some helpers to punch the holes in each child's card as he/she completes laps over the climbing structure in the span of 1/2 hour. Certificates and special gifts will be awarded to all at the end of the day. If you have questions please contact us.

Harborlight Nursery School

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Special points of interest:

- ☺ Your Surveys Please.
- ☺ Hocus Pocus Programs
- ☺ Silly Switch Days
- ☺ Storytime with BeeBo
- ☺ Harborlight House
- ☺ Summer Birthday Parties
- ☺ Dates to Note

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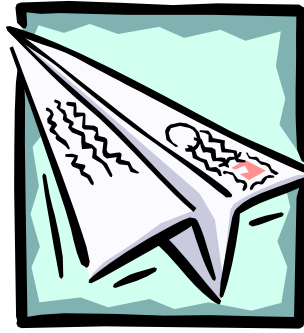
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Share Your Thoughts

Later in May you will be greeted at the classroom doors by members of the Board of Directors who will ask you to complete our Harborlight Nursery School end-of-year survey. It will take just a few minutes if you have the time at drop off, otherwise you can take it home with you with our request to please return it as soon as possible. Director Elly Flowers and The Board of Director members will review the results of the surveys. Your input and ideas are valuable to us. Over the years some good changes in our policies, procedures and routines have been made in

response to your good suggestions or the identification of concerns.

There will also be a space for you to indicate ways that you might want to help next year from joining the Board of Directors to assisting with fundraisers, being a room parent or helping with other events.



Send us a message with your surveys.

Watch for the forms and handbook for next year to come your way.

Speaking of next year, those of you with children here for the 2010-2011 school year will receive a new handbook and set of forms to be completed by the start of the next school year. Elly will be handing those out some morning late in May. If you did not get a chance to attend a parent orientation last year, there will be an orientation for "new" parents on May 25th at 7:00 p.m. that you are welcome to attend if you wish.

Hocus Pocus Program Days!

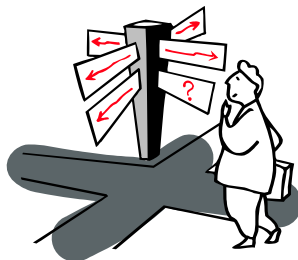
Looking ahead to the last days of school, we will close with two program days (similar to the party days in December) on **June 10 and 11**. Families and friends are invited to school at 10:00 to join us for some songs, snacks and magic in the gym. Children will come to school at their usual time. After the party children will be on vacation for the summer. There is

early morning extended care but no lunch bunch or afternoon care on those days. Lots more information will follow but put these dates on your calendar so you will be able to join us at the party and will know that school closes for the summer after Friday, June 11.



Silly Switch Days

On May 28 and June 1 the children will come to school, go to their regular classrooms and then, at an appointed time, switch classrooms with the other classes. So the red room children will travel to the blue and green rooms so they can get an orientation preview of how school is in those other mysterious classrooms. They are



Which way did they go?
Every which way on
silly switch day!

always pleased to discover new and interesting toys. The blue and green room children in the meantime will take turns in the red room. Those who were in the red room last year are likely to be nostalgic about the visit as if it has been years since they were last there and now they are so much older! It is amusing to hear

them compare the old room to the one they are in now. Everything tends to be smaller than they remember it! Though the children are in different rooms for the largest part of the morning, they travel with their current teachers. The blue and green room teachers will make cameo appearances so that the children get to meet them before the next school year.

Story time with BeeBo—Toddler Time in May

Reading picture books with children provides many opportunities to use signs. Children love to look through picture books and have adults tell them what is on each page. This is a wonderful opportunity to model signs for things in which the baby is clearly interested. Once children have signs for things in books, they can take an active role in book reading, making the activity even more fun for parent and baby alike! Because we know that exposure to books in the early years is related to better literacy skills, this increase in enjoyment provided by signs is an important advantage.—

Jennifer Carr

You and your child (ages 1 to 3) are invited to a story time on May 10th at 10:00 a.m. presented by Jennifer Carr, a certified Baby Signs instructor, and her side kick, BeeBo. We will gather in the Orange Room to share a story time, small snack and craft. Since space is limited, contact the school office to make a reservation for your toddler. Babies and toddlers love Jennifer's over sized, friendly signing puppet, BeeBo.

For more information about **Baby Signs** visit www.babysignsprogram.com/withjennifer.



Say Hello to BeeBo on May 10 at Toddler Time.

Harborlight House for the Red Room

In April the blue and green room children visited the residents of Harborlight House and sang some of their favorite songs to them. At each visit, the children introduce themselves and tell their ages. Sometimes the residents will tell their ages too! They also often sing along to favorite preschool tunes and nursery rhymes. At the end of May, on the 26th and 27th, the Red Room children will have their turn to visit. Walking down the

street to One Monument Square, (across from the Fire Station), each class brings a gift, either a small gift for each resident, created by the children, or some baked goods for the residents to enjoy at their next meal.

The Red Room teachers will be looking for some parents to help walk over to Harborlight House. The Red Room children did a great job on their recent trip to the fire station, but we

couldn't do it without our parent helpers! You can speak to one of the teachers if you would like to help. Permission slips will go out the on the school days before the visits.

Here is a picture of a recent visit by the blue room children.



Summer Birthday Parties

Children who celebrate their birthdays in June, July and August are invited to be the special guests at our summer birthday party days on June 2 and 3. During the school day, we will have a special ice cream sundae smorgasbord for snack, play games and all come together to be entertained by magician Greg McAdams. The birthday children wear their

crowns and listen to rousing renditions of "Happy Birthday" sung to each one of them. Each birthday child will be asked to bring a portion of the snack to share. The teachers will organize that later this month.

Party Days will be Amazing!



Harborlight Nursery School

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50 years of fun and friends!



Happy Birthday
To our Friends!

Dates to Note

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 3-7

Toddler Time

May 10

CLIMB-A-SLIDE-A-THON

May 11 and 12

New Parent Orientation

May 25

Red Room Visits at Harborlight House

May 26 and 27

Silly Switch Days

May 28 and June 1

Summer Birthday Party Days

June 2 and 3

Hocus Pocus Closing Program

June 10 and 11

May, June and Summer Birthdays
