



“Where Kids Come First”

Volume 6, Issue 5

May 2010

# Hand in Hand News

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## Strength in the Struggle

Math is not my favorite subject at all. Can't stand it, have baggage from a horrid teacher in my past, and so I avoid math as best I can. This year, I set a personal goal for myself to learn more in the mathematical arena, so I enrolled in a distance learning business math course. Crazy, I know. While the professor was helpful and patient, I found it extremely challenging and humbling to struggle—really struggle at something at my age. I hate trying my hardest at something, and still not “getting it”. I finally hired a tutor, and together we

worked long hours into the night. (for many, many nights)

When all was said and done, this past A student, recipient of the Presidential Scholar Award (years ago, mind you) earned a C+.

What? Earning a C+ after really giving my very best has been a soul searching experience for me. I really did give my very best. I asked for help, and put in the hours and effort to earn a much higher grade.

What did this math class teach me? It reminded me that struggling, striving, reaching, and having hope is

really what it takes to grow as a person. I only got a C+ in math, but the experience of trying something seemingly beyond my reach was a real rewarding, though painful experience for me.

As a person, and as a parent I have re-learned that “doing your very best” in something (no matter the end result or the grade) provided me with a sense of fulfillment I wouldn't have experienced otherwise. I am going to give my children this opportunity—the opportunity to struggle so that they too, can feel a sense of accomplishment and strength.

## Things to Remember:

- School is **CLOSED** on Memorial Day
- Saturday, May 22nd is Spring Spruce Up 9:00-12:00—please join us in sprucing up our school playground!

## New Faces and Friends

You may have noticed some new faces. Dawna Saylor has joined us. Dawna will work in the school house each day from 3:00-6:00PM to help care for the children.

Jennifer Davolt will join us

next week. She is moving here from Idaho, and has a Masters degree. She will work in each classroom during the month.

Teacher Mike will be moving to South Dakota at the end of May to teach chil-

dren who live on a Native American reservation. We wish him well on this adventure, and appreciate all he has taught the Moonshine class. Ella Fitzgerald, Monet, field trips, and relationships. Best Wishes Mike!

## Spring Spruce Up

We have been patiently waiting for the rain to stop a bit so that we can host our **4th Annual Spring Spruce Up!** On **Saturday, May 22nd from 9:00-12:00** we invite you to join us for some nitty gritty sprucing up of the outside playground. All family members are invited to attend. We need wheel barrels (as many as you can bring!) to help us in hauling in ce-

dar chips under the swings and around the play area. We need plants and flowers to plant inside of the tires around the playground. And we need muscles to pull weeds, and sweep the sidewalks. This is a great time to get to know one another as we work as a school community in preparing a fun, clean, safe outside environment for the children. Even if you

can only help for an hour or two, please come and help us! Our school needs you!

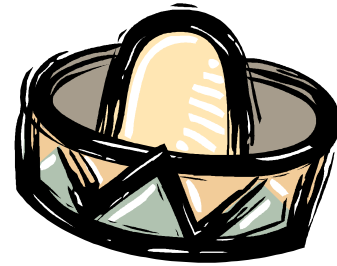


## Dia del Ninos y Cinco de Mayo

Teacher Anna made amazing piñatas with her own hands to help celebrate the Mexican holiday, "Dia del Ninos" (day of the children) on April 30th. We also brought in a bounce house to help make the day special. Each child made a crown for themselves, played with bubbles, and enjoyed

stomping on balloons.

Cinco de Mayo brought us great authentic Mexican food for lunch—Gabby's home made soft tacos! Muchas Gracias Anna and Gabby for sharing with us your celebrations of children and childhood! We love the children of Hand in Hand.



## Summertime Fun

According to the calendar, summer begins next month. We will believe it when we see it!

Some things to be prepared for as parents. Soon you will be given a release form for sunscreen. Each parent will pay \$4.00 per child for sun block for the entire summer.

Hand in Hand will then purchase the sun block and put it on the children throughout the day.

Please bring a change of clothes and even a towel because we will be spending a considerable amount of time outside playing!



## Kids Come First

As we strive to continue to provide the very best education possible to the children attending Hand in Hand we have decided to begin "looping". For decades, Europe has "looped" children in their schools, schools back east loop, and the Evergreen school district also is looping in some of their schools. What is looping? Simply put: looping is keeping the

students with the very same teachers for their school experience. Research has shown several benefits for the students when they stay with their original teachers. Some examples are: strong sense of community among teachers, students, and families, continuity in peer relationships; increased depth of self-confidence; and better opportu-

nity to overcome shyness. (Ratski, 1988)The families benefit from a greater collaboration and trust between the teachers as they work beside the very same teachers for a longer amount of time than just one school year.

The students of Hand in Hand will benefit socially and emotionally, which in turn effects academics.

### Kids Come First continued....

Learning is relationship based, and when the children of Hand in Hand can have a stable, continuous relationship of trust with teachers, then imagine what can be learned year after year, and how there is a greater potential for growth!

**"To reach a child's mind, a teacher must capture his heart.**

**Only if a child feels right can he think right"** (Ginott, 1972)

We want to be ever diligent in preparing children socially, emotionally, and academically, while recognizing that children absolutely must be able to adapt and learn from their peers as well. "The single best childhood predic-

tor of adult adaptation is not IQ, not school grades, and not classroom behavior but rather the adequacy with which the child gets along with other children. Children who are generally disliked, who are aggressive and disruptive, who are unable to sustain close relationships with other children,

### continued...

And who cannot establish a place for themselves in the peer culture are seriously 'at risk.'" (Hartup, 1991)

A child who can adapt in the classroom will learn the skills necessary to adapt to peers as an adult. Continuity, and relationships are

the key.

We hope to begin looping sometime this summer. Karmay and Anna will be the new/old four-year-old teachers. Jamie and Amy will take transitioning infants into the Sunbeam room—building upon the bonds they have created

with their infants. Mary will move into the infant room and work alongside Leslieanne who will provide continuity for the infants who stay awhile longer. Vanessa will transition into the Star Class, Bettina stays with the Toddlers, and away we go!

## “Where Kids Come First”

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## Back Page Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

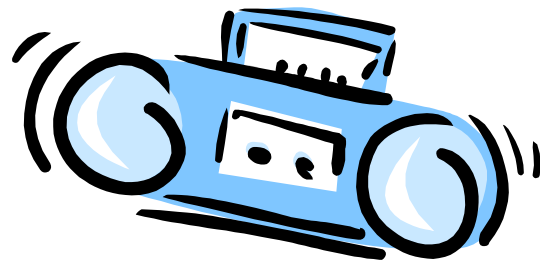
A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.