

South Hills Child Development Center Inc.
March 2012 Newsletter

March 2012 Calendar

Friday, March 2	Book orders due by 5:30
Sunday, March 4	Online Scholastic Book orders are due by midnight
Monday, March 5	Equal Exchange and Flower Power Fundraiser begins!
Tuesday, March 6	Staff Meeting and Medicine Administration Training for all staff members
Sunday, March 11	Daylight Savings Time begins. Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour and enjoy the light!
Friday, March 16	Donations for the Artist in Residency are due
Saturday, March 17	Happy St. Patrick's Day! All the world is Irish today!
Week of March 19	Daffodils arrive for Daffodil Days via American Cancer Society. Watch for notification on the foyer notice board! Pulakos orders should arrive this week! Watch for notification on the foyer notice board! Artist-in-Residence, dancer Ms. Siobhan Peterson-Walsh will join the full day classes March 20-23! Please view details in newsletter

www.spetersonwalsh-art2life.webs.com

Tuesday, March 20

Enjoy the first day of spring!

Saturday and Sunday, March 24 and 25

Annual Maple Taste and Tour 10-4 at Hurry Hill Farm in Edinboro! Details in newsletter

Monday, Tuesday, March 26 and 27

We celebrate Mr. Rogers' Birthday!
Wear cardigans and sneakers!

Tuesday, March 27

Flower Power and Equal Exchange orders are due by 5:30

South Hills Tax Id

Our tax id number is written on every receipt parents are given after payment. All parents received their 2011 tax statement in late January. In case you still need it, our **Federal Tax Identification Number is 208087978.**

Kindergarten Registration

Most public school districts and private schools will soon be enrolling for Kindergarten and first grade. We do post registration dates as we receive them, so please check our exit door for your district, or call your district's Education Center to be sure you know the registration dates and the required forms for enrolling your child.

We can provide you with a copy of your child's medical record and developmental assessment. **Please notify us in writing of your request at least a week prior to the date you will need records.** Thank you.

Maple Sugar Time!

Please consider touring **Hurry Hill Farm** on Fry Road in Edinboro (Just north of the Buffalo Farm) with your family on the weekend of March 24 and 25 from 10:00-4:00! Janet Woods and Lisa Nathanson, along with their children, have long been supporters of South Hills' program, and they offer a wonderful educational tour of their farm and maple syrup production. They have completed the first maple sugar museum in the area, which is a real treasure! Families will be taken by a tractor-pulled wagon past the trees being tapped to the sugar house where Jan will teach the techniques for tapping sugar maple trees and boiling the sap into syrup! There are lots of displays in the museum and samples to try; Hurry Hill maple products will be available for sale. Jan is a retired educator, and the visit will be meaningful for all ages! This is a WONDERFUL winter

activity for children and parents to share. (Please consider purchasing a copy of *Miracles on Maple Hill* while you are there. This delightful Newbury winner was written by Edinboro resident Virginia Sorenson; Jan has devoted much energy to gathering stories, memorabilia, photos and background information regarding this true Edinboro story of years gone by! A few years ago, Virginia's Newbury medal was presented to Jan by the Sorenson family, in appreciation of Jan's work in making this special book available to our children. Jan shares the medal with our area children by having it displayed in the maple sugar museum. Every area child should be familiar with this story and have the opportunity to see this Newbury award medal!

Details will be placed on the parent bulletin board. **Parent coordinators:** This would be a wonderful experience to plan for your child's class!

For additional information, www.pamaple.org

Fred Rogers' Birthday WEAR YOUR CARDIGAN AND SNEAKERS!!!!!!

We will be honoring Fred Rogers' birthday on Monday and Tuesday, March 24 and 25. As you may know, Connie considers him to be her mentor, and had the great fortune to meet with him personally many times throughout his life. During these two days, we will be listening to the music of Fred Rogers, and creating puppets, king and queen crowns, and a variety of other activities.

For those families who do not celebrate birthdays, this will not be a formal birthday celebration/party. Please bring your child to share in the activities honoring the life of Mr. Rogers.

Kindergarten Students

All of the follow up studies on our students in last year's class have been returned; we are happy to report that all students are excelling academically in their elementary classrooms! The schools report that the South Hills students excel in reading, math, writing, social studies and leadership qualities. We were pleased to hear that the majority of the children were targeted for accelerated enrichment programs.

The students this year are all reading at a high level; many are reading chapter books already. All of the students are excelling in math and can count out coins to make numbers up to 50. (For example, Ms. Robin/Ms. Pam might ask them to see how many ways they can make 27 cents using pennies, dimes, nickels and quarters).

They completed an in depth study of Asia, including a presentation to all of the preschoolers regarding the Chinese New Year and an elaborate Lion Dance. At the end of February, they completed an in-depth project on the human body and presented a program to the preschoolers describing all of the internal organs and the 'jobs' they perform. March's curriculum will introduce them to a study of Mexico!

We are all so proud of this year's Kindergarten class and their exceptional abilities!

Although next year's Kindergarten class is filled, please don't hesitate to add your child to our waiting list—changes sometimes occur!

Artist in Residence

Each year, the full time students and Kindergarten students enjoy a week during the winter months when we host an Artist in Residence through ArtErie, our local art council. This year, we are honored to have Ms. Siobhan Peterson-Walsh as our Artist-in-Residence. Ms. Siobhan is not only a dancer, but an Early Childhood Educator! Please check her website at

www.spetersonwalsh-art2life.webs.com

The residency will take place each morning Tuesday-Thursday, March 15-18 . **Please be sure that your children wear comfortable clothing with sturdy sneakers AND SOCKS so that they can fully participate.** Many of the activities will be done in socks to provide unique tactile experiences. I will be following Ms. Siobhan throughout her work with our children, and will 'journal' the day's events to share with parents. We are thrilled that she will be joining us at South Hills; she is a protégé of Dr. Jan Hyatt, who was last year's Artist-in-Residence, so shares our philosophies supporting neurological, cognitive, and kinesthetic connections. It is an honor to have her join us and provide this enriching experience for our children!

Parents will receive information regarding this residency, and donations to cover the costs will be accepted by Art Erie, who sponsors and arranges this residency. We are especially grateful to Ms. Char Mashyna, executive director of Art Erie, who is a former parent of South Hills' students and a strong supporter of our school and vision throughout the years. Ms. Holly Nowak, the Educational Coordinator for ArtErie, has been invaluable in arranging this special residency...

ABL Daily Work

The children participate in daily Action Based Learning activities which involve various equipment such as balancing domes, balancing 'rocks', balance beams, and ABL ladders which require the children to balance and walk on rungs, rails, inbetween rungs, etc. All of this work is challenging but developmentally appropriate to strengthen brain connections.

We require children to wear sneakers daily so that they might participate, but many children still wear 'dress shoes', shoe boots, or other shoes. We cannot allow the children to participate if they do not have proper footwear, as there is an injury risk. **PLEASE have your child wear sneakers every day.**

What Have Our Teachers Been Doing?

***Beth** recently participated as an industry panel member for the Erie County Technical School's Early Childhood Caregiver DACUM workshop. She joined over a dozen Early Childhood professionals and shared her professional knowledge regarding professional behavior expectations, certifications, and future trends in the field to assist the Vo Tech staff update their Early Childhood Caregiver certification program.

It was an honor for Beth's expertise to be included in this panel!

***Connie** recently applied and was accepted to participate in the KAY certification program offered by Ms. Haris Lender, a well known yoga instructor from St. Petersburg, Florida. She will be presenting this training at Plasha Yoga Studio here in Erie in April. KAY is a three day, 23 hour certification program. The description states: *"It is a comprehensive, and very intense course. The trainings include creative instruction in meditation, breathing practices, relaxation, poses, and so much more! We offer a system that is easily duplicated, and a course outline to follow that makes it very easy to share the Science of Yoga with your students."* Parents can read more at www.kiddingaroundyoga.com

Connie has included yoga, breathing, and mindfulness in our curriculum for many years, but looks forward to expanding this component for the benefit of our students, who have already increased their ability to calm themselves, focus, and remain more attentive to tasks.

NAEYC Update

Our Intention to Renew is being reviewed by the NAEYC board and we expect a call any day stating that the validator/s will arrive TOMORROW! We are prepared!

From Connie:

The children of South Hills raised over \$2600 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association! Thank you to the children, who so seriously hopped without stopping, and to the wonderful parents who supported this effort. The total hops of the children will soon be posted! The generous spirit of the South Hills "family" never fails to overwhelm me. I am so proud to be associated with such a fine group of families! THANK YOU!

March will be a most special month as we celebrate Fred Rogers' work, and welcome Ms. Siobhan Peterson-Walsh as this year's Artist in Residence to our school!

We have been so blessed with a mild winter and so much daily time outdoors! Let's hope we don't 'pay the price' but have warmth and sunshine in abundance as this month progresses!

As stated in my Music newsletter, I will be in Florida March 7-17 visiting my son in Orlando and checking on my parents in Leesburg (in their 80s and still amazingly healthy, active and hard working!). We are permitted 15 'black out dates' for the NAEYC validators visit, so know they will not arrive during my absence. (I would never do that to my staff!!!!) Please don't hesitate to see Beth if you have any needs.

Enjoy this special time of the year with your child!

♥ Connie