

Pre-K & EC News



Horace Mann
2975 W. Broadway - Blue Island, IL 60406
708-385-2450

Nathan Hale Pre-K
5318 W. 135th Street - Crestwood, IL 60445
708-385-5853

From the Principal's Desk

by Dr. Carol Crum

Dear Families,

Thank you to all the parents who participated in the Horace Mann PTO Fundraiser! Due to your hard work and generosity our PTO raised **\$4,530.00** Part of the money raised will be used to purchase new curriculum materials for our classrooms.

Parents whose children ride the bus to and from school are reminded that our buses have many door stops to make when picking up and dropping off students. Parents must be ready for the bus when it arrives to pick up and drop off. Students who are brought back to school on a chronic basis will be suspended from riding the bus. It is the responsibility of parents to make certain that the school has current emergency information on file for their children at all times.

Regular school attendance is important for your child's progress. Please remember to call the school office to notify the school on days when your child will be absent.

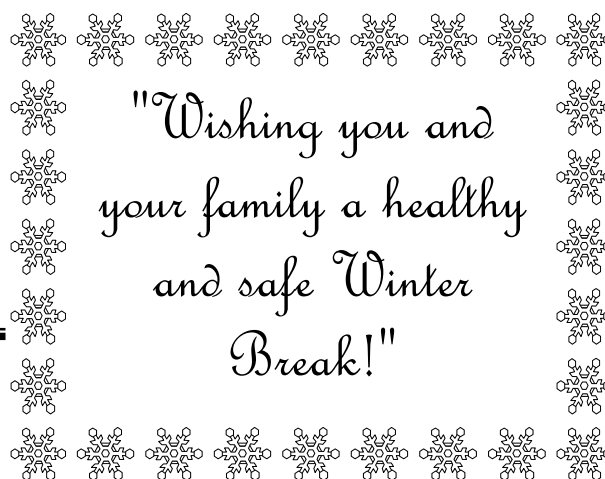
Preschool Screenings

School District #130 will be conducting Preschool Screenings during the week of February 27th. The purpose of screenings is to identify children who may be eligible for the district's Prekindergarten or Early Childhood Programs. Children must be residents of District #130 to participate in screenings. District #130 serves the communities of Blue Island, Crestwood, Robbins and Alsip. Children will be screened in the areas of language, motor, social, self-help and problem solving skills. Vision and hearing will also be screened. Screenings will take place at Horace Mann School and can be scheduled by contacting Judy Giron or Diane Saxon-Carter at 489-7442. Parents will be required to show three current proofs of residency and a copy of their child's birth certificate.

IMPORTANT DATES



- Winter Break– December 22nd—January 4th**
- Classes Resume– January 5th**
- Dr. King's Birthday (No School)- January 16th**
- Non-Attendance for EC PreK-January 27th**
- Parent/Teacher Conf. (No School)- January 30th**
- Lincoln's Birthday (No School)- February 13th**
- Pulaski Day (No School)- March 5th**
- SIP Day (No School)- March 20th**
- Non-Attendance for EC/PreK– March 23rd**
- Spring Break (No School) March 26th - 30th**
- Classes Resume –April 2**
- No School-April 6th**



"Wishing you and your family a healthy and safe Winter Break!"

FROM THE NURSE



With winter approaching here are a few tips to help keep your child warm and healthy:

- Dress your child in several thin layers
- Dress your child in one more layer of clothing than you would wear under the same conditions.
- Remember boots, gloves and a hat. You can lose as much as 40% of your body's heat through your head.
- Teach and practice effective hand washing to keep germs away during cold and flu season. Use warm water, plenty of time (the time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" is a good guideline), and soap on both sides of your hands as well as between your fingers.
- Encourage a healthy diet including fruits and vegetables, and encourage your child to drink water throughout the day.
- Keep your child home from school if there is a fever, bad cough, severe runny nose or a rash.



FAMILIES FIRST PROGRAM

Do you have a child aged 0 to 36 months old? If so we would love to talk to you. The FAMILIES FIRST partners with families to strengthen and improve the quality of family life through parent/child playgroups, home visits, and developmental screenings.

Playgroups provide a stimulating environment for children to learn and practice new skills during play. Playgroups include developmentally appropriate free play, fine motor table activities, circle time and a parent education/support discussions. Home Visits provided bi-monthly, allow for time to share developmental information and address questions or concerns the caregiver may have regarding their child. Caregivers are supported in nurturing their child's growth by becoming keen observers and active participants in their child's development. *If you are interested in learning more about the program call 489-7395. All services are provided in English, Spanish and Arabic.*

FROM THE PARENT CONNECTION DESK



Below are a few tips regarding discipline. When we discipline we have to teach children. Disciplining and teaching go hand and hand. Screaming or hitting perpetuate violence. Children mimic behavior. They use what they are taught.

- **Set a tone.** Speak softly, but seriously. Be firm, but gentle. "Let's brush our teeth and then you can pick a story".
- **Teaching.** Teach empathy and responsibility. "You need to apologize to your brother. You hurt his feelings".
- **Conflict Resolution.** Give your children the opportunity to give a solution. We tend to want to solve the problems for them. Ask them "what do you think we should do". You might be surprised by their answers.
- **Help them label their feelings.** Ask them how they are feeling. Children tend to mix emotions. Helping them label their feelings, will allow them to know what they want.
- **Set Boundaries.** Teaching them to respect other children, adults and toys. One way is to teach them manners.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE PRE-K PROGRAMS OF HORACE MANN AND NATHAN HALE ARE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ILLINOIS CENTERS.

WE PLEDGE TO:

- WELCOME AND RESPECT YOU AND YOUR IDEAS
- APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANT ROLE YOU PLAY IN YOUR CHILD'S LIFE
- HELP YOUR CHILD COMMUNICATE FEELING & GET ALONG WITH OTHER CHILDREN
- GIVE YOUR CHILD OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND HAVE FUN
- INTRODUCE YOU AND OTHER PARENTS FOR FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT
- USE OUR EXPERIENCE TO HELP YOU DEAL WITH TOUGH ISSUES
- CONNECT YOU TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES
- HELP YOU TO BE THE BEST PARENT YOU CAN BE
- BE A SMILING FACE, A FRIENDLY PLACE AND A PARTNER YOU CAN TRUST.