

# Spring 2025 Newsletter

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the school year and that nearly six months have passed since I joined the HNS community. As is always the case in the world of those who spend their days with children, time passes too quickly, moments are fleeting, and growth happens faster than we ever expected. From day one, I was welcomed into the HNS community with open arms, and I have had endless support every step of the way as I settled into my role as Director. It is amazing how quickly a place can feel like home and a community can feel like family. In the world of early childhood education, that is what we always strive for, creating a learning environment that feels like an extension of home for everyone who is part of the community.



*Kristin Gruher-  
Grunert*  
Director

After leaving my previous school, I wondered if I would find another place that felt like home, and I am happy to say that HNS has become my new home.

I want to take the opportunity to thank those who have supported me in my first months at HNS. The time I have had to work alongside Mrs. Warren and her continued support, even after she stepped away from her role as Director, has given me a solid foundation as I begin my journey. There are still moments now when I have questions for her, so I am lucky that she is often just down the hall! Mrs. Broderick and Mrs. Weisenbeck have been my administrative guides, teaching me all there is to know about the day-to-day operations of our school, and I am so thankful for their support.

Partnering with the Board of Directors has been another rewarding part of joining this community. Working with a group of parents who are so committed to the future success of our school has been inspiring and I am looking forward to all that is to come in the new school year! I want to specifically thank Lauren McAndrews, Megan Siegal, and Abbie Tedeschi for their leadership of the Board, for all they have done to support me, and for their openness to my thoughts and ideas since I joined HNS.

Having the opportunity to learn from all the teachers at HNS has been so meaningful and rewarding. They have welcomed me with open arms and are always there to help me through events and experiences at school that are new to me. They work tirelessly in the classroom to create exciting and enriching experiences for the children, and they understand the importance of meaningful relationship building as a cornerstone for a successful school experience in these early years. Thank you all for your support and comradery and I am so excited about the work we will do together in the coming year!

Lastly, I want to thank the children for the joy and wonder that they bring to each day at HNS. My favorite moments at school are when I can connect with the children as they start or end their day, or watching them experience something for the first time, or hearing them excitedly call out “Miss Kristin” because that means they have something interesting they want to share with me. They bring such joy to all our days here at HNS and they remind us of the importance of living in the moment and being open to new experiences, things we can easily forget as we move through our busy day-to-day life!

I look forward to enjoying the last days of this school year and all that is to come in September! Happy summer everyone!

-Miss Kristin





It is hard to believe that we are already in the final countdown to the end of the year! We wanted to thank everyone for making our spring gala such a success. It was great to get to see each other outside of the school drop off/pick up routine. Thank you to everyone who attended, placed auction bids, and bought raffle tickets! We tested out a new event, the Spring Fling, last week and it seemed like everyone enjoyed it! We think this will be a fun new annual tradition to add and hope for a little bit of a cooler day for next year!

To wrap up the year we will have our annual end of year picnic to celebrate an amazing school year and ring in summer break! Enjoy the last bits of magic that the end of the school year brings!

Happy Summer!  
The HNS Board

*HNS Board of Directors*

## Spring has Sprung!

March was a fun month! We celebrated The 100th day of school, set a trap for that pesky leprechaun and had two of our most favorite themes yet, Space and Dinosaurs. This was an exciting time in our classroom! The mini space dioramas came out so cool!

April was another great month with the themes Weather, Oceans, and an author study on Kevin Henkes. Some of our activities and projects included a rain chart, where we predicted and tracked the number of days it would rain in April. We also made rain sticks and windsocks! We crafted cute sharks and an ocean in a bottle! Our author study brought us to books about emotions and big feelings. And, of course, we had a much-needed break at the end of the month.

May went by so fast! Our highlights were planting our Basil seeds and watching them grow, a Spring scavenger hunt, creating our Mother's Day gifts, and another author study on Mo Williams and the Pigeon books.

So, what's next!? Finishing up spring strong with bugs, birds, and butterflies. We have been watching and waiting for our butterflies to emerge. We also enjoyed a Pajama Day and Bike Day, and we are enjoying each others company before we have to say goodbye at the end of the year. I will miss my friends, but I know they are moving on to bigger things and I wish them well!





March began with an exploration of Space. The dramatic play area was transformed into an elaborate Space Center. The children made astronauts, planets, rockets, space helmets, model magic aliens, space dioramas, and they enjoyed eating "planet pizzas".

We then moved onto a unit relating to the Beach. They created sand plops, hermit crabs, jelly fish and read books about the beach. On March 26th we had a Beach Day in our classroom. We wore bathing suits, "swam" in the pool, laid on our beach towels, ate popsicles, and read "Harry By The Sea".

Lately, the focus in our classroom has been the start of Spring and the changes occurring around us, including weather, plants, animals, insects, and we threw a Parade Day in there for good measure!

We also had a Bike Day and an outdoor scavenger hunt looking for all things Spring! The end of our school year is approaching quickly! We will begin to revisit many of our favorite activities and enjoy our final weeks together as we get ready to say good-bye.



*Mrs. Jarvis, Mrs. Nicholas & Mrs. Ross*  
Pre-K 4 Day Class



Happy May! We cannot believe how fast the year is flying by. It's amazing that only a few short weeks of time is left here at HNS together. It has been an adventurous year with lots of play and growth happening throughout.

The children have become independent when coming into school, as each one of them knows the routine of putting their bags away and getting ready for circle time. We have become good at communicating and navigating the classroom independently. We have also developed many new friendships and discovered language to help us advocate for our needs to be met!

We recently finished a unit on dinosaurs, where the children developed their fine and gross motor skills through crafts and art projects as well as dance and song. We made dinosaur masks and danced to the Laurie Berkner song: "We are the Dinosaurs". Finally, we ended with a volcano erupting with lava.

These last few weeks of school we have been observing caterpillars turn into chrysalis and then butterflies! We will also had a teddy bear visiting us and we named her Ella Sparkle Brady! We played with Ella and had a teddy bear picnic at the end to celebrate our time together.

Time flies when you are having fun!

Fondly,

Elena Olin and Ally Hart



*Mrs. Olin & Mrs. Hart*  
3 day class





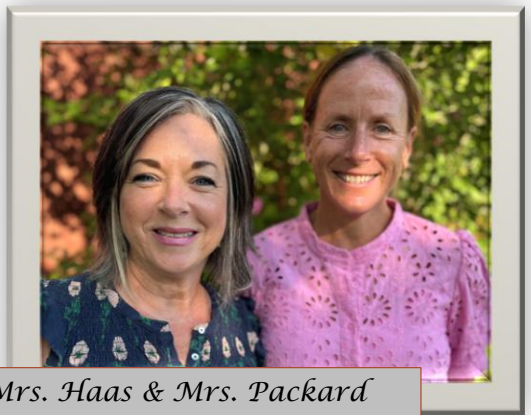
It has been a very busy and exciting spring here in the 4 day 3's! We have studied dinosaurs, and in March celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss and kicked off Read Across America week with our favorite books.

In March we learned about weather and did a fun science experiment making our own rain cloud in a jar!

The children got to dress up and make flags for Parade day and also invited a friend or family member for Special Person Day at school.

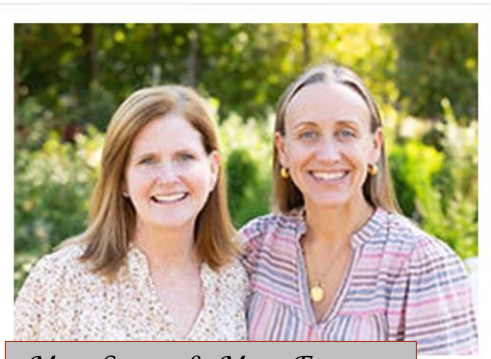
Some other highlights were plants and flower week when we planted Zinnias, to go along with the letter Z. The children learned the parts of a flower and what plants need to grow.

Outer Space and Oceans were favorite topics, but the best of all was learning the life cycle of a butterfly. We got caterpillars in our classroom, watched them hide in their chrysalis and then hatch into beautiful painted lady butterflies. Letting them go was the most fun, especially hearing the kids squeal with excitement as they waved goodbye to our butterflies.



*Mrs. Haas & Mrs. Packard*  
4 day class





*Mrs. Snow & Mrs. Fox*  
2 day class

Hard to believe this is our last newsletter. What a wonderful year we have had! The children have grown up so much in every way and I am tremendously proud of how independent they have become. We have had a great spring with more to come! We took some time to read our favorite stories versus having a set theme. It made me realize what strides they have made. Their attention for stories has grown and what they can express and share about the stories is completely different than in September. We went on to study dinosaurs in the classroom, which was fun for all the children. Some children come in with a passion for them, but everyone is interested and making and erupting a volcano was a highlight. Now we are on to a double theme to "pack it all in" before the year ends. If you haven't heard, a bear is visiting the classroom. We write him letters, and he writes back. The bear asked if we could name him- we decided on "Race Car Bear" as a class. Race Car and his friends were around the classroom for two-weeks, which ended in a teddy bear hunt and a picnic outside! Along with the bear, we had caterpillars that made their way to butterflies in the classroom. It's very exciting to say the least. I also put out all the colors of the rainbow at the art easel this time of year. This group loves to paint and have grown-up enough that I can put all the paint colors out without it turning into an unrecognizable color, although that can be fun too!

At the close of the year, I always like to tell my families the same thing. One of the best gifts you can give your children is to read to them. Take advantage of a library on a hot day or a quiet moment before bed. Enjoy your summer, explore the beach and eat some ice cream! It's a great time to slow down and make some lasting memories. We will miss your kiddos tremendously but look forward to visits next year!

