



Winter 2024 Newsletter

The winter months have been very busy at HNS! Unfortunately, the weather hasn't always cooperated. We've had a lot of rain and very little snow! Please continue to send your children dressed in or with their snow/ cold-weather clothes. They allow the children to remain dry, warm, and clean while playing outside. If their snow pants or mittens get very wet, we often put them in the dryer so they can go out again after lunch. Our outside time at HNS is so important!



Lisa Warren
Director

Knowing that it is often rainy, windy, or too cold to go outside safely, we often shift our focus to indoor activities. In the few weeks leading up to February break, each class had a "Pajama Day" where children and teachers could wear their cozy pajamas to school and eat pancakes. Pajama Day is one of our favorite traditions at HNS! Winter themes in our classrooms have included Post Office, Animal Hospital, Fairy Tales, and Space. The children are such enthusiastic and curious learners.

The weather has allowed for a lot of indoor play. We are so lucky to have a wonderful indoor play space that allows children to work on their gross motor skills. All the children look forward to their time in the play space!

As the groundhog predicted, it looks like we might have an early spring! The ground warmed up during vacation and caused some of the daffodils, tulips and crocus in front of the school to begin poking their heads up through the soil. Fortunately, the flowers are very resilient. With that in mind, please make sure that the children stay out of the front gardens so that everyone may enjoy the spring flowers when they eventually bloom.

Upcoming events: My Gym mobile classes started Wednesday, March 6th for the 4AM4 and 5AM4 classes, bimonthly through the end of the school year. Conferences will be held in March for the four and five-year-olds and April/May for three and four-year-olds. Finally, the return of another time-honored tradition will be "Special Person Day" for each class in April. More information will follow in a separate communication. Spring is a busy and productive season!



Erin Esposito
President, Board of Directors

Hello families, it's hard to believe we are in March and almost ready to put those red bags away! We loved having everyone at South Shore Country Club for bowling before the holidays, the kids enjoyed that event so much! A special thanks to the Newland Family for organizing it.

The board and parents who donated to our raffle baskets made them a huge success, we are so lucky to have the participation! Piggybacking on the Super Bowl Squares we will be sending out information on March Madness which will be run by Katie Pasciucco. Spring is right around the corner and with that comes so many of our favorite events like Tile Day, Parade Day, the end of year picnic and most importantly our Spring Event which will be held on May 3rd at Black Rock. We hope to see you all there!



It's been a very busy couple of months in our class with many guest readers and celebrations! In February, we studied occupations and the students had so much fun playing Veterinarian in the HNS Animal Hospital and Postal Worker, mailing letters and Valentines in our writing center.

Mr. Esposito came to visit and brought some of his mechanics tools, showed us how he fixed Mrs. Griffiths' car, and gave all the students awesome t-shirts and gift bags from BEST Chevrolet!

We had 2 parties in one week celebrating Valentine's Day and the 100th day of school!

The students did a great job on their projects showcasing 100 items on a poster board which we displayed in the classroom. They found (and counted) 100 gold coins hidden in our sensory table, and filled a bag of 100 snacks to bring home to share with their families.

Once again, we'd like to thank our class parents for volunteering to help with our various class projects and celebrations - we appreciate you! As we move into Spring, we will learn about Fairy Tales, celebrate Read Across America week and outer space. Here's to warmer weather!



Mrs. Haas, Mrs. Griffiths & Mrs. D'Allessandro
Pre-K 5 Day Class



The beginning of January we focused on the coldest season and how animals adapt to Winter. The children learned about hibernation, migration and adaptation. They made ice cream bird feeders and put their own stuffed animals into a "hibernation cave". On the first day of Spring (3/19) we will have a "Spring Wake Up Celebration".

Our second unit was Fairy Tales. The children had many opportunities to participate in a variety of developmentally appropriate activities related to that theme while continuing to strengthen fine motor, cognitive, literacy and social skills. They made shields, crowns, gingerbread cookies and used clues to hunt for the missing gingerbread babies.

Currently, our class has boarded the rocketship in Space. They are thoroughly enjoying learning about our Solar System. Their curiosity is contagious!



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



The 4 day 3's have been busy playing, exploring, and creating in our classroom. We finished up our unit on Friendship and Love with our Valentine's Day celebration. The children made their own yogurt parfait and delivered mail in our classroom Post Office! We are practicing using our small and gross motor skills with squeegee painting, scissor work and coloring with oil pastels on the easel.



Mrs. Olin & Mrs. Hart
4 day class

Children are building more stamina when getting dressed independently and enjoy being able to do it by themselves. We are also learning how to take turns sharing ideas during circle time with the help of our stuffed zebra. It's your turn to share when you are holding him! We just started our unit on Eric Carle and are enjoying all of his stories and artwork. We have seen wonderful growth happening with all of the children and new friendships being built. What a pleasure it is to experience school through the eyes of your children. We enjoy seeing their welcoming, smiling warm faces each day.



Time is flying in the 3 morning 3 year old class! Our days are jammed packed with so much activity, learning and laughter. This group loves their time at HNS and their connections have blossomed into such great friendships. They soak up everything that is offered to them including music class. Rowan keeps them grooving and helps get all of those wiggles out! Rowan also uses music to help the children practice self regulation and mindfulness. The children love practicing candle breathing and experimenting with a variety of interesting instruments.



Mrs. Murphy & Mrs. Laine
3 day class

The winter also brings many favorite school units including Things That Go. Our projects ranged from trains to boats to hot air balloons. They enjoyed practicing their sorting skills using red, yellow, and green stickers on traffic lights. We ended this unit with mail trucks to kick off the busy Post Office unit. The children loved “mailing” their Valentines to each other and reading aloud the letters from their vacations. The children are having so much fun in their play it’s easy to forget how hard they are working and how much they are learning.



What a wonderful winter it has been in the two morning three year old class! We enjoyed studying Eric Carle. The children love his books and all the illustrations. Eric Carle also lends itself to so many great art projects. The children liked "winter in the classroom" with books and projects but also outside the classroom, many of them tried sledding all on their own! Transportation was also a great unit of study where children then built ramps and tunnels for cars.



Mrs. Snow & Mrs. Fox
2 day class

The children have begun to play with each other more frequently. As teachers we are happy to see the children move into the next developmental stage. Along with it we see them make choices more confidently about what they want to do and we see their "work" become more organized and planned. Their work is their play. The cars and ramps is a good example of this so is our post office unit. We set up a post office in our classroom and the children really enjoyed the register, envelopes, stamps and tape. They were very busy working and engaging with each other. As spring comes meeting friends at the playground is a great way to connect outside of school. The children mostly know each others names and recognize when someone is absent and miss that student! This is a wonderful group who would happily all play together. As we move into spring we will be studying dinosaurs and will have a pet hospital in the classroom! We have really enjoyed having a parent in the classroom every Thursday and we will continue that with another sign up soon. Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us and please reach out anytime with concerns and celebrations!

