



*Issue 45*

# COLE HARRINGTON'S PRESCHOOL POST

*Fall 2011*

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Cole-Harrington's Preschool Enrichment Center! We hope that you and your child are having a stimulating and enjoyable educational experience this year. The program that we design for your child incorporates many early childhood theories as well as contemporary ideas in the field of early childhood education and special education. Our classroom environment and daily/weekly routine provides for independent, small group and large group activities. It encourages your child to learn from others and offers opportunities for your child's individual needs to be identified and addressed. A safe, predictable and consistent schedule supports your child's social and emotional well being which then allows them to pursue their academic interests and talents. We support active learning at Cole-Harrington where your child uses all of their senses to develop skills, understand concepts and problem solve.

We see our role as classroom teacher as multifaceted. We must understand each child in our program and appreciate the dynamics between and among the children in our group. We must support your child's emerging skills and interests, provide interventions for skill and concept development, and offer enriching experiences for those who demonstrate special interests and talents. We also must create a rich, varied, and balanced curriculum. Finally we must engage each of you as parents to help us meet all of these goals with your child at home and in the classroom.

The preschool curriculum consists of three components; the classroom environment, the daily routine and its planned activities, and teacher-child planned and spontaneous interactions.

Each classroom environment consists of thirteen interest areas. Each area has its own unique array of materials and activities. These interest areas include: The easel, project/play dough table, writing, self selecting art, small building, science, computer, math/literacy/perceptual motor game table, library, blocks, gross motor, dramatic play and water/sand table. Depending on the developmental needs and interest of the children, the materials in these areas change daily, weekly or monthly. Your child plays/works in these areas during Free play/Work time periods in our morning and afternoon program.

The daily routine is the second component of our curriculum. Each part of the routine has a name so that your child over time can predict the order of events in their day. The daily routine is posted in each classroom and is discussed during our group time. You have also received a copy of the routine during your orientation to the program. The day is balanced with structured and unstructured activities, teacher directed and child initiated learning.

Large group and small group are the teacher directed activities of our day. We include a wide range of activities that promote growth and development in math, science, language and literacy, technology, social studies, motor development, health and safety, music, art, woodworking, social and emotional development, awareness of the community in which children live, a positive self concept and an awareness and acceptance of cultural diversity. Teachers meet weekly to plan for the children in their group. We post our curriculum and educational goals so that you can follow your child's learning while they spend time at the center.

The third component of the preschool curriculum is the teacher-child interactions. The teacher-child relationship develops over time. For some children it happens quickly and for others it needs to be a more gentle process. Teachers promote positive relationships with your child through conversations, offering support and 1-1 time, engaging them in activities, recognizing each child's unique personality and interests and providing a nurturing, caring, safe and consistent environment. Our goal is for children to enjoy school and trust the people who care for them.

We hope that you find this information useful to you in understanding the philosophy and curriculum of our preschool program. If you have any questions about your child's day and what they are learning feel free to talk to your child's teacher or myself.

Sincerely,

Linda Feller  
Program Coordinator

## SPOTLIGHT ON KRYSTAL KELLY

Krystal (Leach) Kelly, Front Room Preschool teacher, came to Cole-Harrington on January 3, 2005. She will be celebrating her seventh year anniversary with us soon. Krystal's prior early childhood experiences included being a nanny for children 7, 10, 11, a 2 month old and 2 year old twins over the course of 5 years. She has also volunteered at her church for approximately 7 years in their preschool and kindergarten classrooms.

In college Krystal had taken a wide range of courses through her studies and also brought to Cole-Harrington a variety of experiences. She has taken courses in business law, music, and Middle Eastern history. When she took Early Childhood she realized it was the degree for her. According to Krystal; "I had been working with children for as long as I could remember and had thought about someday being a teacher. My first ECE course paved the way." In the summer of 2008 Krystal received her Associates Degree in Early Childhood from Massasoit.

When Krystal is not at Cole-Harrington she spends as much time as possible with her husband and two children and her soon to be adopted 3<sup>rd</sup> child. She even spends some of her afterschool hours as a nanny. Her other joys include: going to the gym, dirt bike racing, reading, crafting, and searching for good bargains.

Our challenge is NOT to prepare children for school, but to prepare SCHOOLS for children.

Docia Zavitkovsky

## COMMENTS FROM THE CHILDREN ABOUT KRYSTAL

- Grace B. (3 yrs. ) "She plays with us."
- Isabella R. (3 yrs.) "Her play with cars with us. Her comes here and her plays with her friends all day."
- Sean M. (3 yrs.) "She plays monster games with us on the playground."
- Sabrina (4 yrs.) "She takes me for a walk."
- Noah (4 yrs.) "She makes people safe."
- Jaden (4 yrs.) "She plays at the game table with me."
- Griffin (4 yrs.) "Sometimes when we are eating snack she gets silly."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### November



- November 11 Veteran's Day/Staff Training Day, CH Closed
- November 14-18 Canton Food Drive
- November 23 Thanksgiving Luncheon (Children's Thanksgiving meal at school)
- November 24 & 25 Thanksgiving Holiday, CH Closed

### December

- December TBA Gift for Kids
- December 5-9 Cookie Decorating Party
- December 14 Musical Journeys with Pam Atanasoff
- December 23 & 26 Christmas Break/CH Closed

