

Newport-Mesa Unified School District
Harper Preschool
PARENT NEWSLETTER

January, 2006

Principal – Gina Cataldo

Preschool Site Facilitator – Toby Banahasky

425 E. 18th St. Costa Mesa, CA 92627 (949) 515-6838

News and Reminders

Dear Parents,

Tracy Luth and Shannon Howry, Harper Preschool Speech and Language Pathologists were awarded the Newport Mesa Schools Foundation grant. Mrs. Luth and Ms. Howry co-authored the grant in efforts to further parent education. Mrs. Luth and Ms. Howry are shining examples of Harper Preschool's commitment to parent education and are commended for their accomplishment.

Sharon Mayer, Speech and Language Pathologist, was nominated and selected as Harper Preschool's Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Mayer brings over twenty-two years of teaching experience to Harper Preschool where she is currently teaching a special day class for students who have significant speech and language delays and providing speech and language therapy to select students attending Harper Preschool. Harper Preschool is fortunate and proud to have Mrs. Mayer as part of the faculty and her students continually benefit from her expertise and commitment to high standards of teaching.

Harper Preschool parents are invited to attend our Family Literacy night, February 13, 2006. This after-school event promises to be very engaging learning experience for both parents and children. Details regarding this after school event will be sent home.



Our next 'Parent Empowerment Project' class will be held on **Friday, January 20, at 9:15 a.m.** in the Harper Preschool HOPE Resource Room (across from the park). Our presenter will be Nutrition Network from our district, on the topic of "Building a Healthy Foundation". We hope to see you all here on January 20th at 9:15 a.m.!

Handwashing

We would like to remind all parents and children of the need for frequent washing of hands, especially during the cold and flu season. It is very important to wash hands with soapy water for at least twenty seconds. Hands should be washed as often as possible throughout the day. Hand sanitizer is also recommended to keep handy everywhere you go, in case hand washing with soap and water is not possible.

Attendance Hotline: (949) 515-6819

Developing a Love of Learning

By Heidi Quirk, Preschool Counselor

Developmental Assets are 40 key building blocks to help children succeed. This month we will focus on the "COMMITMENT TO LEARNING" assets. These include: 1. Achievement expectation and motivation – parents and other adults convey and reinforce expectations to do well. 2. Children are engaged in learning – parents and family members model responsive and attentive attitudes in all situations. 3. Stimulating activity and homework – parents encourage children to explore and provide stimulating activities that match children's emerging skills. 4. Enjoyment of learning and bonding to school – parents and other adults enjoy learning and engage preschoolers in learning activities. 5. Reading for pleasure – adults read to preschoolers for at least 30 minutes a day, encouraging them to participate. The more your child is committed to learning, the more likely he or she will grow up healthy. Our job as parents is to encourage our children to value learning and make a personal commitment to it. How do we do that, especially when many older kids say school is boring or no fun? Here are some **ideas** for building *Commitment to Learning* Assets:

- Be a role model. Show your child your enthusiasm about learning new skills and information.
- Encourage and support your child to find things that get them excited about learning, and provide opportunities to help them develop those interests further.
- Create a book-a-month club. Have everyone in the family read a book and discuss it. This shows the child how everyone, no matter what age, gets committed to learning together as a family.