



Weekly Salmon Pages

February 6, 2012

www.cityneighborshamilton.org

Dates to Remember:

Tue	Feb 7:	Girl Scouts, 3:30 PM to 5 PM
Thu	Feb 9:	Board Meeting, 6:30 PM in Conference Room
Fri	Feb 10:	Deadline for submission of Intent to Return Forms and sibling Enrollment Applications for 2012-13
Sat	Feb 11:	CNH Gala/Silent Auction, 7 PM to 11 PM
Wed	Feb 15:	Enrollment Open House for Prospective Families, 6:30 - 8 PM
Fri	Feb 17:	Coffee with Beth & Fern, 8:30 - 9:30 AM, Conference Room

Front & Center

Our Playground

Thanks to the hard, heartfelt work of Bobbi Macdonald and Jeany Baines, who co-designed the space, we have a fantastic playground complete with a courageous lion that watches over us to protect our imagination and creativity. It is an absolute joy to be able to offer children the opportunity to play inside this beautiful space at recess whenever the weather allows. It is likewise joyful for our families to gather together inside the playground after school. What a wonderful way to create and sustain community life at CNH!

We encourage freedom and creative play during recess. There are very few restrictions placed on children. But there are some very clear, specific rules that children have been taught and are expected to follow. The rules exist to ensure that playtime is safe and friendly. Needless to say, from time to time, children forget or choose not to follow the rules. When an adult observes such a lapse, the child or children are reminded of the rules and redirected. If they fail to heed the reminder, they are removed from play.

We try to keep it simple. There are not many rules but the ones that we have framed we expect to be taken seriously because in a fraction of an instant a so-called imagination driven interaction between rival ninjas or between super heroes and villains turns into bedlam. These theme-driven battles appear to involve some of our youngest students, kindergarten and first grade. However, even an innocent game of tag between older children can transform itself into an overly physical match.

Our Playground Rules:

- (1) Games that pit one child or one group of children against another child or another group of children are prohibited. There is no room in the playground for aggressive physical play with the associated language of threats, taunts and insults.
- (2) Sand should remain in the sandbox. It is not to be thrown. It is not to be transported.
- (3) We do not sit on top of or stand on top of the monkey bars. We do not jump from the top of the monkey bars or from the top of the equipment. We do not do this because the manufacturer advises that we can sustain serious spinal injuries if we do.
- (4) We wait patiently for one person at a time to go across the monkey bars and we allow them the room they need to exit from the monkey bars once they cross over.

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Front & Center (continued from page 1)

Our Playground (continued)

(5) We go down the slide one person at a time. We do not remain at the foot of the slide so that people land on top of us. We do not climb up the slide when someone is preparing to slide down.

(6) We take turns on the swings. We avoid twisting the swings.

Our playground rules are simple, straightforward, and designed to keep children safe and friendly. But without supervision our rules are moot. Keeping children safe and friendly, whether at recess or after school, requires an adult presence. At recess, the adults are located where the children are. They are close enough to listen and observe. Listening is a critical element in supervising children, especially very young children who may not fully understand what they are saying to one another, or be able to predict the impact their words may have.

Our approach at recess has been very successful. I hope that the same proactive stance will be assumed by adults during after-school playtime, as well. Please stay close enough to the children to be able to see and HEAR them. Listening to their interactions can help you determine whether they are upholding the rules of safety and friendship. Remind children that the rules that they follow at recess apply after school, too, and that there are consequences for failing to abide by the rules, including removal from the playground should that be necessary. Children will learn to observe and respect the boundaries if adult members of our community are consistent in applying the rules. Thanks!

Black History Month

Home-based projects are underway! Each class is enthusiastically conducting research and assembling their information in a variety of ways for future presentations. We are reserving our March 2 All School gathering for presentations and performances of learning in commemoration of Black History month, so please save the date!

In recognition and celebration of African culture and its influence on American culture, our school, with the exception of Kindergarten, will be traveling together on February 24th to Goucher College to enjoy a recital entitled Neco Gato Music & Dance from Africa to Brazil. Attending at least one recital at Goucher College has become an annual ritual at CNH.

February 9: The 100th Day of School

We are all set to celebrate the 100th day of school in sleepwear! (Actually, we use any excuse to wear our pajamas to school because it's just so cozy and fun.) Please check individual class newsletters to learn more about what each class has planned.

Intent to Return Forms

Be sure to complete and submit your 2012-13 Intent to Return forms to Stephanie by Friday, February 10. We hope all of you will be returning next school year!

Winter Gala and Silent Auction

Don't forget to join us for an adults-only evening of music, food, drink and amazing auction items at our annual Winter Gala and Silent Auction this Saturday, February 11 beginning at 7 PM, all to benefit CNH. See more details on page 3 of this newsletter.

Enjoy life!
~Fern~

Intent to Return 2012-13

Thank you to those families who submitted their *Intent to Return* forms. If you have not yet done so, please be sure to complete and submit the form to the school office by **Friday, February 10**. It is very important we receive an *Intent to Return* form from every current CNH family in order to determine how many student openings we will have in 2012-13. If you need another form, please see me. Thank you!

~Stephanie~

Break a Leg, Bobbi!

Our own Bobbi Macdonald, Executive Director of City Neighbors Foundation and all-around swell person, will be performing at 333 Coffeehouse with Billy Jonas and others on Friday, March 16 at 8 PM. It is a child-friendly event. See attached flyer for details.

Sibling Enrollment 2012-13

If your current CNH student has a sibling you'd like attend CNH in 2012-13, now is the time to complete and submit an Enrollment Application. Please avoid disappointment by submitting your sibling applications by **Friday, February 10**. Thank you!

Enrollment Open House



CNH will be holding its fourth and final enrollment Open House of the season on Wednesday, February 15 from 6:30 PM to 8 PM. Please pass the word!

To date, we have received 245 Enrollment Applications for 2012-13.

The deadline for new student Enrollment Applications is Friday, February 17 at 3 PM.



Forgive the blurry image and mark your calendars now for the Annual Student Show at the

Hamilton Gallery
5502 Harford Road
beginning with the opening reception on Friday, March 2 from 5 PM to 9 PM

For more information, contact Marnee "Captain" Keith at mkeith@cityneighborshamilton.org

or visit hamiltongallery.net (no www)

Winter Gala Tickets!

In today's Monday Mailer, you'll find an envelope that looks very much like a Valentine. In that envelope are two tickets for the Winter Gala and Silent Auction this Saturday Night. Tickets are \$15 each and can either be paid for in advance (exact change only or checks made payable to CNH) or purchased at the door the night of the event. If you pay in advance, please write your name/s on the outside of the envelope, so we can put you on the guest list. Of course, you can always purchase more tickets. Just contact me: shannigan@cityneighborshamilton.org.

This adults-only night out is an annual fundraising event designed by parents and volunteers to be a great romantic night out. There will be all kinds of great food including wine, cheese, and desserts, as well as jazz music and creative auction items with all proceeds directly benefitting City Neighbors Hamilton. The event will take place in the high school café. Patrons should park in the high school lot and enter through the high school entrance.

This magical night is open to the community, so please bring your friends. The easiest great date night you're ever going to have. And you deserve a great night out! See you there!

~Sean Hannigan, Fundraising Chair~

**Be sure to join us at the 2nd Annual
CNH Winter Gala and Silent Auction,
Saturday, February 11 at 7 PM!**

Going Once, Going Twice, Sold!

Thanks to our teaching staff, we have a lot of fun, creative items that will be up for auction Saturday at the Gala: a tea party with Ms. Frank and two children at the Red Canoe; private dance lessons for 2 with Ms. Mullen; one piece of your child's artwork framed by Captain Keith; a trip for 2 an Orioles game with Ms. McGarvey and Ms. Harden; a tower-to-boiler room behind-the-scenes tour of all the buildings with Mr. Philip; the street naming rights to the drop-off road (currently named Gasiorowski Way!); your child's choice of movie and snowballs for 20 at movie night next fall. And more in the works!

In addition, parents and the community have donated these exciting items: 2 gift certificates for acupuncture treatment; several pieces of handcrafted pottery; a one-hour private pottery lesson on the wheel with the promise of a completed piece; gift certificates from local businesses including Red Canoe, Clementines, Zekes, and more!

If you have any donations you would like to make, please contact Sean Hannigan at shannigan@cityneighborshamilton.org