



## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **March**

- Mar 28 2014-2015 school year contracts due
- Mar 28 4am conferences – no 4am classes
- Mar 31 3am conferences – no 3am classes

### **April**

- Apr 4 3am/4am conferences (in pm)
- Apr 4 Parent / Tot applications due
- Apr 8 Park West Board Meeting 7:00pm
- Apr 10 3am/4am conferences (no 3am or 4am classes)
- Apr 14-21 Spring Break – no classes
- April 22 Classes Resume
- April 30 2014-2015 Forms Due
- April 30 Jane's Book Club 7pm

### **May**

- May 2 2am conferences – in pm, am classes meet
- May 6 2am conferences – no 2am class, all other classes meet
- May 8 Conversations with Jane 1:30pm and 7:00pm "Transitioning to Kindergarten"
- May 13 Park West Board Meeting – 7pm
- May 15 Teacher in Service – no school
- May 17 Spring Carnival – Windy City Fieldhouse (2:30-4:30pm)
- May 26 Memorial Day – no school
- May 29 All School Picnic – Oz Park 12pm

## **PWC IS ON FACEBOOK!**

Hey Mom and Dad! Are you following us on Facebook? Help us keep you up to date on what's happening at Park West Co-op!

## **FROM THE DIRECTOR**

I'm really hoping that Spring will arrive - eventually. Our Spring Break doesn't take place until mid-April but it would be great to get some spring weather now that according to the calendar it is actually Spring.

Thank you to those who attended Ashley Merryman's lecture. We will discuss her new book, *Top Dog*, at our Book Club meeting on Wed, April 30. You have time to get the book and read it over spring break. Do come join the conversation, it is always interesting and lively.

Before the Book Club though, we are finishing up afternoon classes parent teacher conferences, with the 3 and 4 am conferences following closely after.

At our staff in-service on the 18th we continued our discussion and examination of our curriculum, goals for children, and how teachers scaffold and extend the ideas of children.

Please let us know if you are declining a spot at Park West for next school so we can keep our waitlists moving.

best,  
jane

## **2014-2015 CONTRACTS AND FORMS DUE!**

Reminder that contracts and deposits for the 2014-2015 Co-Op School year are due Friday, March 28. Forms will be distributed after contracts are received and are due April 30. We are excited to be launching a new online forms system to make this process easier for parents and school. Please remember to schedule your physician appointments ASAP to meet the deadline!

Parent Tot applications are due April 4. We look forward to welcoming our returning and new families in the fall!

## CAMP SUNSHINE

Applications are available in the office for our summer camp program. There will be two 3-week sessions with camp on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. The first session runs from June 17 to July 3. The second session from July 8 to July 24. Spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Children must be toilet trained for our camp program.

## SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

Get ready to enjoy one of the best burgers in Chicago! On Wednesday, April 30th from 4pm-8pm, Smashburger (2031 N Clybourn) will be helping raise money for Park West. Mention Park West and \$1 of every entree you purchase will be donated to back to school. Smashburger's menu has something for everyone: including burgers, hotdogs, chicken, salads, sides, veggie burgers, kids meals and Haagen-Dazs shakes. Free parking too. See you there! Thank you Cynthia McCullough for the delicious idea.

Last chance auction item! Make a bid! All you need to do is write down your bid and turn it into the office on or before Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. We will check the numbers and the highest bidder wins. Here's a list of auction items that are up for grabs:

\*Pinski Dermatology gift certificate  
Value \$450, Minimum bid: \$50

## EDUCATION UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jane's Book Club:

**Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**  
**Park West**

If you haven't done so yet, now is the time to pick up your copy of Jane's Book Club book, *Top Dog: The science of Winning and Losing*. Jane is looking forward to discussing this thought provoking book with you. Also, Jane will be able to share first-hand information about *Top Dog* from one of the co-authors, Ashley Merryman, from her event here at

Park West. It is bound to be a great night with great conversations! We hope to see you there. Happy Reading!

Conversations with Jane: *Transitioning to Kindergarten*

**Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 and 7pm**  
**Park West**

If you have a child moving on to Kindergarten we hope you take advantage of this great opportunity to hear Jane speak about the transition process. Jane will share her insights on making this unknown and sometimes emotional process a smooth transition for you and your soon to be Kindergarten. She will also be able to answer your questions and ease your fears like only Jane can. Please mark your calendars.

## SOCIAL UPDATE

Set your calendars for Park West's Rainbow Connection Spring Carnival! We're so excited to celebrate with you all on Saturday May 17, from 2:30-4:30pm at Windy City Fieldhouse. Come celebrate the end of the year with all your PW friends, and enjoy the fun activities we have in store!

## HOUSE UPDATE

We would like to introduce a new family, Kyle and Michael Rabkin, parents of Julia (2am). Welcome to the House Committee!

## PARK WEST BOARD NEEDS YOU!!

Interested in learning more about the Park West Board or becoming more involved? The Park West Board is a great opportunity to give back to the school and get to know more of our amazing Park West Community! We are beginning to identify open positions for the 2014-2015 school year and will be filling these in the spring.

Interested parents are invited to attend the next Board meeting on April 8th - details are available in the school office. Can't make the meeting? Please reach out to Kelli Knoble (Board President) or Jane with any questions - we hope to hear from YOU!

## **BOARD MEETING UPDATE**

The Board of Directors meeting was held on March 11th. Meeting Minutes will be available in the office once approved at the next meeting.

Enjoy the upcoming spring break and let's hope that we see more sunny warm days in the forecast!

Kelli Knoble  
President of the Board

## **LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Happy spring! It's hard to believe that spring is here. Not only because there is still snow in the forecast - but because it means there are only a few more months remaining of the school year. While it seems like things would be winding down -it's truly a busy time of year.

Park West completed the school lottery and mailed admissions letters to families for next school year. Many of you are in the admissions process for elementary schools. This is an exciting time and a stressful time for many. I hope you had a chance to read Jane's recent email regarding "those anticipated acceptance letters". I find her words offer sage advice and genuine support. In my role as president, I have had the opportunity to talk with many of our families and work closely with the parents on our board. There is a common thread among all of our parents, you are incredibly strong advocates for your children and their school(s). Jane mentioned this in her letter and I have seen it first-hand. I have no doubt that you will all find a school that is the right fit for your child and your family.

Park West is extremely fortunate, as we have so many parents that lend their time and talents to ensure our school thrives. Several of our board members will be moving on from Park West, myself included. That said, we are in the process of filling the open positions on our board. There are a number of different roles that may be a good fit for you. If you are interested, I'd be happy to talk to you more about our board and the different leadership positions. Feel free to contact me, Jane or another Board member to get more information.