



## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **September**

- 23 Fall General Meeting 7pm
- 26 Oberweis Ice Cream Day – see Special Events update

### **October**

- 1 4AM-3 Pot Luck Dinner
- 2 JK-2 Pot Luck Dinner
- 8 3AM Pot Luck Dinner
- 13 Columbus Day – No School
- 14 Mind the Gap – 1<sup>st</sup> Installment Due
- 14 PWC Board Meeting 7:00pm
- 15 4AM-2 Pot Luck Dinner
- 16 2AM Pot Luck Dinner
- 17 3PM / JK Conferences – AM classes only
- 21 3PM Pot Luck Dinner 7:00pm
- 23 3PM / JK Conferences – AM classes only
- 28 JK-3 Pot Luck Dinner
- 29 3PM / JK Conferences – AM classes only
- 29 Grade School Fair 9:30am

### **November**

- 4 3am/4am Conferences – No AM or PM Classes; PM Staff In Service
- 6 Wine Tasting Event – Que Syrah (see Special Events Update for details!)
- 7 Prospective Parent Open House – 2:30pm
- 11 No School – Veterans Day
- 11 PWC Board Meeting – 7pm
- 14 3am/4am Conferences in PM, AM classes meet
- 14 PWC "Passport to Paradise" Gala Auction Items Due
- 15 Ralph's World Concert
- 19 3am/4am Conferences - PM Classes Only
- 26 No School – Thanksgiving
- 27 No School – Thanksgiving
- 28 No School - Thanksgiving

### **Save the Date!**

- Dec 3 Park West Book Fair
- Dec 5 Wine Donation due for Gala
- Feb 7<sup>th</sup> Park West "Passport to Paradise" Gala

## **FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Welcome, welcome, welcome! It's been wonderful to have the children come for their visits and staggered starts. We have a terrific mix of returning students, returning families, and new students and their families. Thank you, parents, for coming to the parent orientation. I hope you feel you received helpful information and welcomed into the Park West community. These next weeks will be busy for all of us with the beginning days of class, separation, and school events. Please be sure to have the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 23rd on your calendar for Park West's Fall General Meeting. That evening all of the parents, morning parents and afternoon parents, come together for some light refreshments, and to hear from our Board of Directors about this school year. I will speak as well on a child development topic and then parents will meet with their assigned committees to discuss the committee's events and tasks.

Next month the class pot lucks will be held. Your room parent will be sending you an invitation with the details for your child's class event. We will be seeing a lot of each other this school year and I so look forward to getting to know all of you, and your children. I am always happy to meet with parents about our program here at Park West, future school options, or your child's development. Parents look to me as a resource, so don't be shy about reaching out. Many adventures await us.

Best, jane

### **FALL GENERAL MEETING**

The Fall General Meeting is scheduled for September 23rd, at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Paul's Social Hall. This adults-only event brings together our entire Park West community to welcome the new school year. You'll have a chance to mingle with fellow parents and meet with your assigned committee. It's sure to be a terrific and informative event. Appetizers and refreshments will be served. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

### **PWC IS ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!**

Hey Mom and Dad! Are you following us on Facebook and Twitter? Help us keep you up to date on what's happening at Park West: [facebook.com/parkwestcoop](http://facebook.com/parkwestcoop) And on Twitter: @parkwestcoop

## **PUBLICITY UPDATE**

Park West will be kicking off a school spirit campaign. Every family will receive a Park West Co-Op Nursery School magnet for their cars. The magnets will be handed out at the fall general meeting and we look forward to seeing them on everyone's car in the pick-up line!

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

We are currently able to accommodate a few more spots for 3 and 4 year olds in our afternoon classes for the 2014-15 school year. We are also preparing to welcome prospective parents for the 2015-16 school year with our upcoming open houses. Details to follow.

## **NPN PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY FAIR**

The Neighborhood Parents Network of Chicago (NPN) is holding its annual NPN Preschool & Elementary School Fair on Saturday October 18 at Grossinger City Autoplex, 1530 N. Dayton St from 10am to 2pm.

This is a wonderful opportunity to explore options for your children's education after Park West Coop. Stop by and say "hello" at Park West Coop's booth! Please tell neighbors/friends/colleagues with pre-school aged children to stop by and see us. Tickets required, and may be purchased in advance at: <http://www.npnparents.org>

## **CLASS POT-LUCK DINNERS**

A much loved Park West tradition, this parent social outing is hosted by your Room Parent. Please mark your calendars and line up sitters for your class date (see page 1 for dates). Check your inbox for your invitation.

## **HOUSE UPDATE**

A HUGE thank you to all those "behind the scenes" helpers who sanded, painted, peeled, scrubbed, repaired, and taped (among other things) to get the classrooms ready for the school year! We hope you all are enjoying the end results! Park West is now plastic free for snack time...be sure to sure to check out the shiny new stainless steel snack serveware!

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING EVENTS:**

The Education Committee is excited to tell you about our upcoming first event, The Grade School Fair! The Grade School Fair will be held on Wednesday, October 29th from 9:30-11am here at Park West (St. Pauls' Social Hall).

Each year we bring together approximately 40 Chicago area public and private schools for our Park West families to meet. While walking around the Grade School Fair you will be able to talk with school staff and/or Park West parents representing each school. These amazing school resources will be able to provide you with promotional materials and answer questions that you might have about their particular school.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our Park West community. We hope that you can join us and let us help you get a head start on that often confusing and somewhat stressful school decision process. The Grade School Fair is here to help! Hope to see you there!

## **SPECIAL EVENTS ANNOUNCES GALA & KEY DATES**

### **September's Restaurant Partnership**

Oberweis Ice Cream! 3055 N. Sheffield Avenue. Visit the Lakeview location on Friday, September 26, buy the biggest ice cream cone they offer, and 10% of your purchase price will be donated back to Park West. (If we get full participation and the store sells more than \$299 related to Park West, the total donation bumps up to 20% back – so get your ice cream on while it's still [sort of] warm out!)

### **Wine Tasting Event**

Taste free wine, eat free food, and get to know fellow Park West parents? Sign me up! Be sure you mark your calendars for this year's wine tasting event, taking place at **Que Syrah (3714 N. Southport Ave.) on the evening of Thursday, Nov. 6.** Not only is this a great opportunity to mix and mingle; you can purchase your required wine donation for this year's gala and mark it off your list of "to dos"! Plus, all purchases made will result in **15% of total sales going back to the school.** It's a win-win for everyone. Keep an eye out in next month's LINK for more details.

## **Gala & Auction**

Anticipating a need to escape the cold Chicago winter come February? You could book a vacation...*or* join us at this year's **Gala & Auction: "Passport to Paradise."** The event, scheduled for the **evening of Saturday, Feb. 7**, promises to transport you to an upscale, festive destination invoking sunshine and spirits! Don't worry, bathing suits not required.

## **NEW ARRIVALS**

Please remember to let the office know about any new additions to your family. We would love to welcome them into the Park West community.

## **BOARD MEETING NOTES**

The Board of Directors meeting was held on September 8th. Meeting Minutes will be available in the office once approved at the next meeting.

Interested in learning more about the Park West Board or becoming more involved? Parents are invited to attend the October Board meeting at the home of PWC Board President, Maggie Daniel, on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Details are available in the school office.

## **LAW CONCERNING PESTS AND PESTICIDES**

In 2003, the Illinois General Assembly passed laws requiring licensed day care centers to implement safer pest management practices to protect our children from unnecessary exposure to both pests and pesticides. This law requires Park West to notify parents/guardians at least two business days prior to any pesticide applications or create a registry of parents who wish to be notified. The term "pesticide" includes insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides and fungicides. Excluded from the notification requirement are antimicrobial agents (such as disinfectants, sanitizers or deodorizers), insecticide baits and rodenticide baits.

To comply with safer practices, St. Paul's Church has agreed to apply pesticides only on Friday afternoons after students and staff have left for the weekend. Park West also has chosen to establish a registry of families who wish to be notified of pesticide applications. To be included in this registry, please contact Nada Riley in our school office or send a note to school with your child.

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Park West Families,

How can it be September? This summer seemed to fly by. For me, the reality that my eldest daughter, Izzy, was starting kindergarten meant this summer would never be long enough. My husband was shocked one evening, before the start of school, when I burst into tears and said, "I'm going to miss her." How could our first born be starting full-day kindergarten? The reality is, I do miss her. It's as difficult as I imagined it would be and maybe then some. She is missing home too, but I know, in time, we will both be OK.

This transition to kindergarten makes me appreciate the experience our family has had at Park West even more. Assisting in the classroom is something I may never get to experience again like they do it at Park West. The joy of getting to play with your child, with no housework calling your name and no laundry waiting to be folded, just hours of play to enjoy. I remember one afternoon when Izzy was in 3pm and we were preparing the snack. We had the classroom to ourselves and were putting napkins and dishes on the tables. Then we cuddled in the playhouse and read a story. There was something about the quiet of the room and the stillness of each other that I can still remember so clearly. It was a moment. One of many moments that have made up our special experience here at Park West. I feel sure you and your family have shared many moments like this with your children here at school. For our new families, there is so much to look forward to being a part of the Park West community, in and out of the classroom.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Fall General Meeting on the 23rd. I'll also see you around school because our youngest is in 4am. I'm soaking up Park West because I know what it will be like two years from now when we face the kindergarten transition again.

All My Best, Maggie Daniel