

The

LINK

A Monthly Newsletter for Park West Families



October
2013

DATES TO REMEMBER

October

- 21 3PM Pot Luck Dinner 7:00pm
- 22 JK-2 Pot Luck Dinner 7:00pm
- 24 3pm/JK Conferences. AM Classes Only
- 28 2AM Pot Luck Dinner 7:00pm
- 29 Grade School Fair 9:30am
- 30 3PM/JK Conferences. AM Classes Only

November

- 6 Platemaking event at Park West
- 7 3am/4am Conferences. PM Classes Only
- 7 Wine Event at the Poison Cup Wine Shop (1128 W Armitage) & Chez Moi Park West Night (2100 N Halsted)
- 11 No School – Veterans Day
- 14 Navigating CPS 101 7:00-8:30pm
- 15 3am/4am Conferences. PM Classes Only
- 19 PW Board Meeting – 7:30pm
- 21 Navigating CPS 101 1:30-3:30pm
- 20 3am/4am Conferences. PM Classes Only
- 20 Book Fair (all day)
- 22 Prospective Parent Open House 2:30pm
- 28 No School – Thanksgiving
- 29 No School - Thanksgiving

December – March

- Dec 3 Conversations with Jane
- Dec 3 Auction Items due
- Dec 19 Wine Donation due for Gala
- Jan 13-20th Online Auction
- Feb 7th "Color Outside the Lines" Gala – The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
- Mar 6th Talk/Q&A/Book Signing with Ashley Merryman of "NurtureShock" & "Top Dog"

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!

JANE IS PODCASTING

If you missed Jane's talk at the Fall General Meeting, you can go to the Park West website or Facebook page to listen to the podcast. Maybe you have friends, neighbors, or grandma and grandpa who might be interested to learn how the pedagogy of listening impacts our curriculum. Please direct them to our website or Facebook page. More podcasts to come!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are in the middle of pot luck season and I am enjoying getting the chance to socialize with parents. I hope you are all able to meet for a nosh and a chat at the pot lucks. October is a busy month here at Park West. Those of you with children in the afternoon classes will have your parent teacher conferences this month, a chance to sit with teachers to discuss your child's adjustment to life at school. Next month we have the wine event at the Poison Cup as well as the book fair and pajama party at Barnes and Noble. We'll be seeing a lot of each other - just the way I like it.

Best,
jane

BOARD MEETING NOTES

The Board of Directors meeting was held on October 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 November Board meeting at the home of Sue Allshouse on Tuesday, November 19th. Details are available in the school office.

ASSISTANT TREASURER NEEDED

We are looking for a Treasurer for the Board for the 2014 - 2015 year who is willing to start now and join me as a Co-Treasurer. As the Treasurer for the last 5 years I know how interesting and critical this position is to Park West. The role includes budgeting, bill paying, working with the accountant and auditor and reviewing the investments. If you have a background in finance, accounting or enjoy treasurer roles this job might be for you. Please contact the office or email me at cheryl_demong@yahoo.com if you are interested

TUITION REMINDER

A friendly reminder that second tuition installments are due 11/15. All families will receive an email around 11/1 letting them know their amount due. If you have any questions please email administrator@parkwest.org.

PARK WEST OPEN HOUSES

Love Park West? Then spread the word about our unique school! Invite your friends to attend one of our Open Houses. The Open Houses are a chance for prospective parents to learn about Park West's philosophy, meet Jane Nolan and the staff, and explore the classrooms. Prospective parents please call ahead to make a reservation.

Open House dates for Park West:

November 22, 2013 2:30pm

January 24, 2014 2:30pm

February 3, 2014 2:30pm

EDUCATION UPCOMING EVENTS:

The education committee is excited to inform you of three upcoming events for parents & families:

Grade School Fair: October 29th 9:30am-11am St. Paul's Social Hall

The Grade School Fair is rapidly approaching. We are excited this year to be hosting approximately 40 schools. Please invite your friends and spend the morning walking from table to table gathering information from a wide variety of Chicago public and private schools. Snacks and coffee will be served as well. We hope to see you!

Navigating CPS 101: Thursday, November 14th 7:00pm-8:30pm and Thursday, November 21st 1:30-3:30pm

If the whole school process has got you confused, then we have the solution for you! Abigail Joseph will be presenting a "Navigating the Chicago Public Schools" seminar here at Park West. Throughout the seminar parents will receive information and be able to ask questions on the application and admissions process for CPS.

Abigail has generously scheduled two sessions so parents can pick whichever session fits best into their schedule. Both sessions will contain the same information. Don't miss this valuable opportunity.

Book Fair: November 20th –all day at Barnes and Noble (1441 W. Webster Ave)

Park West is "Wild About Reading"! Please join us for a roarin' good time at the Barnes and Noble on Webster for our annual Book Fair. Parents, family, friends, neighbors and coworkers – all are welcome

to shop all day at the Barnes and Noble on Webster and Clybourn or they can shop online. Park West will have voucher numbers for our community to use so Park West will get a percentage back to restock our own school library. Park West families will be invited to come to Barnes and Noble following our afternoon dismissal for our beloved annual pajama party and to listen to stories read by Park West teachers and staff. More specifics to come.

CLASS POT-LUCK DINNERS

A heartfelt thank you to our Room Parents for organizing this year's pot lucks / parents night out for each class. Several classes have already enjoyed their potlucks – it's such a wonderful opportunity to connect with other parents, Jane and the teachers. See the calendar or contact your Room Parent if you have questions about your class event!

PLATEMAKING IS BACK!

A Park West tradition is back just in time for the holidays! Plate making will be held on Wednesday November 6 at 11:30 am and 3:30pm in the Oscar Mayer Room. This is a great opportunity to create Park West memories as well as create memorable holiday gifts! Take home templates will be sent home for those of you who can't join us. Hope to see you!

SPECIAL EVENTS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our amazing Special Events committee has been pounding the pavement organizing a fabulous Color Outside the Lines Gala, Wine Event and guest speaker, author Ashley Merriman. We're excited to announce the team has also worked with local businesses to host Park West days where a portion of sales is donated back to our school:

October 25th: Eat at John's Place (1200 W Webster & 2132 W Roscoe St) mention Park West and 10% of your check goes back to the school

November 7th: Wine Tasting Event at The Poison Cup (1128 W Armitage) 6-8pm. Enjoy a selection of wines and tasty bites from Pastoral, Pretzel Crisps and Tommy Knuckles Tavern & Lounge. Poison Cup will donate 10% of all sales back to Park West!

November 7th: Eat at Chez Moi (2100 N Halsted) after the wine event, mention Park West & 5% of your check goes back to the school

November 20th: Eat at Potbelly's (1422 West Webster) after the Book Fair, mention Park West and

25% of your check goes back to the school

December 9th-13th: Eat at Johnny's Beef & Gyros (2300 N Lincoln) all week, mention Park West and 10% of your check goes back to the school.

STELLA & DOT EVENT

Park West is hosting a Stella and Dot and Matilda Jane trunk show!

Where: Maribeth Somers Home
2119 N. Racine Ave

When: Wednesday, November 13th

- 9am-1pm. Kids are welcome or swing by after drop off for coffee and muffins.
- 6pm-9pm Come by yourself or bring a girlfriend for a glass of wine and get a start on your Holiday shopping.

100% of the proceeds from the show will benefit Park West and all hostess rewards will be donated in a form of a gift basket for the Gala.

NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations to the Nowalany family, Amelia 2am class, on the arrival of baby, Hugh.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is hard to believe but we have been at school for a month. It's always a highlight of my day to watch Jane push open the doors to greet the kids to another exciting day at Park West. After just a few weeks, many rush right up the stairs, some stop and chat with Jane and their teachers, while others may still need a bit of reassurance. No matter how

your child enters our doors, I'm confident that you and your child feel supported from the teachers, Jane and our parent community.

October is a busy month at Park West. This time of year marks the start of school searches for many families. Our Membership Committee has been busy preparing to showcase Park West at the NPN School Fair and planning three open houses for prospective families. While the work they put in to these events is important, we know the most powerful recruitment tool is the overwhelmingly positive endorsements we get from current families and alums. We consistently see in our family

surveys that people hear about and apply to Park West because of you! Word-of-mouth is our best advertisement. With so many events planned over the few months (*PW Grade School Fair, Educational Lecture Series, PW Barnes & Noble Book Fair, Jane's Book Club, Wine Tasting Event, Open Houses*) be sure to invite your friends and family to let them experience our treasured community.

On that note, I hope you are able to take part in all that Park West offers. This month, you will have the opportunity to connect with the parent and teachers at your class potlucks and the upcoming wine tasting event. For those of you who are in the process of selecting your elementary school, be sure to attend our Grade School Fair. Our Education Committee has worked hard to secure a diverse set of schools that you may be considering. The best part, you can speak directly with Park West parents (*current and alums*) who attend that school. It really is a great opportunity for our families and their friends.

Lastly, I hope you have all had the chance to read the letter that was sent last week regarding the future move for Park West. If you have questions about the future plans and our transition team, please feel free to contact Jane or me directly.

Enjoy the fun that comes with the cooler weather and leaves falling. There is so much to see and find on long walks with our preschoolers.

Kelli Knoble
President of the Board