



DATES TO REMEMBER

September

26 Fall General Meeting 7pm

October

- 3 4AM/3JK Pot Luck Dinner
- 8 Board Meeting 7:30pm
- 11 Mind-the-Gap donations are due (1st installment or in full)
- 14 No School – Columbus Day
- 15 4AM-2 Pot Luck
- 16 JK-3 Pot Luck Dinner
- 17 3AM Pot Luck Dinner
- 18 3PM/JK Conferences, AM Classes Meet
- 21 3PM Pot Luck Dinner
- 22 JK-2 Pot Luck Dinner
- 24 3pm/JK Conferences, AM Classes Meet
- 28 2AM Pot Luck Dinner
- 29 Grade School Fair 9:30-11:00am in St. Paul's Social Hall
- 30 3PM/JK Conferences, AM Classes Meet

November

- 7 3am/4am Conferences, Only PM Classes Meet
- 7 Wine Event at the Poison Cup Wine Shop (1128 W Armitage)
- 11 No School – Veterans Day
- 15 3am/4am Conferences in PM, AM Classes Meet
- 19 PW Board Meeting – 7:30pm
- 20 3am/4am Conferences, No School for AM Classes, Only PM Classes Meet
- 20 Book Fair (all day at Barnes & Noble)
- 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
- Dec 23-Jan 3 No School – Winter Break
- Jan 6 Classes Resume
- Jan 13-20th Online Auction
- Feb 7th "Color Outside the Lines" Gala – The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum (2430 N Cannon Dr)
- Mar 6th Talk/Q&A/Book Signing with Ashley Merryman of "NurtureShock" & "Top Dog"

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome, everyone to the new school year. We are so happy to have you with us this year. We are in the midst of visits, staggered starts, and the first days of school. In the next few weeks we will get to know each other better, one of the many blessings of Park West Coop. I hope to spend some time with parents while they are at school as part of the separation process. Also, I look forward to seeing all of you at the Fall General Meeting, on Thursday, the 26th at 7pm. We are so glad to have you with us this year.

Best,
jane

BOARD MEETING NOTES

The Board of Directors meeting was held on September 10th. 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 Jane Nolan on Tuesday, October 8th. Details are available in the school office.

FALL GENERAL MEETING

The Fall General Meeting is scheduled for September 26th, at 7:00 p.m. 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. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

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!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We are excited to announce all classes in the COOP are full. Feel free to join us at the NPN Preschool & Elementary fair and Park West Open Houses to share your Park West experiences with prospective parents! More details on these events below.

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:

Friday, November 22, 2013 2:30pm

Friday, January 24, 2014 2:30pm

Monday, February 3, 2014 2:30pm

NPN PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY FAIR

The Neighborhood Parents Network of Chicago (NPN) is holding its annual NPN Preschool & Elementary School Fair on Saturday October 19 at Grossinger City Autoplex, 1561 N. Fremont 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/expos/1160>

EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING EVENTS:

The education committee is excited to inform you of two upcoming events. Please save the dates on

your calendar for our Grade School Fair and our Annual Book Fair:

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

The grade school fair is a great opportunity for you to meet with parents and school representatives from local Chicago Public Schools as well as many Chicago area private schools. At the fair you will have a chance to ask questions and gather information to help you make informed decisions regarding your child's education for when it's time to move on from Park West. We hope to see you there!

Book Fair: November 20th – shop 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. After our 4pm dismissal, children and parents can join us at Barnes and Noble for our Park West Book Fair pajama party. Listen to stories read by our very own Park West teachers and staff. We hope you can swing on by!

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). Invitations with details will be forthcoming.

SPECIAL EVENTS ANNOUNCES GALA & KEY DATES

The Special Events team has been hard at work this summer lining up a fantastic calendar of events including the annual Gala on February 7th, a wine tasting event at the Poison Cup in Lincoln Park on November 7th, and a unique opportunity for a book signing with Ashley Merryman in March (co-author of Nurture Shock and Top Dog). Together with the annual Mind the Gap campaign, these events help build our Park West community while enabling the school to meet its annual operating budget. Mark your calendars!

NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations to the Carey family on the arrival of baby Flynn as well as to the Winter family on the arrival of Arden!

HOUSE UPDATE

A special thanks to all those "behind the scenes" helpers who scraped, painted and cleaned over the summer to help get the classrooms ready on time!! We hope you all are enjoying the end results and the new classroom rugs!!

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

Fall is officially here and the doors opened at Park West, as they have for 42 years, to welcome students to another exciting school year. By now, you have all had your classroom visits, met your teachers and started the process of separation. For some, this may be a familiar process, for others it may be met with trepidation. Wherever you are on the spectrum, you have chosen a school where teachers are skilled at working with each child to make a comfortable and successful transition into school life. We hope with each passing day, Park West feels more like home.

There are a number of events planned throughout the year to give you and your child the chance to meet other families and get to know each other better. The *Dates to Remember* section of our newsletter includes dates and times for the upcoming events. In October, the annual class pot-luck dinners will give you the chance to socialize with the parents and teachers in your child's class. Make sure to save the dates on your calendars. These are very popular events that our families look forward to every year.

The Fall General Meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 26th. It is the only meeting where we all gather together, so please be sure to attend. You will have the opportunity to meet the Board of Directors and hear the inside scoop on the big events being planned. Jane will share some insights on early childhood education. Like many parents, I take so much away from her talks; she provides us with a much deeper understanding of our children's experience when they come to Park West. Importantly, we will also breakout into our committee groups. Please be sure to bring your calendars, as upcoming meetings and volunteer opportunities may be scheduled with your committee.

As I mentioned in the Parent Orientations, Park West not only welcomes, but relies on your involvement. It is through your time and input that we are able to provide meaningful and fun events that help create this wonderful community. Your contributions are valued and you are appreciated. It means a lot to us. It's what makes us Park West **Cooperative**.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you and your family.

Kelli Knoble
President of the Board