January 7, 2015

Dear PSU Liberal Arts Department,

Another Holiday Season has passed, and once again we are thankful for your kindness and generosity you have extended to our children and families. What you have done will be felt long after the excitement of the Holiday Season has dwindled and we are back to living our normal day to day lives.

Without your generous support we would not be as successful in helping the families in our program. Thank you for providing each child in our program with the gift of a fun umbrella and game. We were happy to have some fun items in the boxes for the children to open and be excited about. The umbrellas were adorable and a few children brought them in the other day for show and tell. We often take what we consider the basic necessities for granted in our lives, but to many of our families basic necessities are often the items they most often need. Knowing that people recognize and value the mission and work we do here at Park Forest Preschool is a blessing in our lives and the lives of the children and families we serve. Thank you for your continued support of our children, families, and staff.

Our goal is to continue to provide FREE quality early childhood education, a warm and nurturing environment where everyone feels loved and accepted; a place where everyone can grow socially, emotionally, physically and academically. We certainly would not be here without continued support from our community and from organizations such as yours. Thank you for your dedication to this mission.

Kindly,

Barbara Geist
Director
A School Run On Love ...

The nonprofit groups and individuals who give from their hearts truly support this preschool, which offers a solid foundation for children from all walks of life. This school also offers support to the children’s families in a kind, patient, peaceful environment filled with teachers who turn those gifts into something real.

They teach children how to learn, how to socialize and how to play. They prepare them for kindergarten and, in turn, for life. This school has turned my life and the lives of my children into happy, productive lives filled with hopes and dreams.

PFP has a family environment that sets a standard that all schools and people should admire and strive to emulate. It’s the staff that keeps this school alive and gives it strength. Everyone should have access to a school with similar beliefs and structure—a school with staff willing to help parent my children with me. Parents from all places and in all stages of child rearing can benefit from a parenting group like the one offered here.

Running purely on donations and the generosity of the public, Park Forest Preschool is truly a place that runs on love. Even the smallest act of kindness makes a huge difference to this school.

Your support has made you a significant, important part of my life and I truly thank you from the bottom of my heart. Through your support of Park Forest Preschool, you have made my family’s world a much brighter place. Thank you.

- by Heather Hercane, mother of Ethan John (4) and Madelyn (2), Park Forest students, pictured on the right.

“This school has turned my life and the lives of my children into happy, productive lives filled with hopes and dreams.”

- Heather Hercane
Why Preschool Matters

Ask any of the children at Park Forest Preschool what they like best about their days and you’ll likely hear stories of fun on the playground, tasty meals and interesting lessons in their classrooms. But what you likely won’t hear from this excited four-year-old is how confident the child is in his future because of the great foundation he’s gotten in preschool.

But that benefit is precisely the driving force behind the passionate work being done at Park Forest Preschool. Research compiled by Pre-K for PA shows that children who have access to quality early childhood education are better prepared to learn and more likely to succeed:

Ready to Learn
When children arrive at kindergarten ready to learn, they are best able to take advantage of the educational benefits of classroom learning. A child’s brain is 90% developed by age five, making the early years a crucial time in a child’s development.

Preschool Learning Leads to Success in School
Children with access to a high-quality preschool experience are more likely to advance grades and have improved social skills.

Quality is Key
Far too many children attend preschool programs that lack the key elements to ensure they are ready for kindergarten. High-quality preschool includes developmentally appropriate curriculum, knowledgeable and well-trained program staff and educators, and comprehensive services that support children’s overall development.

What’s in a Name?
You might have noticed something a little different about this newsletter—our name!

Park Forest Day Nursery Preschool is now simply known as Park Forest Preschool. The Board of Directors and the staff of the school changed the name over the summer to be more concise and better reflect the overall mission of the school.

Park Forest Preschool would like to thank its generous volunteers and dedicated Board of Directors.

To find out more about the school’s Board or to learn about volunteering, visit us online at:

www.parkforestpreschool.org
Applause and Gratitude

The Park Forest Preschool has much to be thankful for this holiday season, including the incredible support we receive from the community. This past year's fundraising highlights are detailed below. Many thanks to all who helped us reach incredible new heights.

- Park Forest Preschool gratefully accepted a $6,223 donation from Soroptimist International of Centre County and the Venture Club of Centre County from their May Lasagna Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction. Thanks to the many PFP friends who supported the event through your attendance and by spreading the word.

- Centre Gives 2014 was a huge success for many area organizations in early May. More than 70 Park Forest Preschool supporters helped the organization raise more than $9,700, which included matching funds from Centre Foundation, during the 36-hour event. Thanks for those of you who gave and promoted this great giving opportunity.

- The first-ever Holiday Home Tour was a great success last December, raising $6,000 to assist the school. This event will continue on a bi-annual basis, so plan on joining us in December 2015.

- As always, we are extremely grateful to the Centre County United Way for its continued and very generous support of our school.

From the Director's Desk

Wow! It is hard to believe we are almost done with our first semester of the school year. I am pleased to report that we have 33 children enrolled. The classrooms are full of children, energy, excitement and learning.

I would like to take this time to thank you for the continued support of this much-needed program in our community. Without your generosity, we would not be able to continue to offer a high-quality early childhood education to these children.

In addition, we offer support to many of our families through parent education classes, dental and vision screenings, a clothing room, an emergency fund and two meals each day for their children.

It is an honor to serve this great organization. Thank you!

- Barbara Geist, Director
How Your Support Helps

As you read in Heather's letter, a little goes a long way at Park Forest
Preschool. But how, exactly, does your generosity help? Here are some
examples:

- A gift of $5,000 fully funds one child's education for an entire
  year.

- A donation of $16.84 will feed one child two healthy, hot
  meals per day for one month. That's right! If just 33 people
  made a monthly gift of $17 over the nine-month school year,
  our food program would be fully funded.

- A $60 donation covers the cost of supplies for one child for
  the school year.

To make a secure online donation, please visit parkforestpreschool.org

Contact Us

Interested in volunteering? Would you like to tour the
school? Do you want to make a secure online
donation? Contact us!

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