



Winter 2024 Newsletter



Lisa Warren
Director

The fall was a busy time with children adjusting to school, teachers, and friends. The gradual entrance of the younger children helped ease their transition to school. The children know their friend's name and continue greeting each other enthusiastically as they arrive at school. The unusually warm, dry fall weather of the past few months has allowed us to spend a lot of time outside on the playground, which we have all enjoyed!

December has arrived with the colder winter air, and it looks as though it might be here to stay! Our HNS Red Bags with instructions were sent home last week so that winter clothing can easily be transported between home and school. The children are incredibly happy and comfortable when playing outside in the cold on the playground with their warm weather gear on. The Pre-K, four and five-year-old classes have become quite self-sufficient when undressing and dressing. However, they continue to need encouragement when organizing their belongings, so nothing gets left behind. The Preschool, three and four-year-old classes are learning what needs to go on first and attempting to dress independently with the support of their teachers. It would be extremely helpful if all items were clearly labelled with the children's names. We have a lost and found bin in the front of the school in case something is missing. Please feel free to come in and look!

Thank you so much for your support for the second annual HNS Cradles to Crayons clothing drive. This year we collected over twenty bags of gently used clothing as well as new pajamas, socks, and underwear. Hopefully, our HNS community will continue to support such worthwhile charities in the future.

The "Coffee with Kristin" held last week by the Board of Directors was well-attended and a wonderful way to meet and welcome the incoming Director, Kristin Gruber-Grunert. We will be working together closely over the next months to guarantee a smooth transition.

At the start of the holiday season, we acknowledge and embrace our similarities and differences. We try to focus on the common themes, colors, stories, and songs of the season. Our goal is to honor the beliefs and traditions of all our HNS families. Amidst all the holiday activity, we are also reminded of the importance of maintaining a predictable routine for the children. We wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season! We look forward to the start of 2025.

- Mrs. Warren



What a fun filled Fall we have had so far at HNS! We started our year with the playground meetup. It is always a great way to see familiar faces and meet classmates before heading into a new school year. Our annual Bingo & pizza night was a blast! Special thanks to Mike Galvin for stepping up as our announcer for the evening! Also in September was our first mom's night out! We had a great turnout, it was nice to be able to socialize outside of the drop off/pick up routine. We plan to have another night out soon, once the craziness of the holiday season is over! Our fall parent's night in October was a big success! We raised over \$1700! This money helps fund our MyGym program, music teachers, and so much more! Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Some upcoming events from the board will be our holiday raffle baskets and family bowling. Keep an eye out for information about our annual bowling day on December 20th, it is such a fun way to kick off winter break!

We are looking forward to more successful events to support our school as we head into 2025!

Happy Holidays!

HNS Board of Directors



Welcoming a new Director

Dear Hingham Nursery School Community, It brings me such joy to be writing to you today as I prepare to join the Hingham Nursery School community in the new year. I knew very early on in the interview process that this was a special community, filled with Educators, Administrators, and families who are dedicated to the growth of the children and the success of the school. I am grateful that I was chosen for such an important role in your community and that I will have the opportunity to continue the longstanding traditions of the Hingham Nursery School.

Nursery School has been part of my life since my earliest years. From attending the school where my mother was a Teacher and eventually became the Assistant Director, to watching her take ownership of a school and dedicating 30 years of her life to the Teachers, families, and children of that community, it is no surprise that I followed in her footsteps in my career choice. For the last 26 years, I have worked in various roles, from Teacher to Director, at the Boston University Children's Center, a play-based and Reggio Inspired Early Childhood Education Program for the children of University Faculty, Staff, and Graduate Students. In my most recent years as the Center's Director, I worked closely with University Leadership in the expansion of our program and the renovation of the 100-year-old estate that the children and staff now call home. After over 25 years at BU and a move from Brookline to the South Shore, I decided it was time for me to explore new opportunities closer to home, which has brought me to Hingham Nursery.

As a Director, I believe in the importance of play and hands-on experiential learning for young children. I feel it is important for Educators and Administrators to partner with families in supporting the growth and development of the children in our care, and this can only happen through intentional observation and communication. Just as children approach their world with a sense of wonder, I as a Director approach my work from a place of curiosity, intentionally observing and asking questions in order to learn more and determine the most appropriate path forward. I am eager to begin my journey at Hingham Nursery and I cannot wait to begin learning alongside the children, Educators, and families who are part of this wonderful community. I look forward to having opportunities to meet you all in the coming months and beginning the new year together.

Sincerely,
Kristin Gruber-Grunert
Incoming HNS Director

*Mrs. King, Mrs. Griffiths &
Mrs. D'Allessandro*
Pre-K 5 Day Class

It's hard to believe the holidays are upon us and 2024 is coming to an end! My Pre-K friends and I along with my two amazing assistants have really appreciated our time together thus far. We have celebrated nearly half of our birthdays already! I've had so much joy in getting to know each one of your children. I am now positive that joining the Hingham Nursery School was the right decision for me. We have a great group of children in our class and I am looking forward to watching them grow and develop throughout the year.

We started out building our classroom community and have come a long way already. We have the routine down and have really benefited from music with Miss Shannon and My Gym with Miss Chelsea!

Fall was a fantastic time in Pre-K. We really took pleasure in watching the environment around us change before our eyes. Highlights included picking out pumpkins, Fall scavenger walks, leaf hunts and of course Halloween fun! Lively letters with Mrs. D has been a huge hit. The kids are very keen on the music that along with this.

Our author study was also a big hit! So much so that we extended it an extra week. The children became experts on the work of Eric Carle. We were delighted doing group projects as well as individual activities.

During November we discussed traditions, what we were thankful for, did family portraits and much more. I hope you have enjoyed hearing about all our fun and learning! We anticipate our unit on woodland animals, another author study and some holiday fun such as making Gingerbread houses and the Polar Express. December is sure to be magical. I truly look forward to seeing this special group each day. They have definitely filled my bucket!



It has been an exciting few months getting to know one another in our classroom. We completed a class exploration and discovery of Fall which included: apple printing, tasting apples, painting and printing with leaves, walking to Weston Nursery to choose our class pumpkin following a map, voting on jack-o-lantern faces and making apple sauce. In November the focus was on family. Through a variety of developmentally appropriate activities, we learned about families, sharing, gratitude and thankfulness. We made placemats and learned how to set a table! We thoroughly enjoy our weekly music with Miss. Shannon and My Gym which we have twice a month.

As the holidays approach, we strive to keep a regular routine at school. We are looking forward to making Gingerbread Houses and reenacting the Polar Express! There is so much excitement in the air! As teachers, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to teach your children. Each one is truly a gift to us.



Mrs. Jarvis, Mrs. Nicholas & Mrs. Ross
Pre-K 4 Day Class



These few months have been busy for our 3 year olds. We have been creating a community within our classroom and building friendships. All the children enjoy coming into school and saying "hello" to on another as they gather on the bench. We have learned about Fall and apples, friendship and families, and Zoo! We are beginning our unit on light and holidays now. We have been focusing on fine motor skills by using scissors, tape, glue crayons, hole punchers and paint!



Mrs. Olin & Mrs. Hart
3 day class

Play-dough has also been a focus as we build our hand strength through rolling out, cutting shapes with cookie cutters and also squishing the dough in our hands! Self-regulation through play is a focus in our classroom. Each child is developing new skills to help them resolve conflict as they play in the many centers of our classroom. These social skills are essential to their overall development and readiness for the next phase of school. One of our phrases that we use when a child would like a turn with a toy is, "How many more minutes are you going to use that?" The children are using these words which helps many conflicts before they even arise! We are enjoying the children as they grow and develop! Thank you for sharing the gift of your children with us!



It's been such an exciting time since school started in September and we're all "settled in" now, making friends and bonding with each other as a class family.

In addition to the social/emotional importance of this year (sharing, turn-taking, how to be kind and considerate, using our manners, etc) we have introduced letters A through K, learned our colors, and now have added numbers and shapes to our weekly exploration. The students have learned some good skills such as how to line up, put on their coat, and open their lunch by themselves, just to name a few. We have seen so much growth in just a few short months in school! Our weekly themes such as ; Apples, Leaves, Pumpkins, Fire Safety, and life on the Farm, have given us so many excellent opportunities for developing scissor skills, practicing writing . We have done some interesting STEM/Science experiments such as "dancing corn," leaf sorting, and exploring parts of a pumpkin. And we can't forget super-fun sensory opportunities like making cranberry "slime"! Music time with Miss Shannon has provided lots of fun songs for us to incorporate into our week, and yoga with Mrs Haas has become a weekly class favorite! The kids are really enjoying our guest readers coming in once a week to read to the class - please feel free to come in any time!

We're so excited to move onto winter, and all the fun it brings. We wish all of you a very happy and healthy holiday season with your children and families.



Mrs. Haas & Mrs. Packard
4 day class



We had a wonderful Fall getting to know each other and getting to know the routine in the Tuesday/Thursday three year old class. Our happy group of eight children work together so nicely. I am happy to report they know each others names and enjoy each other's company. They all love music and singing. Trips to the school library to read Pete the Cat stories and to do some dancing are always a hit. They are all now eager to do projects everyday. Painting at the easel is something everyone wants to do as well. We also have noticed how they know the routine, what comes next, their "jobs" and they are even getting better at cleaning up. We enjoyed our "back to school" study, our "Fall" study, our "zoo animals" study and now we are talking about Winter. During this holiday season we try hard to stick to the routine as we know there is so much excitement outside of school.

Thank you for sharing your children with us we love being their teacher!



Mrs. Snow & Mrs. Fox
2 day class

