



Dear Kinderhaven Preschool Academy Families & Friends,

We are truly lucky to be part of Kinderhaven, a unique Lake Forest school that is inspired by the preschools of Reggio Emilia, Italy and encourages a lifelong love of learning in our children. This positive educational approach views creative thinking, exploration and problem solving as its core values. Parents are regarded as partners, collaborators and advocates for their children. Kinderhaven is more than just a preschool; it is a community providing a rich compassionate learning environment for our children.

As you may know, Kinderhaven's biggest fundraiser last year was the Giving Tree Gathering. We are continuing with this annual event and have planned a spectacular evening for parents only on April 28th at the home of Alyssa and Steve Sinclair. Please join us for our Second Annual Giving Tree Gathering cocktail party. This benefit is an exciting opportunity for Kinderhaven friends to gather, celebrate the end of the school year and give back to Kinderhaven Preschool Academy. We will enjoy Italian inspired foods while we toast the year with wines and beers from Italy along with a signature Kinderhaven Cocktail!

The Parent Board has granted most of the funds raised last year to a variety of projects, all of which promise to enhance the Kinderhaven experience. A Teacher Documentation Station consisting of an armoire/work station, an iMac, a printer/scanner/copier, Apple Care, and One-to-One training from Apple was purchased for the teachers. A designer was hired and a classroom space evaluation and design plan is currently in the works with lots of input from Dr. Robbins and the teachers. Funding to purchase food for the nutrition lessons is also being provided this year rather than the volunteers having to provide the food out of their own pockets. Our most involved project to date is the Roots & Wings Outdoor Art Installation. Janet Austin, the artist commissioned by the Parent Board, is currently working with Kinderhaven students and alumni to create a beautiful mosaic piece that we hope to have the installed on the wall along the path from the classroom to the playground this spring. We also would like to be able to continue to fund unique staff development opportunities as they arise. As many of you know, one of our major unrealized goals is to send Dr. Robbins to participate in teacher training in Reggio-Emilia, Italy so she can bring back new ideas to share with our teachers and firsthand knowledge about what makes the schools there so special. In order to continue to be able to enhance the experience of the children at Kinderhaven through these kinds of projects, we must rely on contributions from the families that make up our community.

We are asking you, as a member of this special community, to consider making a donation to Kinderhaven this spring. We are also looking for people interested in donating items for the raffle held the night of the event, as well as food and wine for the party. Please feel free to contact Alyssa Sinclair at alyssa.gochis@gmail.com if you would like to help with the event, as we encourage parent involvement! Invitations and donation forms will be sent out in March. We hope you will join us for this fun Italian themed evening. Remember to mark your calendars now and book a babysitter.

Thank you for your support and for continuing to make Kinderhaven Preschool Academy such a warm, loving and positive first learning experience for all of our children.

Your Kinderhaven Parent Board Giving Tree Gathering Committee,

Alyssa Sinclair, Lisa Silvers, Jennifer Goldman, Sushama Krishnaswamy, Sarah Lockhart, Amie Marks, Jenny Mulliken, Nicole Phelan, & Debbie Yurenka