

HOPKINS HOUSE

A Learning Center for Children, Youth, and Families

Alexandria Center
Helen Day Preschool Academy
 1224 Princess Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314
 Telephone: (571) 480-4081
 Fax: (703) 683-3056

Fairfax Center
James L. & Juliette McNeil Preschool Academy
 8543 Forest Place
 Alexandria, VA 22309
 Telephone: (571) 480-4261
 Fax: (571) 480-4279

March 26, 2014

Dear Parent:

I want to take a moment of time to personally thank you for completing the “Preschool Parent Satisfaction Survey” last month. Through this annual survey we gain much insight about our work and areas we might need to improve. We have thoroughly examined the survey results and thoughtfully read every comment.

We were excited and pleased to learn that the overwhelming majority of parents expressed satisfaction with the care their children receive and learning opportunities provided at the James L. & Juliette McNeil Preschool Academy, as well as satisfaction with the performance of our staff. This is wonderful news.

Following are specific areas around which you provided feedback, current activities related to the topic, and actions we plan to take:

Inclement Weather & School Closings

Many families expressed great concern regarding the number of school closings that occurred this year. The decision to close the academy due to inclement weather is made with great care and consideration for families and staff. Hopkins House is a private entity and we do not close our facilities based on school district or government closings. The current policy in place was made in consultation with Parents Councils following the severe snowstorms that occurred just a few years ago which closed schools in the area for more than a week. Please visit the Hopkins House website www.HopkinsHouse.org for a full explanation regarding the recent inclement weather school closings. Mr. Hopkins recent blog post explains this issue in great detail.

Staff/Communication

We will continue to work with and offer mandatory trainings with our staff on quality instruction and interactions with all age groups including our infants. Hopkins House has developed a Self-Improvement Pledge that all employees upon hire, must read and sign. This pledge states that,

Staff understands the importance of continuous personal development and growth, and commit to being self-motivated and persistent in pursuing their education and professional advancement, including attending scheduled workshops, conferences, and other self-improvement activities inside and/or outside Hopkins House.

We will work to make the daily reports more informative and comprehensive, so that each day you have a lens into your child's activities, accomplishments, and other experiences. As we implement this change, your feedback and suggestions would be very helpful to us.

At any time, parents may request to have a one on one conference with their child's teachers. Parents may schedule this conference with a member of the leadership team to ensure that your child's teacher is available and that you have the time to have an informative conference with your child's teacher. Parent teacher conferences are also being offered a minimum of two times a year for a more formal assessment of your child's progress in the center.

Facilities

We are constantly exploring grant options in an effort to acquire more permanent playground equipment. In the meantime, teachers are encouraged to play organized games that will increase children's gross-motor manipulative skills. We recently placed an order for more balls, bikes and sand equipment that should arrive by the time the weather changes.

These changes, based on your feedback in the 2012 Preschool Parent Satisfaction Survey, are part of our commitment to continuous improvement. We are grateful for the many kind words you shared about the McNeil Preschool Academy and staff, and for choosing our Academy as your child's preschool. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Greta M. Duncan. M.Ed.
Principal
James L. & Juliette McNeil Preschool Academy

OFFICERS:
Robert "Bob" Bogan
Chair
Mark Eisenhour
Vice Chair
Richard G. Cole, Jr.
Secretary/Treasurer

Julie N. Jakopic
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
J. Glenn Hopkins
President/CEO

TRUSTEES:
Candy Adams
Kevin Bergen
Richard Belle Isle
Alison DeCoursey
Mary Catherine Gibbs
Harry "Bud" Hart
Valeria S. Henderson
Chamiele Herring

Robert D. Hicks
Clarence A. Johnson
Jeff Kline
Gregory H. Leisch
Amy Liu Witmer
Linda Martin
James McNeil
Juliette McNeil

Kristina Messner
Alvin Nashman
Syrinda Elizabeth Paige
Lee Quill
Deborah Schoemer
Holly Sloan
John-Howard Wesley
Justin Marshall Wilson

www.HopkinsHouse.org