

Newport-Mesa Unified School District
Harper Preschool
PARENT NEWSLETTER

December, 2005

Principal – Gina Cataldo

Preschool Site Facilitator – Toby Banahasky

425 E. 18th St. Costa Mesa, CA 92627 (949) 515-6838

News and Reminders

Dear Parents,

It is with great pride to announce that the Harper Preschool Inclusion Program has been the recipient of the prestigious Golden Bell award from the California School Boards Association. The Harper Preschool Inclusion Program has made a significant difference in the lives of children and families, as it has provided a variety of classroom settings within one single learning community. The Harper Preschool Inclusion Program is a direct result of the N-MUSD vision to provide a world-class education for every child, every day.

The Harper Preschool Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) met on December 8th to discuss Harper Preschool related issues and successes. Parents of Harper Preschool students are encouraged to participate and, if interested, can contact Toby Banahasky, School Site Facilitator at (949) 515-6838. Our next PAC meeting will be March 2, 2006.



Santa is coming to Harper!

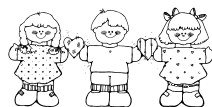
Santa will be making a lunch time appearance and visiting classrooms on December 20th. Please contact your child's teacher to obtain specific times.

Happy Holidays to all, and we will see you back here on **Monday, January 9, 2006!**

Sincerely,
Gina Cataldo, Principal

Important dates:

- **December 26th – January 6th Winter Break**
- **January 16th Martin Luther King Jr. Day
NON-STUDENT DAY**



DEVELOP YOUR CHILD'S ASSETS

By Heidi Quirk, Preschool Counselor

Developmental Assets are 40 key building blocks to help children succeed. This month we will focus on the "CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME" assets. These include: 1. Creative activities – Preschoolers participate in music, art, dramatic play, or other creative activities each day. 2. Out-of-home activities – Preschoolers interact in stimulating ways with children outside the family. 3. Religious Community – The family regularly attends religious programs or services while keeping children's needs in mind. 4. Positive, Supervised Time at Home – Preschoolers are supervised by an adult at all times and spend most evenings and weekends at home with their parents in predictable, enjoyable routines.

It is important to make sure preschoolers are being stimulated to grow everyday, and what they do with their time determines this. The more time your child spends with caring adults who help them nurture skills and creativity, the more likely your child will grow up healthy. Here are some tips for building Constructive Use of Time Assets:

- Set up an arts area in your home, and then model creativity for your child.
- Encourage your child's musical interests and sing songs with them
- Find ways to be involved in a faith congregation like volunteering to help out in a children's program
- Examine how your family spends their time. Set a weekly goal of having a balance of work, fun, family time and creative time.

