

# Pre-Kindergarten Update

October 2023

## Program Updates

\* Pre-K screenings were held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-four students were screened, with an anticipated start date of November 6<sup>th</sup>. Classrooms are now full at Highlands, Fieldcrest, and Chateaux. Our next Pre-K Screening Roundup will be held January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

\* Construction on the playground at the Primary Learning Center is now complete. Students have enjoyed the new play equipment as well as new flooring as they participate in gross motor activities.



## *Fire Prevention Week*

Our Pre-K students kicked off the month of October by participating in Fire Prevention Week. Fire fighters from the Markham Park, Country Club Hills, and Oak Forest Fire Departments visited our students to educate them on important actions they can take to keep those around them safe from home fires. Students watched a firefighter dress in his protective gear, listened to the sounds of his breathing through his mask, and touched the fabric of the bunker gear to ease any fears they may have of firefighters.



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## Academic Focus

Throughout the month of October students explored the *Trees Study*. Classrooms focused on demonstrating knowledge of the Earth's environment, using classification skills, identifying and naming letters, comparing and measuring, and patterning.

### Markham Park – Ms. Naggles

\*Classroom tree walk



### Markham Park – Ms. Castillo

\*After reading the book *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, students used their fine motor skills to rip paper to create trees. Then then found the letters in their name to place on the trees.





### Nob Hill – Ms. Crawford

\*Students used their scientific inquiry skills to explore tree bark, labeled parts of a tree, and used classification skills to sort leaves

### Nob Hill Early Childhood – Ms. Nemec

\*Using their five senses, students were assisted to feel, smell and hear the outside of a pumpkin. Once the pumpkin was open, students felt the inside of the pumpkin skin, the guts, and the seeds.



## Field Trips

On Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, the pre-k classes visited the **Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University** to see the play *Giraffes Can't Dance*. The stage adaptation of the children's book was filled with African rhythm and lots of dancing, as the main character Gerald, learned about how his differences make him special.



On Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, children visited **Chicago Children's Museum at Navy Pier**. The exhibits and experiences provided hands-on engagement with subjects like math, language, science, and engineering—combined with education-rich, play-filled activities.



## *Parent Advisory Council*

Constance Simms, SVP/Market Manager from Bank Financial shared strategies for budgeting, saving, credit repair, investing, and more at October's Pre-K Parent Workshop. Parents participated in conversations about saving for family emergencies, opening up children's bank accounts, and shared tips with one another about credit card usage. Children who attended the workshop had fun at the pumpkin decorating party, while their parents participated in the workshop.



## *Upcoming Events*

- \*11/17/23 – Pre-K Parent Workshop: Coffee and Conversations
- \*11/20/23 – PLC Meeting
- \*11/27/23 – Field Museum Field Trip