

Village of Orland Park Media Relations

NEWSRelease

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2010

Orland Park Recreation Department to Hold Open House *Village's Pre-School Program Showcased for Parents*

ORLAND PARK – The Village of Orland Park's Preschool Program is designed to help pre-schoolers develop the skills necessary for independent learning and socialization in a warm, fun-filled environment.

The **Orland Park Recreation Department** will host its Preschool Open House on **Thursday, January 14, 2010**. Both of the village's pre-school facilities will be showcased for parents from **6:30 P.M. until 8:00 P.M.**

Orland Park offers pre-school at the **Franklin E. Loebe Recreation Center, 14650 South Ravinia Avenue** and at the **Robert Davidson Center, 14700 Park Lane**, adjacent to the village's Cultural Arts Center.

"Each year, we allow ample time for parents to visit both buildings to decide where they'd like their children to attend pre-school," said Orland Park Recreation Program Supervisor Irene Buikema, the full-time staffer who oversees the program.

Offered by the Orland Park Recreation Department for more than 30 years, the village's preschool is comprised of two divisions. Junior Preschool meets two days a week for two-hour sessions and is available for pre-schoolers who will be three years old by September 1. Senior Preschool is open to four and five year olds, offered three days per week, in two and one half hour sessions. The village's preschool follows the standard academic year, September through May.

Roberta Flondor joined Orland Park's Playskool staff as an instructor in 1979 and was named the program's coordinator in 1989. "This is an exciting time for parents---especially those getting ready to enroll their first child in a pre-school program. Our Open House is a wonderful way for parents to see all that we offer," she said.

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VILLAGE OF ORLAND PARK

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Acclaimed as one of the best kindergarten preparatory programs in the area, the Village of Orland Park's Preschool Program helps prepare children for the academic and social opportunities of kindergarten. Creating a well-rounded academic foundation, Orland Park's Preschool curriculum includes academic instruction, arts and crafts, games, holiday parties and field trips.

Lesson plans for the three-year-old juniors include activities that promote hand-eye coordination, balance, body awareness and more. The senior level, for four and five year olds, helps prepare the young student for kindergarten. Both levels include letter and number recognition, science, creative art and more.

"We have received very positive feedback from kindergarten teachers and parents," Flondor said. "Teachers have let us know that the students who graduate from the village's program are well adjusted, both emotionally and socially, and are at the right level to begin their academic careers," she added.

"The stress of being in the classroom for the first time is eliminated because they've already adjusted to a classroom setting with the Recreation Department's Preschool," Flondor noted.

Orland Park's preschool faculty includes many degreed professionals who have chosen to work part-time in order to be with their own children. All of the instructors have strong backgrounds in early childhood education and all are certified in CPR and first-aid.

"We have a wonderful faculty that truly loves what they do," Buikema said. "We have moms, many of whom have put their full-time careers on hold, who teach our students, as well as education and early childhood majors from local colleges and universities. It's a diverse group," she added.

Classes are held at both the Franklin E. Loebe Recreation Center and at the Robert Davidson Center, adjacent to the village's Cultural Arts Center. Morning and afternoon sessions are available for both age groups.

"We're looking forward to having the many new families in the Orland Park area enroll in our program," Flondor said. "We've had the second, third, fourth and fifth child in many families come through the program---not to mention our preschool alumni who are now returning with their own children," Flondor added, smiling.

Further information and registration is available at the Village of Orland Park Recreation Department, located in the Franklin E. Loebe Recreation Center, 14650 South Ravinia Avenue, or by calling 708/403-PARK (7275).