**Hope Ridge Preschool, Inc.**

*“Where Children Love to Learn and Learn with Love”*

 December 2017

Dear Parents and Staff of Hope Ridge Preschool,

On behalf of the Preschool Council we hope that you had a great fall semester at our preschool! Our mission is to provide an environment “Where Children Love to Learn and Learn with Love”. The role of the Preschool Council is to assist the director in the guidance and management of the preschool. Our Preschool Council is composed of the preschool director, the preschool accountant, the Hope Ridge UMC Pastor, church members with education and business experience, and preschool parents. With all that in mind, we are pleased to provide you an update on what the Preschool Council has done in the past year to continue providing a high quality place for your child to love to learn and learn with love.

**Aesthetics​:** Last spring the Preschool council was able to acquire funding to repaint the preschool hallway, replace the floorboards, as well as spend the day volunteering with parents to perform a deep clean in the preschool classrooms.

**Teacher​ ​Luncheon**​: Preschool Council prepared and shared a delicious salad luncheon for staff during their annual end-of–school year workday.

**Celebrations**​: This past September our preschool celebrated its 50 th year of operation after being established in 1967. Working with the Parents of Preschoolers (POPS), we coordinated a Sunday afternoon celebrating the impact and work that the preschool has had in our community.

**High​ ​Standards**​: Our preschool continues to maintain its proper licensing in the state of Ohio, as well as an active membership in the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). In addition to basic licensing, the Preschool Council has worked with the director to exceed the basic standards through:

● Hiring teachers with integrity, education, and experience to maintain lower student to teacher ratios in the classroom. Additionally, teachers are expected to obtain 10 hours of additional professional development yearly to encourage current and successful teaching practices.

● Recruiting volunteers with backgrounds in education to assist the director in the fall Brigance screening to help reduce classroom disruption once school is in session.

● Determining it was in the preschool’s best interest to withdraw from the Step Up to Quality program in order to provide the director and teachers more time with students, less redundant paperwork and reports, and fewer expenses for the preschool.

 **Playground​ ​replacement**​: It was confirmed this fall that the preschool playground was in need of replacement. Working with the director, as well as POPS, the Preschool Council developed a plan to replace the preschool playground by the spring of 2018. This plan includes working directly with playground suppliers for cost-savings, coordinating donations and fundraising efforts with POPS, and seeking a variety of funding sources.

**Fiscal​ ​Responsibility**​: As a part of our monthly Preschool Council meetings, we review the finances of the preschool, which includes its balance sheet, income, and expenses. This responsibility also includes monitoring enrollment sizes and tuition costs to ensure that the preschool provides a positive learning environment at a reasonable price. This past fall the Preschool Council was able to increase the amount of funds in savings so that our preschool can maintain normal operations when replacements are needed, or if community enrollment decreases.

**Vision-casting**​: The Preschool Council has engaged with parents of the preschool, as well as church leadership, to set a three-year strategic improvement plan into motion. So far, this strategic plan has helped to improve the social media presence of the preschool, determined which certifications to retain or release, increased cash reserves of the preschool, and created a process for teacher evaluations and improvement. In the next year this group will focus on creating a three-year budget forecast, a three-year marketing plan, and maximizing student enrollment.

Once again, we hope that your student has had a great fall at Hope Ridge Preschool and that you have seen your child mature socially, demonstrating respect, responsibility, accountability, and empathy for others. We also hope they are excited about coming back in 2018! The Preschool Council believes that the work we’ve done has been in the best interest of the preschool students, parents, and staff. If you have any questions you’re more than welcome to contact the director or any of the Preschool Council members.

Sincerely,

Hope Ridge Preschool Council

Samantha Meunier, Preschool Director Linda Daly, Council Member

Douglas Aubin, Preschool Accountant Sue Patterson, Council Member

Beth Wilterdink, Hope Ridge Pastor Gary Darr, Council Member

Judy White, Council Chair Becky Dingeldein, Council Member

Diana Trubiani, Council Member Jon WIlterdink, Council Member

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\*Artwork created by

Hope Ridge students!