

# little people



Of Mahopac  
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## From Our Directors...

Welcome to both returning and new families as well! The month of September is an exciting time for everyone! The children have been quite happy getting reacquainted with old friends and meeting new friends. The teacher's have been looking forward to learning all there is to know about the children in their class. Together they are settling in and becoming very comfortable with each other and there classrooms, a great start to the year!

September is a month that signals the change of seasons and environment. Here at Little People, we have some changes to share as well. First, we have new additions to our staff. Rebecca and Veronica are co-teaching the Duck class. Lauren is teaching the Wolf class. Dana is teaching the Koala class. Also, Kelly has been an important part of developing and implementing curriculum for our new School-Age program. The children had a wonderful time with Kelly throughout the summer program and are ready and roaring to learn in the "Cheetah" class!

The staff is *ready*, the classrooms are *set* and the children are ready to *go*, full steam ahead, with a year of endless exploration and learning! Please take a minute to check out the Little People Parents section of this newsletter for important information!

## Upcoming Dates and Events

- September 19 - Rosh Hashanah

- **September 22nd** - First Day of Fall and Friends Day!
- **September 25th** - Midland Fund Raiser begins! Also Picture Day!  
All children will be having their picture taken by Slayton Studio
- **September 28th** - Yom Kippur

## Community Happenings

- **September 21st** - Best Chefs & Fine Wines Festival  
To benefit United way of Westchester & Putnam. 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
The Garrison, 2015 route 9, Garrison, N.Y. \$50.00 per person in advance.  
For more information, call Sharon Cahill at 845-621-2203
- **September 26th** - 2009 Community Appreciation Day  
Sponsored by New York Life Insurance Company 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Jefferson Valley Mall Parking Lot, 650 Lee Blvd., Yorktown Heights.  
For information and Vendor space, call Jay Mota at 914-934-5510
- **September 27th** - 22nd Annual Putnam Hospital Center Reservoir Classic Road Race. Five mile road race and two mile fun run/walk will both start and finish at Putnam Hospital Center, 670 Stoneleigh Avenue in Carmel.  
The race route follows along the scenic Croton Falls Reservoir.  
For more information contact Putnam Hospital Center.

## Our Incredible Infants

### Cubs

Hi again! Summer is over and we are getting ready for the fall and all of our new friends that have joined the Cub room.

Let's start by congratulating the small graduates that will be going into the Honey Bees room. We will miss them. It has been a pleasure and we have enjoyed watching them



start as small little infants and turn into wonderful young and interesting little grown-ups, Jack, Jonah, Julianna, Taylor and Kayla are moving up. We will miss them as well as the parents. They will be fine and we are right next door, just in case you miss the Cub room!

Our new babies are Craig, Avery, Natalie and Lukas. We would like to welcome you along with your parents. It will be exciting and a great learning experience getting to know the new arrivals. And let's not forget Hannah, she is now crawling and enjoying her independence. Along with her buddies Jeremy and Amelia, they are all crawling away into exploring new adventures. This month, Jack and Taylor will be celebrating their 1st birthday. The Cubs would like to wish them a Happy 1st Birthday! And let's not forget Julia. She is sitting and just about trying to crawl. She also enjoys the baby food jars!

Welcome again to the new families. We are excited about starting a new and exciting school year!

See you at the Cubs!

~Miss Anna and Miss Johanna

### Honey Bees

The Honey Bees have had a busy August! We spent some time exploring the different textures of sand and made our own mud paintings during "Dirt and Rock" week. We also made finger paintings of rocks and worms.

Later in the month, we learned about birds, painting baby chicks and a tree for them to live in. We also had fun touching feathers and brushing them on each other. We finished the month making our healthy hearts.

The Honey Bees had a great summer! We got a lot of fresh air playing outside, enjoying the beautiful weather. We are welcoming to our class in September, Kayla, Landon, Jack, Conner, Taylor, Jonah and Julianna!



Happy September,  
~Miss Michelle

## Our Terrific Toddlers

### Koala's

The end of the summer quickly approached us and we are sad to see it go! The Koalas enjoyed their summer activities, which included the nature of things, the petting zoo and stretch and grow! My friends and I are most sad that the ice cream man can no longer provide the sticky, drippy ice cream!



The children enjoyed creating crafts based around our weekly themes. Our favorite themes were 4th of July, sports week, water week and ocean life. Our class loved water play and painting the most!

We look forward to meeting our new friends and welcoming back our returning friends with the start of the new school year. I would also like to take this time to introduce myself. My name is Miss Dana and I am the new lead teacher in the Koala room. I am very excited about working with Miss Allie and all of you to make this a great year in the Koala room!

~Miss Dana, Miss Allie and the Koalas

### Chipmunks

Hi again! We have had such a great summer! Our class had good times playing and learning all about water and working on creative projects. Our favorite projects were sensory-related and sure did keep our little hands busy!

We enjoyed learning about the ocean, rocks and dirt, birds and healthy bodies. We had a great time singing new songs and old favorites. "I am Healthy", "Tractor, Tractor" and

our "Hello" song were the big hits!

Everyone loved having the chance to pick their favorite theme of the day during our last week of the summer program. The popular theme choices were princess, trucks, baseball and the beach.

Science learning and fun was a "hands-on" event when "The Nature of Things" and "The Pied Piper Petting Zoo" came to visit our center! Everyone had a hootin' good time, even the critters!



We sure will miss the Ice Cream Man, along with our summer fun, but, we look forward to what the new school year brings. We welcome back our old friends and our new friends, as well.

Until next time,  
~Miss Julie and Miss Jen

### Bunnies

August was another great month in summer camp! Some of our favorite books were "What Makes a Rainbow", "Science Close Up" and "Am I Big or Little". We had fun painting with rocks, marbles and a toothbrush. Our favorite songs were "Ring Around the Rosy", "The Bee Song" and "Mr. Sun".

We enjoyed when the animals came, the petting zoo and the ice cream truck. Juga Tuga, science and stretch-n-grow were a lot of fun, also. But most of all, we liked playing outside in the water.



We are sad to see summer go, but we are very excited to start a new school year with a new classroom and a new teacher.

Welcome,  
~Miss Erin and Miss Toni

## Our Precious Preschoolers

### Ducks

I have already met most of you, but I would like to introduce myself again. My name is Beky Mauriello and I live in Putnam Valley, NY. I received a Bachelor's degree from SUNY Binghamton and am currently receiving a Masters degree in Childhood and Special Education at Fordham University. I have been a student teacher in a fourth grade classroom in Chappaqua and in a second grade and Kindergarten classroom in Putnam Valley. Teaching has always been my passion; I spend my summers as a lifeguard and teaching swim lessons to young children. I am really excited about the upcoming year,

and I hope that in addition to helping your students learn this year, I can learn from them!

I have only been with the Ducks for a short time, but I already feel as if they are my own. We are building a classroom community and each unique child plays an important role. We have been spending the first two weeks of school establishing classroom routines and getting to know each other.

This week we are learning about apples. We will be making snacks with apples, reading books about apples, counting apples and even painting with apples.

Because we are focusing on getting to know ourselves and each other this month, we will spend next week talking about our families and our homes. If possible, please send in a photograph of your families for your child to share with their classmates.

I am very excited to continue to learn about each child in my class and to create a classroom community that is fun, safe, and one that engages and challenges every student in my class.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns!

~Miss Beky and Miss Veronica

### Cheetahs

It's hard to believe, but summer is over and the Cheetahs have headed back to school! We had a wonderful summer together, but the Cheetahs are excited to make new friends at school.

In the month of August, we watched Buddy the Bookworm grow and grow! Buddy helps us keep track of all the books we read together as a class. Feel free to take a look at Buddy to learn about the many books that we have read together!

This month, we will be learning "All About the Cheetahs," which will include making life-size portraits and all about me books! We will also be celebrating the season of fall by making leaf rubbings, sorting leaves, leaf people and tissue paper trees.

Miss Kelly wishes her Cheetah friends much luck in Kindergarten and first grade!

~Miss Kelly

## **Our Precocious Pre-K**

### Wolves

Hello friends. Welcome to the Wolves classroom! My name is Miss Lauren. What a pleasure it's been getting to know your "Little People"!! Although your children and I have spent a short amount of time together, we've kept ourselves busy by listening to stories, singing songs and learning about the classroom rules and routines.

For the families that I have yet to meet, let me share my background with you. Last year was my first year being a head teacher; I taught Kindergarten in a Bronx public school. Before I taught in the Bronx, I worked in a public school, for 3 years, in Briarcliff Manor, as a teacher's aide in a first grade classroom. I was also a teaching assistant in a second grade classroom, for 1 year, in a private school. In addition, I've been dancing since I was 5 years old. During the summer months, I am a head dance counselor at a day camp in Armonk. There is no question that teaching is my passion and I'm very excited to have the opportunity to work with such a wonderful group of children this year.

Even though

I've just met your children, I feel like they are my own!



September will be a busy month! Since it's Back to School time, our major theme is "Me, Myself and My Friends". This month we will also begin our classroom jobs! These jobs are important because my "Happy Helpers" for the week will have big responsibilities such as helping clean up garbage around the room, being a line leader or a line ender, helping out with calendar, announcing the weather and assisting with handing out the supplies.

I would like to thank the Wolves, the Little People staff and the Little People parents for making me feel so welcome! Thanks for all your support and I look forward to a fun-filled year!

~Miss Lauren

## Little People Parents

- Important-please provide updated immunization records for your child. If your child is under the age of 3 years old you must provide us with updated record of immunization after every immunization. Children over the age of 3 years must have their medical records updated every year. All physicals **must be recorded on the state mandated form** available in the office.
- To be successful in providing a secure learning experience for a child, communication between parents and educators is a must. It is in this spirit that we will be exploring the interest and options of forming a steering committee for a potential "Little People Parents Organization." Some of our parents have expressed interest. If you would like to participate in organizing this important parent organization, stop by the office and let us know. We are planning to host an informal first meeting for parents to begin exchanging information and ideas. A partnership and direct line of communication between the center and our parents would serve both well. It would certainly be an added benefit to the overall success of the center, and most importantly, the children. We look forward to hearing from you.