

# Wheaton Park District

## Early Childhood

### Report



2013

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## Introduction

The Wheaton Park District Wide Horizons Preschool located at the Community Center and Rathje Park House and Early Childhood programming at both Toohey Park and the Community Center provide numerous educational and recreational opportunities for this age group in our community. Early Childhood programs are fortunate to have a staff of dedicated and caring teachers who strive to meet the needs of our participants. All of our Wide Horizons teaching staff has degrees in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, and/or Special Education and many have current Illinois teaching certificates. This allows us to stay competitive within the Wheaton area, which is home to more than twenty different preschools.

## I. Participant Numbers

### Wide Horizons Preschool

Location	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	W/Spring 2012	W/Spring 2013
Rathje	20	27	33	34
Community Center	103	101	102	102
Total	123	127	135	136

### Participation Summary

2011 – 2012: 258 participants

2012 - 2013: 263 participants

Variance: 5 participants; 2% increase

## Community Center Early Childhood Classes & Holiday Events

Class	Winter 2012	Winter 2013	Spring 2012	Spring 2013	Fall 2012	Fall 2013
Two By Two's	0	0	0	0	0	--
Lil Chefs	22	20	20	19	13	9
Come Play with Me	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kindergarten Cookery	16	20	8	14	10	12
Yippee I'm 3	9	0	11	0	0	0
Terrific Two's	12	10	12	--	10	9
Me & My Daddy	6	0	8	8	7	0
Totin' 2's	11	16	11	16	12	14
Holiday Cookie Craze	--	0	--	0	9	--
Theme cooking classes	81	35	13	28	55	8
Kid Rock	31	23	13	25	49	45
Music Together	94	108	93	85	106	87
December Sing-A-Long	--	--	--	--	81	78
Masks & More	--	--	--	--	8	0
Candy Cane Hunt	--	--	--	--	57	56
Santa Claus Home Visits	--	--	--	--	18	21
Princess Ball	106	124	--	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	393	356	206	195	443	339

-- Seasonal programs.

### **Participation Summary**

2010: 846 participants  
 2011: 984 participants  
 2012: 1042 participants  
 2013: 890 participants

Variance: -152 participants; (17%)

\*Due to additional classes with the Wide Horizons program and the availability of the preschool rooms in the morning at the Community Center we have had to move programs to afternoon time slots which have not been popular with families. Also our themed cooking classes have gone down in enrollment due to the recent unavailability of that instructor.

**Toohey Park Building Early Childhood Participation**

Name	Winter 2012	Winter 2013	Spring 2012	Spring 2013	Fall 2012	Fall 2013
Two's Go To School	15	11	10	14	7	14
Simply 3's	14	15	16	14	13	0
Tiny Tots 1	12	9	12	9	12	10
Tiny Tots 2	10	12	12	13	12	12
Afternoon Adventures	25	28	32	30	25	10
Time Out! At Toohey Park	16	13	16	14	0	12
Explore More Mondays <b>NEW</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	16
Outdoor Fridays at Safety City <b>NEW</b>	NA	NA	NA	11	NA	12
Safety City Class	21	15	9	0	0	0
Safety City Back to School Event	--	--	--	--	33	45
Santa's Workshop for Tykes	--	--	--	--	33	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>187</b>

--Seasonal programs.

**Participation Summary**

2010: 379 participants

2011: 351 participants

2012: 355 participants

2013: 395 participants

**Variance: 40 participants; 10%**

## Safety City Birthday Parties & Field Trips by # of Groups

Type	Winter 2012	Winter 2013	Spring 2012	Spring 2013	Summer 2012	Summer 2013	Fall 2012	Fall 2013
Birthday Party	5	5	5	6	3	7	8	11
Field Trip	2	2	7	2	0	0	4	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>

### Party and Field Trip Summary

2010: 31  
 2011: 31  
 2012: 34  
 2013: 35

**Variance: 1 Birthday Party; 1%**

## Safety City Birthday Parties & Field Trips by # of Participants

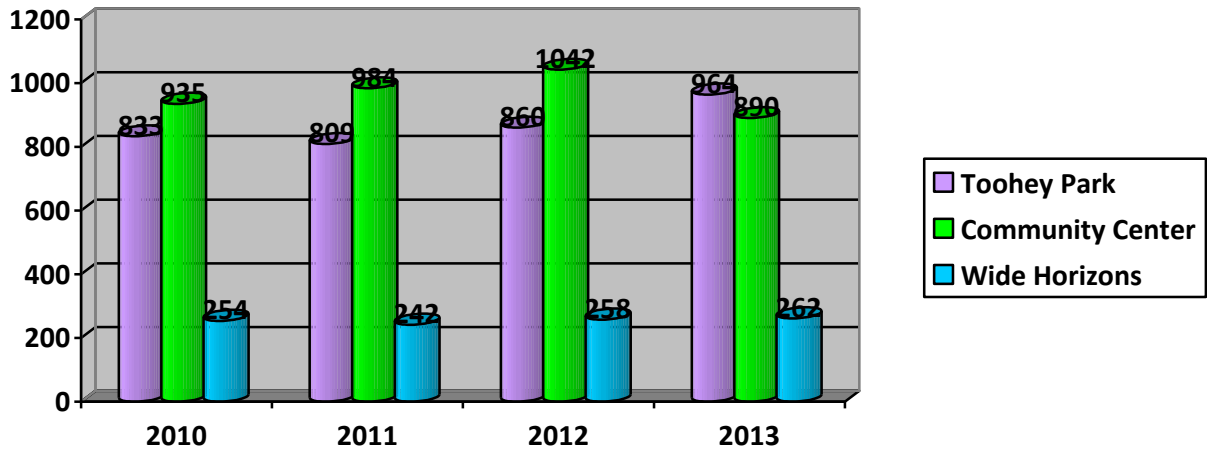
Type	Winter 2012	Winter 2013	Spring 2012	Spring 2013	Summer 2012	Summer 2013	Fall 2012	Fall 2013
Birthday Party	80	72	75	95	46	113	120	179
Field Trip	15	18	113	36	0	0	56	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>235</b>

### Party and Field Trip Participation Summary

2010: 454 participants  
 2011: 458 participants  
 2012: 505 participants  
 2013: 569 participants

**Variance: 64 participants; 11%**

2010 - 2013: Total Wide Horizons/Early Childhood Program Participation



# Wide Horizons & Early Childhood | 2013

## II. Data – Budget Summary

Program Group	Salaries (5000)	Supplies (7000)	Contractual (8000)	Revenues (4000)	Total Expenses	Net Revenue
Wide Horizons 2009-2010	61,326.22	1,804.75	292.82	97,907.60	63,423.79	34,483.81
Wide Horizons 2010-2011	57,446.09	1,200.00	250.00	98,432.00	58,896.09	39,535.91
Wide Horizons 2011-2012	66,495.00	2,303.35	449.99	125,598.00	69,248.34	56,349.66
Wide Horizons 2012-2013	69,574.65	2,261.46	884.97	129,667.75	72,721.08	56,946.67
Toohey Park 2010	21,501.73	665.77	0	31,672.80	22,167.50	9,505.30
Toohey Park 2011	21,471.57	672.12	0	33,202.50	22,143.69	11,058.81
Toohey Park 2012	23,922.11	773.32	0	37,433.00	24,695.43	12,737.57
Toohey Park 2013	23,318.86	871.84	0	37,350.00	24,190.70	13,159.30
Community Center 2010	11,299.31	326.27	47,603.31	87,055.75	59,228.89	27,826.86
Community Center 2011	15,859.90	735.77	47,714.96	90,652.80	64,310.63	26,342.17
Community Center 2012	17,130.64	1,952.74	42,109.32	79,332.40	61,192.70	18,139.70
Community Center 2013	17,208.55	1,039.59	40,003.27	74,374.00	58,251.41	16,122.59
Total 2010	94,127.26	2,796.79	47,896.13	216,636.15	144,820.18	71,815.97
Total 2011	94,777.56	2,607.89	47,964.96	222,287.30	145,350.41	76,936.89
Total 2012	107,547.75	5,029.41	42,559.31	242,363.40	155,136.47	87,226.93
Total 2013	110,102.06	4,172.89	40,888.24	241,391.75	155,163.19	86,228.56

\*The Wide Horizons revenue increased \$4,069.75.

\*Contractual program revenue decreased \$2,106.05 for Music Together.

\*Salaries increased \$2,554.31 due to an increase in Toohey Park programs and increasing the Wide Horizons base staff to \$12 per hour.

\*Supplies decreased \$856.52 due to purchasing supplies in bulk throughout the year.

\*Community Center revenue decreased \$2,017.11 due a reduction of one or two day early childhood programs.



### **III. Summary of Programming**

The Wheaton Park District provides affordable, educational and recreational preschool and early childhood programming to the residents of Wheaton. Classes are designed primarily on the philosophy of play-based learning. The atmosphere in the classrooms, whether it is Wide Horizons or one of the early childhood classes, emphasizes socialization, school readiness, motor skill development, arts and crafts, music, and indoor and outdoor play.

Teachers are required to develop their own lesson plans and fashion a classroom atmosphere that will change with each different unit themes. All teachers must send children home with newsletters to keep parents informed of classroom happenings.

### **IV. Highlights for Wide Horizons Preschool**

- Wide Horizons participated in the “Mittens for Many” mitten drive in the fall of 2013. Students were asked to donate one pair of new mittens to benefit the People’s Resource Center in Wheaton. One hundred and seventeen pairs of mittens were collected and donated.
- The Lincoln Marsh taught a recycling program to all of the Wide Horizons Preschool to promote “America’s Recycle Day.”
- The Wheaton Fire Department and the Wheaton Police Department were able to visit the Wide Horizons classrooms on separate occasions.
- Wide Horizons classes participated in the “Take Five for Your Child” event during class time. Parents and/or guardians were invited to come and enjoy five or more minutes of their child’s preschool day: reading, making a craft or playing games and activities. This activity took place during the “Week of the Young Child”.
- Visual Image Photography took the school photos in 2013.
- The Raisin Rhyme Band held a special children’s concert in the Memorial Room for the fall special event for all Wide Horizons participants.
- Wide Horizons classes held parties throughout the year to celebrate the holidays which included: Valentine’s Day, Thanksgiving, and as multicultural December holiday party.

## V. Highlights for Early Childhood programs

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Daddy Daughter Princess Ball took place this year with 62 couples; 124 participants, which was up 14% from 2012 at the Community Center. They enjoyed an ice cream sundae bar, a princess visit, crafts, photos and dancing.
- The Toohey Park Building and staff hosted the annual “Back to School Event” on Saturday, August 25 from 10 am – Noon. The Wheaton Fire Department, Police Department and First Student Bus Company provided vehicles for the children to explore. The Lincoln Marsh provided an educational area and representatives from New York Life provided child identity kits.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Week of the Young Child” event took place on April 12 – 20 with 830 participants and their families participating in events and classes throughout the week.
- The Easter Bunny Home Visits took place on Saturday, March 16 & 23 with 25 children participating.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Candy Cane Hunt took place at Northside Park on December 6. There were 56 participants attending this year. I would like to thank the Wheaton Warrenville South High School Key Club for sending 20 volunteers to help out with the event.
- Thirteen early childhood and Wide Horizons Preschool staff were recertified in CPR/First Aid.
- Twenty-one families took advantage of the Santa Claus Home Visits.
- Toohey Park began offering a class called “Explore More Mondays” which has been a huge success with every session filled to capacity.

## VI. Highlights for Week of the Young Child

The Wheaton Park District held its second annual “Week of the Young Child” events the week of April 12 - 20, 2013. The purpose of the Week of the Young Child™ is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

The Wheaton Park District is proud to have taken part in this important nationally recognized week long celebration of the young child. The 2014 event is scheduled for April 25 – May 3, 2014.

### Week of the Young Child Event Schedule and Participation Numbers

Date	Event	Location	Participant #'s
Friday, April 12	Ice Cream Social	Community Center	400
Monday, April 15	Kid Rock Demo	Community Center	45
Monday, April 15	Soccer Shots Demo	Seven Gables Park	25
Tuesday, April 16	Wetland Wonders	Lincoln Marsh	51
Tuesday, April 16	Wide Horizons Preschool	Community Center/Rathje	70
Tuesday, April 16	Prairie Path Miniature Golf	Clock Tower Commons	38
Tuesday, April 16	Bend ‘n’ Ballet Class	Community Center	3
Wednesday, April 17	Wide Horizons Preschool	Community Center/Rathje	40
Wednesday, April 17	Go-Go Robics	Community Center	15
Wednesday, April 17	Safety City Open Road	Toohey Park	24
Wednesday, April 17	Soccer Shots Demo	Seven Gables Park	31
Wednesday, April 17	Mommy and Me Ballet	Community Center	11
Thursday, April 18	Sensational Senses Nature Hikes	Canceled due to weather	0
Thursday, April 18	Prairie Path Miniature Golf	Canceled due to weather	0
Thursday, April 18	Kidz Kingdom Playdate	Community Center	10
Thursday, April 18	Soccer Shots Demo	Seven Gables Park	10
Thursday, April 18	Creative Movement Dance Class	Community Center	5
Thursday, April 18	PreDance Dance Class	Community Center	5
Thursday, April 18	Theatre Dance Class	Community Center	7
Friday, April 19	Music Together Demo Class	Community Center	40
Saturday, April 20	Go Fly a Kite Event (District Program)	Canceled due to weather	0
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>830 Participants</b>

## Highlights

- Happy Baby Organic Food Products donated \$250 towards, the Week of the Young Child event. In return for the sponsorship they were provided add space on all flyers and posters, and a table at both the Wide Horizons Open House and at the Ice Cream Social to promote their products.
- Special Facilities passed out 218 Wheaton Park District coupon books, worth over \$4,900 as a promotion. The coupon book included a pass for a bucket of balls at Arrowhead Golf Course's driving range, one free day pass for either Rice Pool and Aquatic Park or Northside Aquatic Center, and one round of golf at Prairie Path Mini Golf.
- The Scholastic Book Fair was a giant success with patrons purchasing over \$1,000 in merchandise. In return, Wide Horizons Preschool and Kidz Kingdom received scholastic dollars' worth 55% of the sales to purchase new books and/or classroom supplies.
- The Ice Cream Social on Friday, April 12th was an enormous success with over 400 participants. Good Humor donated over 400 ice cream bars with a value of \$1000.
- A raffle Passport was created to encourage families to visit all the tables at the Ice Cream Social.
- Two (2) \$25 gift cards were raffled at the Ice Cream Social with 45 families completing the raffle post card.
- The following companies and Wheaton Park District facilities were present at the Ice Cream Social: Happy Baby Organic Food Products, New York Life (fingerprinting), Wide Horizons Preschool, Parks Plus Fitness, Kidz Kingdom, Rice Pool and Aquatic Park, Northside Aquatic Center, Music Together, DuPage Historical Museum, Pottery, Wheaton Newcomers Association, Lincoln Marsh and WDSRA (Western DuPage Special Recreation Association).

## VII. Recommendations for 2014

- To continue to work with Kidz Kingdom to promote programs and events together.
- To work with the marketing department in order to secure more donations for the Safety City Back to School Event and the Daddy Daughter Princess Ball.
- To create a mother/son night out dance night in the fall of 2014.
- To create more early childhood programming at the Community Center in regards to foreign language classes, weekend and night classes for children whose parents work fulltime.
- To incorporate a 4 day a week Wide Horizon Preschool Program at the Community Center.
- Continue to secure Key Club volunteer from WWSHS and WNHS for various special events throughout the year.



**“Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere”  
Chinese Proverb**