

Wheaton Park District Early Childhood Report



2014

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Table of Contents

Statistical Data

Introduction	Page	3
Wide Horizons Preschool Participation	Page	3
Community Center Early Childhood Classes & Holiday Event Participation	Page	4
Toohey Park Early Childhood Participation	Page	5
Safety City Parties & Field Trips by Groups	Page	6
Safety City Parties & Field Trips by Participants	Page	6
Graph of Attendance (Wide Horizons, Community Center and Toohey)	Page	7
Wide Horizons & Early Childhood Summary (Data)	Page	8
Summary of Wide Horizons & Early Childhood Programming	Pages	9 - 10
Highlights of the Week of the Young Child	Pages	11
Recommendations and Action Plan for 2015	Page	11

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. More than 85 % of 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	2012-2013	2013-2014
Rathje	34	31
Community Center	102	103
Total	136	134

Participation Summary

2012 - 2013: 136 participants

2013 – 2014: 134 participants

Variance: 2 participants; 1% decrease

Community Center Early Childhood Classes & Holiday Events

Class	Winter 2013	Winter 2014	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2013	Fall 2014
Lil Chefs	20	17	19	18	9	12
Kindergarten Cookery	20	10	14	15	12	12
Terrific Two's	10	10	--	10	9	--
Me & My Daddy	0	0	8	9	0	0
Theme cooking classes	35	0	28	15	8	11
Kid Rock	23	49	25	24	45	25
Music Together	108	87	85	64	87	78
December Sing-A-Long	--	--	--	--	78	86
Santa Claus Home Visits	--	--	--	--	21	19
Princess Ball	124	157	--	--	--	--
Super Hero Bowling	15	--	--	--	--	--
Mom/Son Bingo	--	--	--	--	--	74
Total	356	330	195	155	339	317

-- Seasonal programs.

Participation Summary

2013: 834 participants

2014: 802 participants

Variance: 32 participants; 4% decrease

Justification:

The reduction in participation is due to the decrease in attendance of Music Together programs.

Toohey Park Building Early Childhood Participation

Name	Winter 2013	Winter 2014	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2013	Fall 2014
Two's Go To School	11	14	14	9	14	8
Simply 3's	15	9	14	13	0	0
Tiny Tots 1	9	10	9	10	10	10
Tiny Tots 2	12	11	13	12	12	8
Afternoon Adventures	28	27	30	29	10	14
Friends and Fun at Toohey	13	16	14	16	12	0
Totin Two's	16	14	16	11		14
Explore More Mondays	NA	16	NA	17	16	14
Outdoor Fridays at Safety City	NA	NA	11	16	12	9
Safety City Class	15	8	0	7	0	0
Safety City Back to School Event	--	--	--	--	45	--
Santa's Workshop for Tykes	--	--	--	--	56	48
Total	119	125	121	140	187	125

--Seasonal programs.

Participation Summary

2013: 427 participants

2014: 390 participants

Variance: 37 participants; 8 % decrease

Justification:

The decrease in participants is due to the elimination of the Back to School Safety City Event which was proven not to be sustainable.

Safety City Birthday Parties by # of Groups

Type	Winter 2013	Winter 2014	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Summer 2013	Summer 2014	Fall 2013	Fall 2014
Birthday Party	5	3	6	5	7	5	11	7

Party and Field Trip Summary

2013: 29

2014: 20

Variance: 9 Birthday Party; 31% decrease

Safety City Birthday Parties by # of Participants

Type	Winter 2013	Winter 2014	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Summer 2013	Summer 2014	Fall 2013	Fall 2014
Birthday Party	72	56	95	79	113	62	179	110

Party and Field Trip Participation Summary

2013: 459 participants

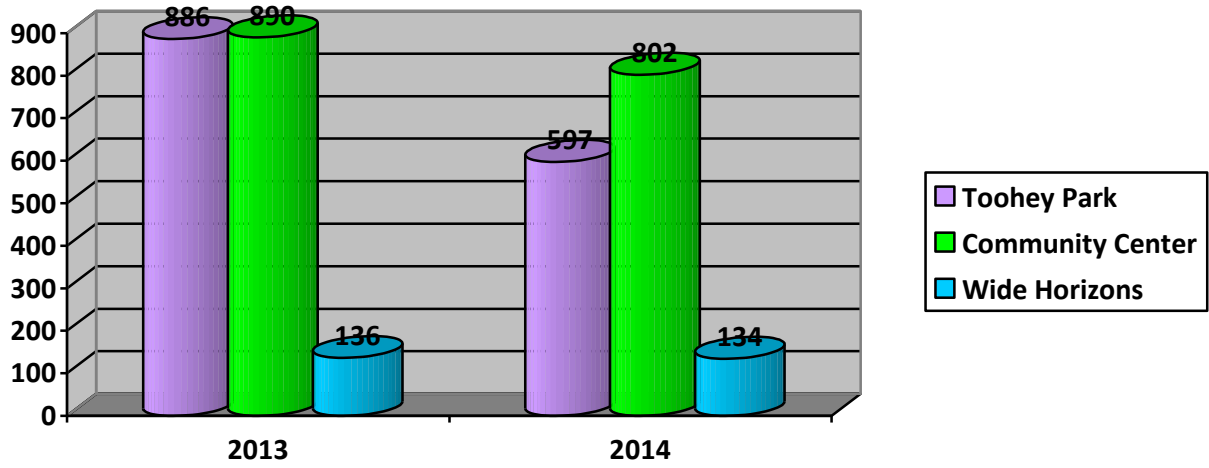
2014: 207 participants

Variance: 252 participants; 54% decrease

Justification:

The drastic change in participation numbers is due to the lack of interest in the safety badges program from the Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts in in 2014.

Total Wide Horizons/Early Childhood Program Participation



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
Wide Horizons 2013-2014	60,400.37	2,674.73	1,348.43	140,792.27	64,423.53	76,368.74
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
Toohey Park 2014	21,902.58	957.63	0	40,919.10	22,860.21	18,058.89
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
Community Center 2014	2,117.47	1,548.56	35,717.28	58,657.82	39,383.31	19,274.51
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
Total 2014	84,420.42	5,180.92	37,065.71	240,369.19	126,667.05	113,702.14

*The Wide Horizons revenue increased \$19,422.07 due to increased program fees and the addition of a 4 day a week program.

*Total net overall revenue increased \$27,473.58 due to the Wide Horizons program increases and the addition of Explore More Mondays, Outdoor Fridays at Toohey Park, and Totin Two's at Toohey Park.

*Community Center revenue decreased \$15,716.18 due to a reduction of one or two day early childhood programs and the decrease in revenue from Music Together.

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 held an Open House for potential new students on January 15 with 25 families attending.
- A Dental Practice game to our classrooms to discuss with students the importance of dental care.
- In April, Wide Horizons preschoolers took a field trip to Cosley Zoo.
- 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".
- Wide Horizons took participated in a school fundraiser from "Art to Remember" and raised \$350.00. This fundraiser allowed the students to create a special work of art in class and then it can be made into a number of different items such as coffee mugs, book bags and calendars.
- In October the Wheaton Fire Department made a visit to the classrooms to talk about fire safety.
- Staff attended Autism and Kindergarten Readiness workshops conducted by the Wheaton Warrenville Early Childhood Collaboration.
- The Lincoln Marsh conducted workshops entitled "What is a Marsh?" in all of the classrooms.

- Staff attended the DuPage NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) conference and explored a range of topics.
- The Preschool and Camp Manager has joined the Wheaton Warrenville Early Childhood Collaboration.
- Wide Horizons staff attended a workshop conducted by the Lincoln Marsh entitled PLT (Project Learning Tree) Early Childhood.

V. Highlights for Early Childhood programs and Holiday Events

- The 3rd Annual Daddy Daughter Princess Ball took place this year with 75 couples; 150 participants. They enjoyed an ice cream sundae bar, a princess visit, crafts, photos and dancing.
- Fourteen early childhood and Wide Horizons Preschool staff were recertified in CPR/First Aid.
- Nineteen families took advantage of the Santa Claus Home Visits.
- Explore More Mondays at Toohey Park – this class has a theme that involves teaching outreach and giving back to the community.
 - Class made a fleece blanket for Lurie Children’s Hospital
 - Class made snowman ornaments and tied them to treat bags that the children assembled to be distributed to the patrons at the People’s Resource Center.
 - Students decorated a single sheet wall calendar as requested for the food pantry participants of the People’s Resource Center.
 - Day of Giving project – student’s decorated two notepads, one to keep and the other to give to someone they thought could benefit from an unexpected surprise.
- Toohey Park families can move through the cycles of classes from mom and tot classes for 1 year olds through kindergarten enrichment at age six. We have many families that have done this with multiple children and assist us with advertising our programs through word of mouth and social media.
- As a facility Toohey Park is collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House.
- TerraCycle Project – Collection continues of empty juice boxers, sauce pouches and glue sticks.
- Safety City hosted a birthday party for a special needs child. Modifications to the event were made with the use of wheel chairs and modified bikes. Party parent was brought to tears at the end of the party when she explained how this was a dream come true for her child and family.
- The 1st Inaugural Mother Son Bingo night was held at the Community Center in November with 74 people participating.

VII. Highlights from the Week of the Young Child

The Wheaton Park District held its annual “Week of the Young Child” events the week of April 25 – May 3, 2014. 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.

- Events sponsors were Prairie Path Books, Kid Rock, Soccer Shots and the Wheaton Newcomers Association.
- Over 200 people attended the Ice Cream Social at the Community Center to inquire about community and park district programs.
- Throughout the week, 217 children took part in free classes were available at all park district facilities to promote our programs.
- The Scholastic Book Fair was a giant success with patron’s purchasing approximately \$950 in merchandise. In return, Wide Horizons Preschool and Early Childhood Education classes received scholastic dollars’ worth 55% of the sales to purchase new books or supplies for their classrooms.

VIII. Recommendations and Action Plan for 2015

- To continue to work with Kidz Kingdom to promote programs and events.
- To work with the Marketing Department to secure more donations and sponsorships for the Safety City Mom and Son Bingo Night and the Daddy Daughter Princess Ball.
- Continue to secure Key Club volunteer from WWSHS and WNHS for various special events.
- Create more marketing opportunities for Toohey Park and Safety City field trips and birthday parties.
- Investigate ways to advertise our programs in communities outside of Wheaton.
- Continue to create activities for Toohey Park classes that are age appropriate, educational, fun and innovative.
- Increase awareness of Safety City’s field trip option for preschools and school groups in the area.
- To continue to encourage staff members to attend workshops and further their education.
- Targeted eblast to promote early childhood programs, specifically weekend and evening options for working parents.
- Develop relationships with online social networking communities to promote programs.