



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FAMILY AWARENESS NETWORK OF NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP (FAN),
CHICAGO CHILDREN'S MUSEUM and NORTHLIGHT THEATRE
OCTOBER 26, 2010 LECTURE and OCTOBER 24 AND 27 WORKSHOPS

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Tuesday, October 26, The Power of the Arts: Habits of Mind and Mood, 7:00-9:00 PM, The Skokie School auditorium, 520 Glendale Ave., Winnetka, IL, 60093. In a rare Midwest public appearance, **Ellen Winner, Ph.D., Chair of the Psychology Department at Boston College**, and a senior researcher for **Project Zero** based at **Harvard's School of Education**, will deliver a fascinating talk on her decades-long research into "studio thinking," the habits of mind developed by fine arts training. Many claims have been made about the power of the arts to raise IQ, SAT scores, and grades, but these claims often exceed the evidence – first we must define what kinds of thinking skills are trained by learning in a particular art form. Visual arts teaching fosters a set of broad habits of mind, including learning to observe, envision, express, reflect, engage-and-persist, and stretch-and-explore. When students study theater, they practice stepping into the shoes of others, taking the perspective of their characters, and feeling the feelings of their characters, improving empathy. Dr. Winner's research also shows that art making enhances our mood, not by the expression, working through, and release of negative feelings, but by providing an escape from the present into an imaginary world. This program's fresh topic will appeal to parents of kids ages 3-18. CPDUs available for education professionals. Sponsored by **FAN**, in partnership with the **Chicago Children's Museum**, **Northlight Theatre** and **The Skokie and Carleton Washburne Schools** in Winnetka. FAN is grateful for its 2010-11 exclusive health care sponsorship by **NorthShore University HealthSystem**. Book sale and signing, courtesy of FAN's official bookseller, **The Book Stall** of Winnetka. For more information, visit www.fan-ntts.org.

BONUS EVENT #1: Northlight Theatre is offering a **FREE Masterclass** in acting for experienced high school students prior to Dr. Winner's event, on **Sunday, Oct. 24, 7:00-8:30 PM, Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie**. Workshop will focus on acting as a tool to enhance empathy, and will be led by **Alex Goodrich**, a Northlight main stage actor appearing this fall in *A Civil War Christmas*. **Space is limited to 30; info and registration at fan-ntts.org.**

BONUS EVENT #2: Chicago Children's Museum is offering a **FREE** workshop, "**The Journey of Art: Sustaining Creativity Through Open-Ended Activities**," for parents of young children the morning after Dr. Winner's lecture, on **Wednesday, Oct. 27, 9:00-10:30 AM**, at the **Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln Ave**. Workshop will present approaches to open-ended art activities with young children, and will be led by CCM staff. **Dr. Winner will attend the workshop and offer commentary. Space is limited to 30; info and registration at fan-ntts.org.**

