

## *Re-enrollment time is upon us*

With each spring we begin planning for the next year. We are excited to have already distributed our registration forms to you that include two important notes. One is that there are **no increases of rates** for all program blocks. The only rate increase is in our hourly rate which will primarily affect drop-in care. Secondly, if you register before April 15th there is a significant discount on the deposit that gets turned in with your registration.

We are working hard to keep costs down, enrollment up and our current staffing in place. We are committed to you, our parents in providing the best programs the area has to offer, and are looking for your commitment in return by filling out your forms and letting us know what your plans are for next year.

We also encourage parents to set up a time to come in and visit our classrooms, both your own child's and the other programs we have. This may help you get a clearer view of how much goes on at Brookwood in one short morning, let alone a year!

Each of our teachers are providing great experiences, and opportunities to the children in their rooms, as well as all of the extra value programming such as French, Music, PE and other indoor and outdoor activities.



Thank you to everyone who has supported our Annual Giving Appeal. I hope everyone will participate.

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Sign up now for Spring Break Childcare.

# From the Board



## Share Your Story

What a great time of year. The snow is melting, the daylight is increasing, and hopefully outdoor activities are plentiful. With the start of spring we are all anxious to look forward to the warmer months. The Board of Trustees is also looking ahead. We are focusing on efforts to increase enrollment in the fall and as you may have seen in the mailbox recently (our Spring Annual Fund Appeal), conveying the impact of The Brookwood School story.

The appeal you received is just one example of the great experiences had by parent and child. This story is the fabric of our organization and provides all of us the great reminder of how fortunate we are to have Brookwood in our backyard. We hope that Liana's mom's story strikes a cord in your experience with the school. When you have a moment the next time you are transporting your child to school, please knock on Gina's door and convey your Brookwood experience. Thank you for your support and commitment.

Joshua Truman

Josh has recently joined our Board



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The Boogie for Brookwood date is set for Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Get your dancing shoes ready and mark the date!**



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## News You Can Use

With the spring thaw will come the need for waterproof outdoor gear and a change of clothes.

We are still collecting boxtops and labels. Please keep checking out the websites and **register** for them! We can get great freebies!

Amazon.com has "Amazon Moms" where you can get a discount on things moms (and dads) use.

Check the Family Handbook for our policies on illness and more.

We post lots on information in the glass case in the lobby.

# PTO Page

## Family to Family Sale Friday, all day & Saturday, 9-2

### Gently Used:

Clothing & Shoes, Toys, Books & Games

Strollers and baby equipment of all kinds

Housewares, Home Décor



\* In keeping with Brookwood's effort  
to stay green, please bring your own  
shopping bags.

- Thanks

... and more!

Cash & Checks Only



### **PTO MEETINGS**

Meetings are held once a month on the first Wednesday of the month. This month our meeting is on **Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 pm. Next month it's on **May 4<sup>th</sup>**.

*Come join this dedicated, energetic group consisting of teachers, parents and Board members!*

# Montessori and Sensorial Toddlers

*Maria Montessori's view on the learning child sees not so much the task of filling the mind with information, but rather of constructing the mind through activity according to inner directives and urges.*

— Dr. Peter Gebhardt-Steele

*physicist & Montessori teacher trainer*

Before the age of six, a child learns from direct contact with the environment, by means of all the senses and movement. The child literally absorbs what is in the environment. The toys and materials in the home and school should be of the very best quality to call forth self-respect, respect and care from the child toward the environment, and the development of an appreciation of beauty. Children of this age are driven by their senses. They must see, hear, touch, and taste their environment. All the materials in a toddler classroom are based on the child using two or more of his senses at once. Maria Montessori stated that children learn best when the work uses two or more senses. She specifically designed her materials for this purpose. As the child explores the environment, she becomes aware of an interest in the variety of colors and shapes in the indoor and outdoor environment. This is the time to give very simple shape and color puzzles as children love to put things inside containers and on dowels. The use of knobbed puzzles and other toys that call for special finger and hand grips will prepare the child for writing and other fine muscle activities, while it satisfies her need to thin and solve problems.

*It is specifically the opposition between the thumb and the index finger that has made it possible to execute the extremely refined movements that have produced the whole of human culture – from architecture to writing, from music to painting, and all the technology that enriches our lives.*

—Dr. Silvana Montanaro

Some toys, such as puzzles, have a specific way to be used and others. Such as dolls and blocks, are more open-ended in their usage. Both are creative. Children delight in knowing the correct way to use toys with specific procedures, just as they are proud to learn the correct way to use a woodworking tool or a musical instrument. Through early experiences with such puzzles, children can develop many useful skills: handling materials, refining movement, completing a cycle of activity, carry out logical steps in order, and solving problems. With open-ended toys, children learn to apply these skills and to express and process their unique mental information. They process and relive experiences, for example while playing with dolls or animal models. With good toys children learn to bring the use of the body under the control of the will, to concentrate, to make a plan, to follow a train of thought, and to repeat and perfect. This is the foundation of creativity. The quality and variety of open-ended, imaginative play depends on the quality and variety of experiences in the world of reality.



Adapted from The Joyful Child

# After School News

April 2011

Volume 5

## MARCHING INTO SPRING!

Spring is finally here! That means the start of some warm weather and great outdoor fun.

March was a blast, filled with tons of exciting projects. Saint Patrick's Day sure did not disappoint. To be festive we decorated the Holly Room with shamrocks, pots o' gold, and leprechauns.

The children also helped in building a huge rainbow from traced cutouts of their hands. Needless to say it turned out to be beautiful!

Lately we have been playing tons of word games such as word scramble, which has opened the kids up to new and interesting words.

Many of the children have enjoyed designing incredible buildings in the Block Building Cen-

ter in our classroom. We have also added some great books on architecture to that center to help inspire additional creations.

April will bring some traditional spring activities to our class and beyond. Some of the activities this month will include, classroom gardening, exploring nature and searching for clues of spring around the Brookwood property. We may be lucky

enough to catch some bugs and find some worms in our search for Spring!

We might also make spring collages made up of materials that we will be finding outside such as sticks, rocks, acorns, and plants.

Don't forget that April also means **Spring Break**, which will be six days **April 18 - 21 & April 25**. The theme of the week is **Space**, so be prepared to blast off with excitement!



Holly Room's beautiful rainbow design was created by the children in After Care with their traced hands.

The After Care program would like to take time out to thank everyone who was involved with Staff Appreciation Day. It was wonderful and we are truly grateful for all the support.

## REMINDER TO PARENTS

*Also parents, just a reminder. Although the snow is almost all gone, we still continue to go outside. As a precautionary measure, extra clothes are not required but encouraged. Just in case there happens to be an accident where alternate clothes are needed (i.e. slips in mud).*

## Spring Break Vacation Care

April 18-25, 2011

# Space!



The week will be filled with activities that will send you into orbit! Come and spend some time in the space ship! It's springtime, too. We'll be taking the classrooms outdoors to take advantage of the blue sky, and green grass.

### Activities

**MONDAY- Space Ships** (help in creating a two person space ship)

**TUESDAY- Planet Day** (it will be a MESSY one-creating planets with paper mache)

**WEDNESDAY- Constellation Day** (design and name your own constellation)

**THURSDAY- Space Food** (make a solar cooker)

**FRIDAY- Space Cadet Cookout**

**MONDAY- Fun In The Sun**

To ensure appropriate staffing, we request that you call us to register or sign up by 4/14 for the days your child will be attending. Thank you!



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## Upcoming Events

### Here's what's coming up:

Family to Family Sale - Friday & Saturday 4/1 & 2

PTO Meeting - Wednesday, April 6

Spring Break - April 18 - 25 (Childcare is available)

# PICTURE THIS



*Our Infants love to eat!*



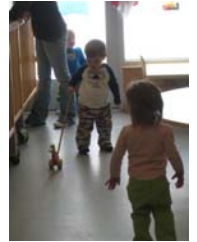
*Our Waddlers love to tumble!*



*We're always on the move!*



*Our Infant assistant, Marissa shares her musical talent with our preschoolers.*



*We're not crabby, just our décor is!*



*Our Toddlers are so busy learning and experiencing new things.*



*Mrs. Belnap's class has been traveling the universe!*



*The Aspen room welcomed Miss Courtney as assistant this month.*



*The Lower Elementary students supervise the hanging of their "Basic Needs of Man" posters.*

*French continues to be a highlight of our days.*

