

The Brookwood School

February 2012

NEWS GOOD

Winter Closings or Delays

Winter is in full swing, so I want to be sure everyone understands how things work when the weather is bad. For our school programs we generally follow the Cooperstown School District's lead. Our childcare programs, however, will be open at the regular times. We do our best to get information posted as early as possible on radio and TV. If there are other emergencies such as loss of power/heat or something that would necessitate the entire facility to close, we will post it on our website, on Facebook and announce it with the media.

For snow days when school is closed we have a number of children from the public schools who join us as we are open for childcare. We do our best to make sure the driveway is plowed and that people are here. We appreciate it when families also do their best to pick children up prior to the 5:30 closing time, so that everyone can get home safely.

Everyone loves to be outdoors in the snow and Brookwood certainly has the hills for sledding. We encourage children to bring their sleds and helmets. Snowboards may not be used without written permission and **a helmet must be worn**.

As always we want everyone to wear appropriate clothing inside and outside. Having extra socks and mittens are always a good idea on snow days.

More Winter Fun

I want to remind everyone that the Winter Carnival in Cooperstown is this month and Brookwood will be holding its annual DISCO in the Fire Hall on Saturday, February 11th, 11:30 - 1:30. Admission is \$4.00/child \$20/family (grownups are free!). There will be a terrific DJ as well as hot dogs and refreshments too.

We hope everyone will come.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Dance, Dance, Dance at the DISCO!

Please consider a gift to Annual Giving

Pre-pay for Vacation Care Days and **SAVE!**

From the Board



I am Wendy Ferguson, member of the Board for the past 2 years and Secretary to the Board for the past year. Our son, Cameron, started at Brookwood at age 3 in preschool and continued through to 3rd grade in Upper Elementary, and is now in Milford school. His independence and determination nurtured at Brookwood are holding him in good stead now. One night this fall there was some geometry style math homework that was stumping my husband. Cameron told him not to worry, "I had this at Brookwood. Tonight I'll be the teacher and you can be the student." And taught him the lesson just like the kids help each other at Brookwood.

We have two events coming up I'd like to bring to your attention. The first is the Disco Dance held at the Cooperstown Fire Hall during Cooperstown Winter Carnival on February 11th from 11:30-1:30 pm. We have a volunteer sign-up list in the lobby for help needed that day - setting up which is starting at 9:30 am, a couple of helpers during the event, and a couple of helpers for clean up. Mostly we need attendees during the event to come in from the cold, and enjoy lunch and dancing to the DJ's child appropriate tunes.

The Second is the increasingly popular Family to Family Sale that will on Friday, March 30th for the Brookwood community and Saturday, March 31st for the public. The school is taking donations now of gently used clothing, toys, and household goods. So clean out the attic, cellar, and closets and bring items over to the school. Starting the 3rd week of March we'd also like your assistance in sorting out items into groups.

I know first-hand, the benefits of what Brookwood does for its students (beyond care) and am happy to give back by volunteering - join me!

Meet Cherish Paulson

Hello, I am Cherish Paulson. I grew up in Cooperstown and graduated from Cooperstown High School. While in high school I knew that I wanted to work with children. I would often babysit my sister who is 8 years younger than me and my neighbor's children. After high school I attended SUNY Canton and graduated with an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood. Following my graduation I started working at The Brookwood School in 2004. While I have been here, I have worked in many rooms. I started off as an assistant teacher for Mrs. Belknap, then as an assistant for Mrs. Nejaime. In September of 2007 I moved to Toddler Program as a lead teacher. While there, I received my Montessori teacher certification from the North American Montessori Center. I then went on to set up a toddler Montessori room in the Juniper classroom. Last February I moved into the White Birch room as a lead Preschool teacher. I love all children, but the preschool age group is one of my favorites. I have enjoyed my time at Brookwood, and am excited to continue to play, laugh and teach all of the children here.



News You Can Use



There will be Vacation Care for the week of February 20th (Winter Break). **Anyone in preschool and above must sign up ahead of time if they plan to be here. This includes "all inclusive" students.**

If you are always looking for a fun font to use on your documents, check out www.acefreefonts.com where you will find thousands.

When children are sick they **cannot** return to school until they are symptom-free without medication for 24-hours.

Helmets are recommended for sledding - a **must** for snowboarding.

PTO Page

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Are You Ready to Get Your Disco Dance Groove On?

We're getting our groove ready for the "Disco Dance Party" on Saturday, February 11th from 11:30-1:30. Are you? Come on out and groove with us to the rockin' disco tunes of DJ Raphael with Intelligent Design DJ Service out of Springfield Center, NY. The kids will have a blast dancing under the strobe lights with their glowing neon necklaces and bracelets! Parents can take this mid-day opportunity to grab a quick lunch and warm up the family before heading back out into the afternoon Carnival activities.

Thank you to Vivian Allison (and her class), Susan Strandberg, Heather Hubbard and Marielle Ainsworth for signing up to donate baked goods that will be sold during the dance. Sorry to all others that were offering baked goods, those spots have been filled but...we are definitely still in need of a couple of volunteers to help out with set-up, clean-up and during the event. Having several hands available to fill these positions makes for a joy filled afternoon for us all! Thank you to Wendy & Dennis Ferguson, Gina & John Reeves, Angela & Jeff Chadwell and Vivian Allison and her class for all signing up to volunteer already! I know the support for this event is out there but we just need to hear from you officially so that we can be rest assured that we will have all the help we need!

"Explore Your Options for Kindergarten"

Some of us are thinking about Kindergarten this time of year and I strongly encourage you to consider attending the Brookwood School parent information and orientation event on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 6:00pm. Teachers of the Preschool, Kindergarten and Lower Elementary will be on hand to talk to families. Take this great opportunity to learn more!

Homeroom Parents

We are still in need of YOU. I know that you want to know what happens within your child's class, what parent doesn't want to just watch their little one and be there all the time? This is your opportunity to be as close as possible to what your child does on a daily basis at school. Homeroom Parents are still needed for several classes. Please contact Sharon Vesely at svesely@thebrookwoodschoo.org, Director of Childcare, to get information on what the responsibilities are for being a Homeroom Parent. These volunteer positions are very important in helping our school and we would love to see each class have a volunteer such as YOU. A "Homeroom Parent" can be a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or anyone that has a few hours to give. We are all supporters in making a positive difference in school attendance, student behavior and academic achievement when it come to our children.

Next Meeting

The next PTO meeting will be held on this Wednesday, February 1st at 6pm. I look forward to seeing you there. We will be discussing old topics such as the status of Homeroom Parents and the upcoming Disco Dance Party as well as new topics such as the Family 2 Family coming in March. I have enjoyed seeing the new faces at each meeting and encourage more staff and parents to join us. Your participation in the PTO at any level is appreciated and you should always feel welcome to join us even if it is just occasionally.

I welcome your feedback on what you would like to see the PTO doing and encourage you to contact me directly at pto@thebrookwoodschoo.org with any suggestions or comments.

Thank you,
Angela

"Come participate with this dedicated, energetic group of parents, teachers, board members and staff!"

Explore Your Options for Kindergarten

On Tuesday, February 28th the Preschool, Kindergarten and Lower Elementary program teachers will be here to present information for families (and anyone who is interested) whose children are getting ready for Kindergarten in September 2012. We know that the local school districts invite and offer orientations for their Kindergarten, but we also know that this is a critical period for learning in a young child's life. We would like an opportunity to present what we offer, the importance of continuing in the Montessori curriculum, the benefits in a personalized education that Brookwood offers and more.

So please join us for this event at 6:00 pm on
Tuesday, February 28th



Montessori's Model of Planes of Development

	Characteristics	Prepared Environment	Communication	Activity	Order	Exploration
Birth to 3		Home that the child may adapt to family	Development of spoken language	Share in the life of a group, customs and mindset of that culture to become part of it	Orientation Can trust the consistency in the environment	To take part in the life of the group
3-6 years	Absorption	Limited Environment of Classroom exploring all areas of human life, culture & factual knowledge sensorially	Acquisition of facts	Building intellect through the work of the hand, to gain understanding of all aspects of life	Classification Organizing information taken in during infancy	To explore the facts of the tradition of knowledge, life, and cultures
6-12 years	Use of Reason	Classroom and the World Outside material to aid the play of the imagination in exploring things not present	Research-exploring the reason for life	Exploration of what can't be handled through actual exposure, but through imaginative insight	Development of reason and judgment	For what cannot be explored by the senses, for society in all its aspects
12-18 years	Vocation – service to humanity	Community working to produce goods and services	Sharing ideas in serving humanity	Apostolate to humanity, service to humanity	Logical thought (new cognitive stage)	For the work of human affairs and the ways of humans serving humanity

Eventually emerge as triumphant adults, independent in an enhanced way—make choices freely, give self to a group freely.

After School News

February, 2012

Foam Décor Craft

Create your own door decoration for your room! Use 6in x9in foam sheets (any color). Glue a piece of yarn or ribbon to the back of the foam sheet on each side (allows you to hang on doorknob) . Decorate with stickers, sequins, marker, buttons, etc.

Play Dough Recipe

Mix 2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 4 tsp. cream of tartar together. Add 1 cup hot water and 2 tbsp oil to the dry ingredients. Mix together with spoon or with hands. Store in Ziploc bag. Fun tip: add a couple drops of food coloring to the mix for colorful play!

After School & Winter Break Vacation Care

During the month of January we have been busy with numerous crafts, games and activities! We have created decorations to hang on doors (directions to the left), bead necklaces and bracelets, self portraits and much more. Although we haven't had a lot of snow, we've been able to get some fresh air and enjoy a few walks around the Brookwood School. Valentine's Day is coming up so join us in decorating the classroom and tasting some sweet treats!



Candy Land & Creations!



Winter Break Vacation Care (February 20-24, 2012)



The week will be filled with fun and exciting events, including lots of outdoor time. Each day there will be a special theme, so be sure to participate! The focus of this week will be Winter Wonderland Fun

Join Us!

Activities

Monday- Hat Day

Wear your favorite/craziest winter hat

Tuesday- White-out Day

Wear white and participate in making an all white collage, cupcakes, and an igloo.

Wednesday- Backwards Day

Thursday- Stuffed Animal Day

Bring your favorite stuffed animal in for the day. Write a Winter Wonderland adventure story about your animal. Plus much more!

Friday- Snow Day!

Pajamas and slippers are a must for this last fun-filled and relaxing day before vacation ends!

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To ensure appropriate staffing, we request that you call us to register or sign up by 2/16 for the days your child will be attending. Thank you!

PICTURE THIS



AWARD WINNING LYLE DALEY works with student Alex Stewart as he figures out a puzzle box.

Teacher of infants to be honored at dinner
SHARE REPORT
 A teacher of infants at The Brookwood School has been selected to receive the 2014-15 Excellence in Care and Education Award from the Tri-County Association for the Education of Young Children.

Lyle Daley will be recognized on Friday at the association's annual dinner.

According to Brookwood media release, the award is for an individual who works hand-in-hand with children on a daily basis and who is committed to promoting professionalism and quality education for the well-being of all young children and their families.

Daley has been teaching at The Brookwood School since 2004, working with children 12-18 months old who are referred to as "walkers" according to the release. The children, the release said, this period of time is "filled with developmental milestones such as learning to walk, feeding oneself and learning to identify so many things."

Daley has patiently led so many infants into the big world ahead of them, helping them each step of the way. Everyone at Brookwood believes that Lyle Daley exemplifies excellence in care and education and is an observing of this honor," the release said.



Work is so satisfying!



and so are all of the other times! →



Upcoming Events

Here's what's coming up:

- PTO Meeting - Wednesday, 2/1 @ 6:00 pm
- DISCO @ The Cooperstown Firehouse - Saturday, 2/11 11:30 am -1:30 pm
- Winter Break - NO SCHOOL - Childcare Available - Monday, 2/20 - Friday, 2/24
- "Explore Your Options for Kindergarten" event - Tuesday, 2/28 @ 6:00 pm
- LEAP DAY - Wednesday, 2/29