

The Brookwood School

January 2012

GOOD NEWS

Happy New Year!

January marks the halfway point of our school year and is also a time when lots of things “click” for children. We like to spend these winter months learning all kinds of things, stretching our brains as well as our bodies. It is also a time when parents have an opportunity to talk with teachers one-on-one to learn from each other and discuss where each child is developmentally as well as academically. **We hope each of you take advantage of this and sets up an appointment for a parent/teacher conference.**

Brookwood is also known for its sledding hills in winter. It is great fun for our older children to sled, and for everyone to get out in the snow to play and build. However, this means that every child must have the right apparel and also have extra dry clothes that go back and forth from school. We do not have enough extra clothing. In fact, we want to send out a plea for items to be returned and/or donated so that there are extras here. The small pieces like hats, gloves and socks are the most needed, but clean, dry pants are too. We want everyone to have fun, but we also want every child prepared for the weather and to be safe out there. **Please consider sending in a helmet for sledding.**

Finally, I am happy to report that our annual Holiday Auction raised over \$10,000 for the school. The event itself was great fun, with plentiful food & drink, great items, a great auctioneer, and friendship & cheer. We hope that everyone who attended left happy and that you will plan to attend next year! **A very special thanks goes to Brian Savage, Janine Sabella and Marielle Ainsworth for all their work on this event!**

Janine

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Get ready for snow!

Please consider a gift to Annual Giving

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

From the Board



We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and are entering a happy and healthy new year. 2012 holds promise for all of us and we are working hard at Brookwood to continue to provide excellent programs at reasonable cost. One way we are working to achieve this is by developing some new opportunities like the "Seedling" program. We hope other members of the community will take advantage of what we offer and help us grow our enrollment.

You too can play a part in this goal by "spreading the word" about Brookwood, it's wonderful programs, teachers and facility. By being an ambassador for Brookwood, you can make a difference. The other way is by giving a donation to the Annual Giving Campaign. Every dollar counts in bridging the gap financially and in helping us keep our rates stable. Please consider a gift as we ring in a new year full of new possibilities.

Brookwood Board of Trustees

 A Wonderful
Winter Concert!




News You Can Use

There will be Vacation Care on Monday, January 16th (Martin Luther King Day). **Anyone in preschool and above must sign up ahead of time if they plan to be here. This includes "all inclusive" students.**

Checking children in and out should be done with numbers designated to the specific adult who is dropping off or picking up that day. This includes other approved people like aunts, grandparents, babysitters, etc. If there is someone picking up your child who does not have a code, they can use the book, **but you must give permission first.**

This is important for a number of reasons including safety.

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.

Tell your friends!!

Seedlings

at

The Brookwood School

A Part-Week / Half Day Program for 3 & 4 year olds

- ☛ Morning sessions 8:30 - 11:30 am
- ☛ Monday - Wednesday - Friday *or* Tuesday - Thursday
- ☛ Fun, developmentally appropriate activities in our beautiful, safe, fully licensed facility
- ☛ Led by a qualified teacher
- ☛ We follow the regular school calendar (no snow days or vacation days included*)
- ☛ Morning snack provided

Sign up now - first-come / first-served!

* these are available through our Vacation Day Program.

Beginning February 6, 2012

For prices and information call
The Brookwood School

607-547-4060

email: info@thebrookwoodschooL.org



PTO Page

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Happy 2012 to our Brookwood Community!

The Holidays are past us and we are forging into winter. Flurries are in the air and snow is sticking to the ground so it sure feels like winter! With the winter season comes our traditional Cooperstown Winter Carnival "Disco Dance Party" at the Cooperstown Fire House. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE DISCO DANCE PARTY**. Please consider baking desserts to be sold, helping to set up the Fire hall, helping to clean up the Fire hall, helping during the event to sell items and be at the door. Most importantly we need you all to mark your calendars to attend the "DISCO DANCE PARTY" on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH from 11:30-1:30**. Take a break from the cold weather activities and warm up by cutting loose with the kiddos! We will be discussing this more on Wednesday, January 4th at our 6pm monthly meeting. Please join us we need your support.

Homeroom Parents are still needed for several classes. Please contact Sharon Vesely, svesely@thebrookwoodschoool.org, Director of Childcare to get more 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.

The next PTO meeting will be held on this Wednesday, January 4th at 6pm. We look forward to seeing you there. We will be discussing old topics such as Homeroom Parent's status and Holiday Auction as well as new topics such as the upcoming "DISCO DANCE PARTY". 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 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@thebrookwoodschoool.org with any suggestions or comments.

Thank you,
Angela



Go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Sweepstakes.aspx/> and register. We could get boxtops worth cash!



Common Kindness is a website that offers coupons and deals both for in-store purchases (even groceries) and over the internet. By signing up and putting Brookwood School down as your organization, we can benefit. Sign up today!

<http://www.commonkindness.com/>

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

Meet Vivian Allison

I grew up in Fairfield, Connecticut, attended Boston University and graduated from the University of Toronto, Canada. I moved back to the United States in my mid-twenties and began working as a fundraiser for non-profit political organizations, such as A.C.O.R.N. (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now). When the schedule demands of that career conflicted with parenting, I embarked on my current career by undergoing the training needed to be a Montessori preschool teacher. First in the St. Louis, Missouri area, and then in Parsippany, New Jersey. I was working in preschool classrooms of Montessori schools.



When my son, John Hollis, was six years old, I returned to an American Montessori training center to earn the certificate for teaching six to nine year olds. Since then I have worked in Lower Elementary settings in Norwich, CT. and North Chelmsford, MA. I moved to Cooperstown in 2002 to be closer to my son who was attending college in Troy, N.Y. When I began at Brookwood I was a preschool directress again with a morning class. Two years later I was back in the 6 – 9 class where I have been ever since. While teaching is my profession, and being a "true" Montessorian is my passion, I also have a part-time position as a personal care aide at the Clara Welch Thanksgiving Home where my interaction with elders has rounded out my knowledge of "the human experience".



After School News

January, 2012

Changes in After School & Vacation Care

Wayne Tucker, who has been the Lead Teacher in the AfterCare Program, recently graduated from SUNY Oneonta. We are sad to report that he will be leaving his position and moving on to the next step in his career path.

Kendra Burst, who has worked with us previously as SummerCare Coordinator, accepted the position as Lead Teacher of AfterCare/ Vacation Care. Many of the children know Kendra already and we feel that this transition will be a smooth one. Please join us as we wish Wayne well and welcome Kendra back to Brookwood.

The December Break in Vacation Care was a busy place! The days found us making snowmen out of play dough and working with "Clean Mud" (recipes are below). The weather even cooperated on our "White Out" Day. Gingerbread houses were decorated, even though the biggest question of the week was: "Did more decorations and frosting go onto the house, or into mouths?" Hats and noisemakers and party preparation were made to end the week with a BANG! as we celebrated at our own New Years Party!



We had "snow" much fun over the break!



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. HINT: If you would like to add color to the dough, add several drops of food coloring to the water. Mix until evenly dispersed, and then add the water to the dry ingredients.

Clean Mud

Grate bars of soap into a bowl. Add small pieces of toilet paper to the bowl. Add warm water to the mixture. Mix together with hands.

What's Next?

Martin Luther King Day is Monday, January 16th. School is closed, but we will offer care that day.

The next week-long VacationCare is planned for February 21-24 (winter Break). The theme will be "*Winter Wonderland*". Indoor and outdoor activities (including **SLEDDING**) are already on the agenda for the week. Please be sure to sign your child up so they do not miss any of the fun!

PICTURE THIS



December was
ful l of fun
and wor k!



Upcoming Events

Here's what's coming up:

PTO Meeting - Wednesday, January 5

Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL - Childcare Available - Monday, January 17