

## *2011 Marks Brookwood's 30th Anniversary*

Brookwood has made its mark on the community for 30 years. It's origins began as the Brookwood School, offering the only Montessori program in the region and has grown into both a school and the premier childcare program as well.

Our location helps us to serve families from surrounding areas in addition to Cooperstown. We are grateful for the support we have received from the families who have participated in our programs, and who have given us the privilege of working with their children.

Brookwood considers itself a partner to parents in raising our youngest citizens and providing them with a high quality educational program as well as care. The fact that we are open for the longest care day, that we serve children as young as 6 weeks, that we have the unique Montessori program for children as young as the toddler age and are here for families year-round, exemplifies our investment in the community for the past 30 years.

We are getting ready to send our Annual Appeal to all of our constituents and hope that you value the quality of teachers, our programs, the facility and the convenience by sending in a donation. Every penny raised goes to continuing the fine work and opportunities that exist at Brookwood.

In a time when private education is at risk of disappearing from the area and dollars are tight, having families give what they can makes a huge difference in Brookwood's ability to deliver on its mission.

When you receive the mailing, please open it, read it and see if it doesn't speak to you about what Brookwood offers your family. I hope you appreciate the opportunities for families here at Brookwood as we ask for your support.



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Don't forget Brookwood is CLOSED (no school or childcare) on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> for Staff Development Day.

# From the Board



## The Beauty of Brookwood

I am Brian Savage. I moved to the Cooperstown area over five years ago from Vermont with my, then, six-month old daughter, Campbell, and 2 year-old son Atticus. When deciding on where to relocate our family, we were intrigued to know that the Brookwood School was in the area offering child care and schooling.

I visited Brookwood with my family and made it a point to learn about all that it had to offer before we moved. I was impressed with the clean, open space and the sunny, pleasant rural surroundings. In my mind, it felt a place of happiness, peace and joy. In the end, it was good to know that Brookwood was available as an option should our family needs arrive in that direction.

Upon arrival in the area, family events became such for me that I needed full time care for Atticus and Campbell around my work schedule. It was a time, for me, of very deep emotional turmoil. I worried gravely about what that could mean for my children and their development at such a young age. I enrolled Atticus and Campbell full-time at Brookwood sooner than I planned, and I can say with all honesty, in the five years that I lived here, it was the best decision that I have made.

It has given me *immense* pleasure through the four years that Atticus and Campbell were at Brookwood to watch them grow. I enjoyed every morning dropping them off and picking them up from these *\*happy\** and *\*safe\** surroundings. I have watched them learn all the way through kindergarten. Today, still, they are very well ahead of their classmates in public school. They are independent and sound. The education that they both received is a gift that will keep paying forward. At a time that could have proven very costly to my children's development, Brookwood was a sanctuary for them. It helped me foster within them a solid emotional and educational foundation. I am "beyond words" grateful to Brookwood.

Brian Savage

Brian is a past parent who 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 (we hope it is coming soon) will come the need for waterproof outdoor gear.

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

Please **do not** park in the bus spot, especially in the morning.

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

## **PTO MEETINGS**

Meetings are held once a month on the first Wednesday of the month. This month our meeting is on **Wednesday, March 2nd** at 6:00 pm. Next month it's on **April 6th**.

Every year, we set aside a special day in which to recognize and offer the hard working Brookwood School Staff our heartfelt thanks for what each individual does to enhance the educational and childcare needs of our children. This year's Brookwood School Staff Appreciation Day is Monday March 21, 2011 during the Staff Development Day.

Many families and friends have asked how they might contribute toward this day. Here's a checklist of things you can help us with that will contribute toward the success of this day. If you are able to, please help with one, two...or ALL! **Together, let's show the Staff of Brookwood how much we appreciate them!**

**Please donate \$\$\$!** Your kind and generous monetary contributions will be presented at the Appreciation Lunch. From today through March 16<sup>th</sup>, all donations can be made via the **PTO Box** located outside the main office, or Colette Tangel, 547- 6269. If writing a check, please make out to "cash" or "Brookwood School" and MEMO: Staff Lunch. All monies will be split equally among staff and given in a Thank You note the day of the luncheon.

**Make and bake with love!** Your delicious and healthy food specialties and beverage donations would be wonderful for the *Staff Appreciation Day Lunch Buffet*. Please contact Wendy Ferguson 547-9664, drop a note in the PTO Box, or sign up outside your child's classroom regarding what you would like to contribute. An assortment of main and side hot and cold dishes, desserts, and beverages are needed. Please drop off items along with heating directions, if needed, (crock pots appreciated) on Monday Morning March 21st.

**It always tastes better when someone waits on you!** We are also looking for people to help set up the buffet lunch room on March 18th (about 5 pm), to set up food March 21st (9-11:30), and to clear away after the lunch March 21<sup>st</sup> (1:30-2:30pm). Please contact Wendy Ferguson at 547-9664 or [wenferggnp@aol.com](mailto:wenferggnp@aol.com) if you'd like to help.

**Everyone likes to be noticed!** Staff Appreciation Day is a lot like Mom's or Dad's Day—We need to remember it's not just about one day! *Do remember to take the time to say thank you to your child's teacher, support staff, & all those coming into contact with your child—after all they are our children's 'teachers' too.* Let them know how much they mean to you, tell them, write them a heartfelt note from you and your child(ren) bring them a plant, bake them something special...anything that says, "You mean something...I appreciate your help...How lucky we are to have you." *We've included for you, the names of Brookwood's Teachers and Staff. Please remember to thank them in your own way, this Staff Appreciation Day!*

Thanks everyone!

The Brookwood Parents Teacher Organization

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



# After School News

February 2011

Volume 4

## Winter Break

February has been a fun and exciting month. Not just because of the snowy weather but because we celebrated Valentine's Day and had Winter Break, which meant a full week of childcare.

Valentine's Day found us spreading the love. The children were able to choose from many activities including making wreaths and valentines. It was nice to see the children so engrossed in these activities. The classroom was decorated with hearts and it truly looked beautiful.

Winter Break was a blast! The themed days were a huge success and the children really seemed to enjoy them.

On "Hippie Day" we made spin art and sand art. Quite a few of the kids dressed in their best hippie outfits, we saw lots of tie-dyed shirts. We also tie-dyed our own shirts on Wednesday.

It was very funny to see everyone wearing their clothes backwards for "Backwards Day". Not only the children participated but quite a few of the administrative staff got into the spirit as well. There were people donning backward or inside out clothing all over the building!

"Chili Day" was a huge success. Who doesn't like to wear their pajamas all day? We also made chili on Thursday which warmed us up nicely and on Friday we made homemade ice cream for dessert as we watched the snow fall outside.

We have been getting a lot of exercise in the multi-purpose room on the extremely cold days, but when it's nice we have continued our sledding adventures.

To conclude the week we made bookmarks in celebration of national "Read Me" week.

Don't forget, NO CHILDCARE on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

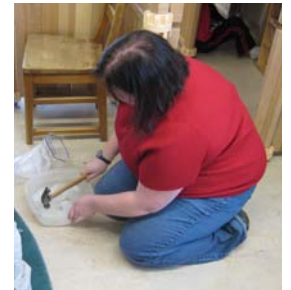
Our next vacation care week will be Spring Break, April 18-25. We will let you know what we will be scheduling.



Ellie showing here play-doh peace sign she created on "Hippie Day"



Tye-Dying shirts was messy, but fun!



Making and shaking ice cream.



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## Upcoming Events

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

PTO Meeting - Wednesday, March 2

Staff Development/Appreciation Day - **NO SCHOOL or CHILDCARE - Monday, March 21**

# PICTURE THIS



We've had amazing icicles.



Lower Elementary students share their PowerPoint presentations



Our Toddlers are always active and having fun.

Our Waddlers believe that there is nothing like a good box for fun!

Our infant programs provide activities too. Everyone is busy.



Everybody boogied at the DISCO! It was great fun for all ages.



Extended daycare held an ice cream party for all. YUM!



Cherish's Preschool class gets a lesson on the Pink Tower. Of course, the children are always working with the many materials.

We're always coming & going. Brookwood is a busy place.

Mrs. Belknap's class had a pajama day & have been learning about their teeth

