

# The Brookwood School

# GOOD NEWS

May 2011

## Boogie, BIG RIGS, and More

There are some fun and important events coming up for Brookwood. All are available to the public and help the school out in various ways.

The Largest of these is **Boogie for Brookwood**. Everyone should have received an invite to this event that is scheduled at the Otesaga Hotel on **Friday, May 20th**. The Electric City Horns (the band from last year) will be back for great music and dancing. Also this year we will have a caricature artist on hand and once again there will be fabulous food, door prizes and grab bags!

This is a significant fundraising event for the school, but is also one of the most fun. We hope many of you will attend for both reasons.

On **Saturday, May 14th** we will be participating at **Glimmerglass** State Park in their **Marketplace**. We will be offering a mosaic frame activity for children at two levels (wood for the little ones, and glass for the older group). The PTO is working this event, and the park is a beautiful place for the family to spend a spring day.

**BIG RIGS** will be on **Sunday, June 12th**. This is a really fun family event that takes place at the Fly Creek Cider Mill. We will have all kinds of big trucks and equipment to climb up on and into as well as bouncy houses and fun games with prizes for children of all ages. Finally, on **Thursday, June 16th** the Board of Trustees will be hosting the **Annual Picnic** before the End of Year Performance. So mark down these important dates.

*If you haven't given to our Annual Fund, please consider a gift that will help families come to Brookwood and our programs to grow.*

*giving*

We hope moms, (**Preschool and up**) will stop in for a quick bite on Friday, May 6th in celebration of Mother's Day.



*A great gift for any Hall of Fame fan!*

The cost of these prints is \$20.00 each. They are on high quality paper and are 18" X 24". One of them is hanging in the lobby for you to see.

**Funds from this sale will go to the purchase of Montessori materials for the classrooms.**

If you are interested, you can purchase them from the office.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Boogie for Brookwood.....	2
SummerCare 2011.....	2
PTO Page.....	3
The Montessori Mafia.....	4
After School News.....	5
Upcoming Events.....	5
PICTURE THIS!.....	6

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Have you given to our Annual Appeal?

Come dance the night away at the BOOGIE - fabulous live band!



# Brookwood In Living Color

**Friday, May 20, 2011**

**The Otesaga Hotel**

**6:00 - 10:00 pm**

**Featuring live band, "Electric City Horns"  
Fabulous Food & Fun**

**Tickets \$50/person "all inclusive" food & drink**

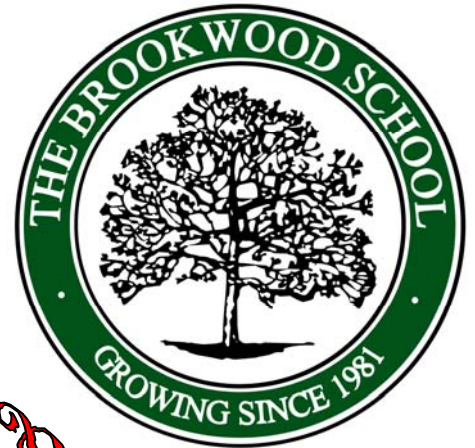
Grab Bags with Great Prizes

Brookwood **Living Color** Photo Contest

Caricature Artist, Rich Conley will be on hand to draw you

**Come in Living Color for a chance to win door prizes**

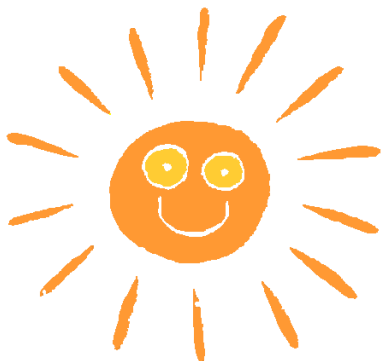
For questions or tickets, call 607-547-4060



*Rich Conley!*



All proceeds to benefit our remarkable programs.



## SummerCare 2011

Children's programs  
for ages 3-12

June 20- September 2

**Register Now!**

*Check out the new  
themes this year!*

arts and crafts, 23-acre campus, nature walks, group games,  
gardening, music, field trips,

fun with friends!

**A great place for kids to be kids!**

# PTO Page

## Staff Appreciation Lunch Thank You's

Here is a sampling of Thank Yous we received from the staff the day of the Staff Appreciation Lunch during their Conference Day, Monday March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you so much for the wonderful lunch that you provided for us...It was terrific! We appreciate all of your time and generosity. We have the best parents! Thanks so much, Thanks a bunch!, Thank you so very much, Delicious!, It was so nice, Thank you lots; always wonderful!

Warren and Ben set the tables and chairs up for us in a hollow U in the multipurpose room so everyone could visit face to face and also allow speakers in the front of the room.

Thank you to all the parents for their wonderful and varied food selections and for making the special trip over on a non school and non childcare day. We know it takes an extra effort and it is much appreciated. We packed the leftovers into the fridge for delicious eating into the week.

Thank you to my volunteer partners on that Monday, Colette Tangel, Angela Chadwell, Janine Sabella, and Sara Albright. A lot of hands make for a fun day of work.

We again had a very nice response from all the Brookwood community in what continues to be difficult economic times with monetary donations which were put in Thank you cards for each staff member.

The PTO was able to fund 10 minute head and neck massages over the course of the next week for each staff member thanks to Alison Phillips LMT who gave us a significantly discounted price and set aside large blocks of time to work at Brookwood at the staff's convenience. She writes in her thank you note to the PTO: "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide chair massage at Brookwood School. I had a wonderful time meeting your staff and working in such a warm and welcoming environment. Everyone seemed to truly enjoy the experience. I am very grateful for this chance to promote my new business in Fly Creek". She also provided all the staff with discount coupons for future use.

Thank you all for your contributions in thanking the staff that care for and teach our children everyday.

Wendy Ferguson, PTO Facilitator

---

## Glimmerglass Market Place **Saturday, May 14, 2011, 10:00-4:00**

**This year we are participating in the *Friends of Glimmerglass' Glimmerglass Marketplace*. This should be a fun event that includes Classic Car Show & DJ - Food - 4H Laser Shoot ~ Bouncy House ~ Face Painting ~ Make & Take Crafts ~ Raffle~ Bake Sale and many exhibitors...pet treats and items, wood art, beading, candles, floral designs, jewelry, seasonal decor, hand bags, ceramics, framed prints, Gourmet Delights and so much more!**

**We will be offering a craft of making mosaic frames in two mediums - wood for younger children and glass for older children. These will be great gifts for Father's Day or any occasion, so we hope you will come out that day.**

### **PTO MEETINGS**

Meetings are held once a month on the first Wednesday of the month. This month our meeting is on **Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 pm. Next month it's on **June 1<sup>st</sup>**.

---

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

# The Montessori Mafia

It may seem like a laughable “only in New York” story that Manhattan mother, Nicole Imprescia, is suing her 4-year-old daughter’s untraditional private preschool for failing to prepare her for a private school admissions exam.

But her daughter’s future and ours might be much brighter with a little less conditioning to perform well on tests and more encouragement to discover as they teach in Montessori schools. Ironically, the Montessori educational approach might be the surest route to joining the creative elite, which are so overrepresented by the school’s alumni that one might suspect a Montessori Mafia: Google’s founders Larry Page and Sergei Brin, Amazon’s Jeff Bezos, videogame pioneer Will Wright, and Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales, not to mention Julia Child and rapper Sean “P.Diddy” Combs.

Is there something going on here? Is there something about the Montessori approach that nurtures creativity and inventiveness that we can all learn from? After all, Henry Ford and Thomas Edison were famous life-long tinkerers, who discovered new ways of doing things by constantly improvising, experimenting, failing, and retesting. Above all they were voraciously inquisitive learners.



Montessori learners

Getty

The Montessori learning method, founded by Maria Montessori, emphasizes a collaborative environment without grades or tests, multi-aged classrooms, as well as self-directed learning and discovery for long blocks of time, primarily for young children ages 2 1/2 to 7.

The Montessori Mafia showed up in an extensive, six-year study about the way creative business executives think. Professors Jeffrey Dyer of Brigham Young University and Hal Gregersen of globe-spanning business school INSEAD surveyed over 3,000 executives and interviewed 500 people who had either started innovative companies or invented new products.

“A number of the innovative entrepreneurs also went to Montessori schools, where they learned to follow their curiosity,” Mr. Gregersen said. “To paraphrase the famous Apple ad campaign, innovators not only learned early on to think different, they act different (and even talk different).” When Barbara Walters, who interviewed Google founders Messrs. Page and Brin in 2004, asked if having parents who were college professors was a major factor behind their success, they instead credited their early Montessori education. “We both went to Montessori school,” Mr. Page said, “and I think it was part of that training of not following rules and orders, and being self-motivated, questioning what’s going on in the world, doing things a little bit differently.”

Will Wright, inventor of bestselling “The Sims” videogame series, heaps similar praise. “Montessori taught me the joy of discovery,” Mr. Wright said, “It’s all about learning on your terms, rather than a teacher explaining stuff to you. SimCity comes right out of Montessori...” Meanwhile, according to Jeff Bezos’s mother, young Jeff would get so engrossed in his activities as a Montessori preschooler that his teachers would literally have to pick him up out of his chair to go to the next task. “I’ve always felt that there’s a certain kind of important pioneering that goes on from an inventor like Thomas Edison,” Mr. Bezos has said, and that discovery mentality is precisely the environment that Montessori seeks to create. Neuroscience author Jonah Lehrer cites a 2006 study published in Science that compared the educational achievement performance of low-income Millaukee children who attended Montessori schools versus children who attended a variety of other preschools, as determined by a lottery. By the end of kindergarten, among 5-year-olds, “Montessori students proved to be significantly better prepared for elementary school in reading and math skills than the non-Montessori children,” according to the researchers. “They also tested better on “executive function,” the ability to adapt to changing and more complex problems, an indicator of future school and life success.”

Of course, Montessori methods go against the grain of traditional educational methods. We are given very little opportunity, for instance, to perform our own, original experiments, and there is also little or no margin for failure or mistakes. We are judged primarily on getting answers right. There is much less emphasis on developing our creative thinking abilities, our abilities to let our minds run imaginatively and to discover things on our own. But most highly creative achievers don’t begin with brilliant ideas, they discover them. Google, for instance, didn’t begin as a brilliant vision, but as a project to improve library searches, followed by a series of small discoveries that unlocked a revolutionary business model. Larry Page and Sergei Brin didn’t begin with an ingenious idea. But they certainly discovered one. Similarly, Amazon’s culture breathes experimentation and discovery. Mr. Bezos often compares Amazon’s strategy of developing ideas in new markets to “planting seeds” or “going down blind alleys.” Amazon’s executives learn and uncover opportunities as they go. Many efforts turn out to be dead ends, Mr. Bezos has said, “But every once in a while, you go down an alley and it opens up into this huge, broad avenue.”

Perhaps it’s just a coincidence that Montessori alumni lead two of the world’s most innovative companies. Or perhaps the Montessori Mafia can provide lessons for us all even though it’s too late for most of us to attend Montessori. We can change the way we’ve been trained to think. That begins in small, achievable ways, with increased experimentation and inquisitiveness. Those who work with Mr. Bezos, for example, find his ability to ask “why not?” or “what if?” as much as “why?” to be one of his most advantageous qualities. Questions are the new answers.

Peter Sims is the author of [Little Bets: How Breakthrough Ideas Emerge from Small Discoveries](#).

# After School News

April 2011

Volume 5

## Blasting off into Spring Time Continuum!

April was very exciting and busy in the Holly Room! With the weather getting warmer and the snow gone, we finally enjoyed a few nice days outside under the sun.



Spring Break was a blast, literally. Our Space Camp found us making paper mache planets, creating constellations out of toothpicks and marshmallows, constructing our own collages, and so much more. The children made collages of what they would bring to space if they went. This made them really think about what they would need on the harsh journey to space. The collages are posted in the hallway near the

computers and outside of our classroom. We also made a huge spaceship out of cardboard which took us two days to complete. (You have probably seen it in the front lobby) It turned out great!. The children rode it around the multi-purpose room which they enjoyed. We also made a zip line out of string and attached a straw ship which raced down the line at lighting speed. The kids enjoyed racing the ships against each other.

To conclude our week, we had a Space Cadet Cook Out for lunch. We had a wonderful lunch with Space dogs, Satellite Fruit Salad, Blast off Baked Beans, Comet Chips and Lunar Lemonade. We topped it off with Half Moon Cookies that we decorated ourselves. We would like to thank everyone who helped with the cookout and to the parents who brought food, it was delicious!

### Up and coming events in the month of May

We have some great up and coming days at after care. With the nice weather hopefully right around the corner we will be able to fully use the property Brookwood has to offer. We

will be taking nature walks down by the stream, catching bugs and exploring further into the catches we find. We will be playing sports like soccer, kickball, and capture the

flag. We will be doing some nice spring arts and crafts such as making paper flowers, egg carton caterpillars, and design some spring theme jewelry.



**Building a Spaceship**



## Upcoming Events

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

Munch with Mom - May 6

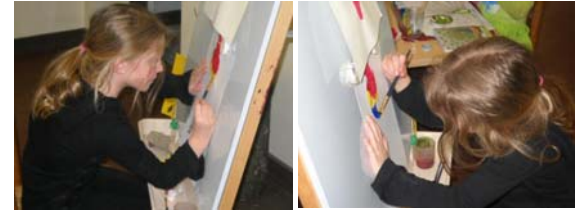
PTO Meeting - Wednesday, May 4

Glimmerglass Marketplace - Saturday May 14

**BOOGIE for Brookwood - Friday, May 20**

Memorial Day - Monday, May 30

## PICTURE THIS



Artists, Maeve & Chloe work on their studies of birds



Lower Elementary welcomed a new member. Their pair of doves produced an egg and a baby hatched!



Our Preschoolers have been exploring many materials, sights and sounds.



The Aspen Room Toddlers made helmets for their trip to Outer Space!



Lower Elementary also hosted a party for their parents for which they made all of the food from scratch - including the crackers!



The Egg Hunt was terrific fun

# News You Can Use



It's still soggy outside, so don't forget the change of clothes and boots.

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.

We know it's inconvenient when your child has to stay home due to illness, but it is necessary (and the rule from licensing) to keep us all in better health.

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

Please remember to return your Fall Registration Forms to Vera as soon as possible.