

# The Brookwood School

November 2011

# NEWS GOOD

## *Getting and Giving The Best!*

Brookwood's mission is all about preparing our children to be confident, competent learners and people through a Montessori program and environment. It is also about fostering their development and nurturing their individual spirits and abilities. Every teacher works hard to deliver on the mission with every child. Brookwood is unique in that we do not only offer safe quality care to our children and families from 6 weeks on up, but we do it in an extraordinary environment that is stimulating, educational, beautiful, respectful and encouraging.

The balancing act comes in doing all of this and more at a reasonable price while continuing to be able to retain our wonderful teachers and offer more.

The cost of the care/education only covers a portion of the actual costs associated with providing our programs. With a smaller enrollment this gap grows even larger, and to make up for it, we must raise funds in other ways. In the last several years we made a significant shift in our fundraising efforts, getting rid of and away from the many small sales type of sales programs and instead, focusing on a few large events during the year. Our hope is that **all** of our families will find a way to support these events in some way while having fun by participating in them.

As you know, we have the annual **Holiday Auction coming up on Friday, December 2nd**. This is the 14th year for this event, and it is our largest fundraising event. It is on a Friday evening, so we hope many of you will end your work week by having fun with us. This event includes complimentary cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, & desserts. There will also be a raffle for \$200 off tuition (you must be present to win!), and other fun activities in addition to live and silent auctions. A lot of work goes into the acquisition of amazing items and into the planning of the fun evening itself.

*This event is a win-win-win. If everyone comes, everyone has fun. Brookwood is successful in raising badly needed funds. The programs and teachers are better able to deliver on the mission, and ultimately the children are the true beneficiaries of a successful event.*

***Please plan to attend this year's auction!***

*gria*

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

**Plan to come to the auction!**

Childcare is available on days the school is closed, but **you must register!**

# From the Board

The Brookwood Board sends best wishes to our Brookwood families on the start of the 2011-2012 school year. As this academic year began our thoughts and prayers have been with those families effected by the hurricane and other disastrous flooding (having impacted family and friends of Brookwood). The outpouring of community support has been very evident in the counties around us and is a reminder of the strength of these communities to endure. In times such as these we realize how fortunate we are as an organization to exist in a region that lends a helping hand and provides multiple avenues of support. Here at Brookwood we would like to thank our donors and family members that have provided Brookwood that same heartfelt support throughout 2011 and ask that you continue to volunteer your time and money going forward in 2012.

Best regards,

Josh Truman  
Brookwood Board of Trustees



## Meet Melinda Crist

My name is Melinda Crist. I'm a lead teacher in the toddler program and have been working back at The Brookwood School for a year and half. My fiancé, Matthew, and I live in Cooperstown, and as many of you know, we have a four year old little girl, Lyla. In the summer months my family and I enjoy spending all the time we can together. We love hiking, camping, and canoeing.



I worked at Brookwood years ago when the new building was just opening. Then we moved to Florida a year after our daughter, Lyla was born where the educational system scared me. I longed for the calm comforting walls of Brookwood. The small teacher:child ratios which allow more time for each child is very important for any successful learning environment. So we quickly came back home. Lyla loves it here at Brookwood and I enjoy being able to peek in occasionally and see what her class is up to. I love seeing every day the positive impact the Montessori Method has brought to her.

When I was in high school, I always loved seeing the young children and interacting with them. I'm a big kid myself and this is probably why I love discovering new things with the toddlers. I love to get dirty and do lots of crafty projects with the children. I am so happy to be able to work with the toddlers and to have Lyla where she gets the most out of every day. It's great to be back at Brookwood.



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## News You Can Use

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If you are using our drop-in childcare on days that school is closed (like Veteran's Day), you must sign up ahead of time and supply a lunch.

**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, ask in the office and we will get them registered. 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.

Cold weather is coming. Does your child have everything he/she needs for this change?

# PTO Page

Angela Chadwell, PTO Facilitator  
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Thank you to everyone that donated a cake to The Shop Around, which was a wonderful event. We had many happy children enjoying the Children's Corner!

The cake door prizes were a wonderful treat for attendees and vendors.

Homeroom Parents are still needed for several classes. Please contact Angela directly at [pto@thebrookwoodschoool.org](mailto:pto@thebrookwoodschoool.org) to find out more about how you can become a part of your child's class.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 2nd at 6pm. We will be discussing the need for more Homeroom Parents, plans for the Harvest Feast and the Holiday Auction. Hope to see you there.

The "Shop Around" was a success and offered many wonderful items for purchase. Thanks to everyone who attended!



## PTO MEETINGS

Meetings are held once a month on the first Wednesday of the month.

This month our meeting is on **Wednesday, November 2nd** at 6:00 pm.



**WE COLLECT BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION!**



There are a number of programs that help benefit Brookwood directly by earning points, dollars or vouchers. Tools for Schools at Price Chopper requires that you sign up, but the other programs like Box tops for Education and Labels for Education are about collecting the labels/box tops and turning them in.

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

# Come to the

*Complimentary cocktails,  
hors d'oeuvres, & desserts*



*Come & receive a chance to win  
a \$200 coupon off of 1 month's tuition!*

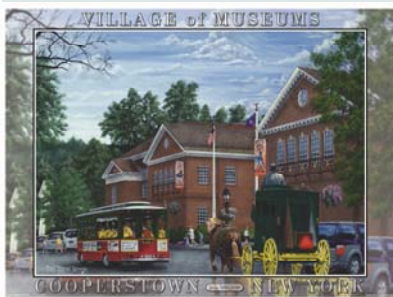
## *14th Annual Holiday Party*

*with Live & Silent Auctions*

*Childcare available for \$10/one, \$25/family  
must pre-register*

*Friday, December 2, 2011  
at Brookwood*

*6:30 - 10:00 p.m.*



Paul Wagoner is a New York artist who loves Cooperstown. The painting, at left, was done in the spring of 2007, shortly before the Induction Ceremony of Tony Gwynn and Cal Ripken Jr. Within the painting is a banner of both Gwynn and Ripken that dates the scene to 2007.

Paul has generously donated a limited edition of prints to Brookwood for sale. 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. [\*A great gift for any Hall of Fame fan!\*](#)

# PLANES OF DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN

Dr. Montessori defined 4 stages of development and labeled them as the 4 planes of development, noting that within these stages, the development is intense at the beginning, consolidates and then tapers to the next. The 1st and 3rd planes are periods of intense creation, while the 2nd and 4th planes are the calm periods of consolidation. Key to all the planes of development is the individual's need for independence. This is expressed differently throughout the planes. Each plane is approximately 6 years and has its own special characteristics as follows:

## **First Plane – Age 0 - 6 – Early Childhood (Individual Creation of the Person)**

Characterized by the “Absorbent Mind” in which the child’s mind is like a sponge, absorbing all that is in the environment.

At age 0-3 this is unconscious

At age 3-6 this is conscious

Characterized by “Sensitive Periods”, which include the intense need for:

Order

Language

Refinement of the senses

Movement

Characterized by concrete thinking.

Construction of the physical person.

Fundamental formation of the character.

Physical independence – “I can do it myself!” The child wants to be free to work independently within a structured environment doing real activities with an intelligent purpose.

## **Second Plane – Age 6 – 12 – Childhood (Construction of the Intelligence)**

Characterized by reasoning with imagination and logic.

Intense thirst for knowledge which is so great that if allowed, the child will seek exposure to many things that have been left to high school and college in the past.

“Cosmic Education” – the child wants to know about the whole and his/her place within it and can appreciate the interconnectedness of all things and people.

The “bridge” to abstraction – or the transition from concrete to abstract thinking.

Interested in learning about the universe – what is outside of the prepared environment.

Intellectual independence – “I can “think it” myself”.

## **Third Plane – Ages 12 – 18 Adolescence (Construction of Social Self)**

Characterized by self concern and self assessment.

Critical thinking and re-evaluation.

Transition period both physically and mentally.

Beginning to try to find place in this world.

Characterized by construction of social and moral values.

“Erd Kinder” or “Children of the Land” – Dr. Montessori envisioned the child practicing for life in society by working together in a sort of hostel.

Cultural development which has been ongoing is solidified in this plane.

Emotional Independence – “I can stand on my own”.

## **Fourth Plane – Ages 18 – 24 and Beyond – Adulthood (Construction of Self Understanding)**

Characterized by construction of the spiritual.

Conscious discernment of right and wrong.

Seeking to know one’s own place within the world.

Financial Independence – “I can get it myself”.

# PICTURE THIS



Emma and Lachlan LOVE to bounce!



Wet weather doesn't slow us down!



Our Toddlers have been enjoying the beautiful Fall weather!



Our Lower EI students talk things over with each other.



The Hartwick Fire Department stopped by during Fire Prevention Week to speak with the children about fire safety.

We enjoy it when the firemen come to visit and teach us about fire safety. Getting in the truck is cool, too!



Reina's class is always working hard on so many things.



# Upcoming Events

## Here's what's coming up:

Night at the Museum - November 5

"Fall Back" clocks change - November 6

NO SCHOOL - Childcare Available - November 11

Coop EI. Early Release - Childcare Available - Nov. 17

Harvest Feast - November 22

NO SCHOOL - Childcare Available - Nov. 23 & 25

Thanksgiving - CLOSED - November 24

HOLIDAY AUCTION - Friday, December 2