

ACADEMY A.R.T.S. TIMES

The Academy of Movement and Music
MARCH 2010

605 Lake Street

Oak Park, Illinois

(708)848-2329
VOL. 14, NO 6

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 1: Teachers' Institute Day – No A.R.T.S. Classes.

March 6, 7, 13, 14: *MOMENTA* Performances at the Academy – “Peter Pan” and “Cinderella” - Saturdays at 3:00 PM and Sundays at 2:00 PM ~ \$10.00/\$5.00.

March 17 & 18: **A.R.T.S. Picture Day.** Group photos will be taken of each of the color groups and of each child individually as well.

March 29-April 4: **SPRING BREAK!** The Academy will be closed.

April 5: **CLASSES RESUME.**

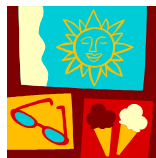
Summer A.R.T.S. 2010

The summer A.R.T.S. programs for 2010 look like wonderful fun. Downstairs A.R.T.S. children will explore activities based on “Pinocchio’s Travels.” Upstairs A.R.T.S. students will research and perform “Rags to Riches Stories Around the World.” **Registration for summer A.R.T.S. began February 16th for currently enrolled A.R.T.S. families only.** The brochure for the summer programs will be mailed March 9th and we will begin taking registrations for all other summer classes on a first-come/first served basis on March 11th. The seven-week program begins June 14 and ends July 30. Please note that the summer classes fill quickly; therefore, it is not too early to start thinking about your child’s summer plans.



Know of a Fun-filled Summer Activity?

In the last newsletter of the school year we run a feature highlighting some “tried and true” destinations for family field trips during the summer months. We have received great feedback on these articles, and would like to repeat this favorite.



Between now and April 19th, we will be collecting field trip ideas for publication in the May newsletter. The criteria for becoming an “A.R.T.S. Summer Field Trip” are simple:

- It must appeal to and be safe for younger children.
- Be within a day trip from the OPRF area.
- Be relatively inexpensive.

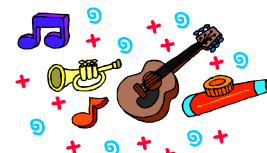
Nature centers, bike trails, unusual restaurants, zoos, water parks, both indoor and outdoor museums, factory tours, and artists’ workshops are all possibilities.

Some of these sites may be part of a family’s summer tradition; some of them may be just a lucky find!

Please share your favorite place or even a great place that you’ve heard about by giving us, in writing please, the complete name, address, phone number (if known) and cost (if known) of the field trip destination, along with a brief description of the destination and your name in case we have any questions. Drop off your ideas at the Academy office or send them via your child’s backpack in an envelope marked “A.R.T.S. SUMMER FIELD TRIPS.” Please do so by April 19th.

We hope to have some fun-filled and enriching ideas for family fun to share. Thanks in advance for taking the time to send us your ideas!

Downstairs A.R.T.S. March



The month of March will find the children in the Downstairs A.R.T.S. completing their travels by focusing on Mexico as our “Globetrotters” unit comes to an end. We have traveled by air, by sea and by land with the help of our imaginative play area and a supply of maps, boarding passes, binoculars, cameras and travel attire. We have worked at speaking, singing and counting in Chinese and Italian, and during this first week of March we will try our hands at Spanish.

The rest of the month will find us exploring a three-week unit on music. Our imaginative play area will take the shape of our “stage” complete with a variety of instruments for many an impromptu concert. Although music is a part of every classroom everyday, we will use this unit to do something a little more in-depth and very hands-on. Keyboards, steel drums and percussion bells are just a few of the instruments we will try out. The air will be filled with the musical sounds not only from our imaginative play area and our music circle but from our art table too as we make our own instruments to take home. We will even try writing our own music at our prewriting table. The listening center will be providing the children a perfect way to listen to such musical tales as “Peter and the Wolf” and “Tubby the Tuba.” We can definitely say it will be Music, Music Everywhere!

~ Niki Merrick

Downstairs A.R.T.S. Art

Art is an expression of oneself and because of that the projects have become a highlight in each student's day. With each new unit they are not only learning concepts, but they are able to create a showcase of their personality and creativity.



Our program divides a theme into a three week unit. Every Monday and Tuesday each child is given an opportunity to work with different materials and learn an important lesson thru art.

The month of March will find us making music with horns and painted tambourines. We will learn the magic of musical notes and the sounds of many instruments.

Our goal is to help the children as they develop new skills and be proud of their many accomplishments.

~ Ruth Tazelaar

Downstairs A.R.T.S. Special Thank You to:

The Academy PTO snack coordinators and all our parents who made our Valentine's celebration a success. Both cookies and napkins were enjoyed by all.



All the Downstairs moms and dads who were reading parents this past month. The children have really enjoyed having you. Thank you for being a part of our school day!

All our families who donated supplies for our Downstairs A.R.T.S. post office. You helped keep the shelves well stocked for our busy writers.

Downstairs A.R.T.S. "Thank You to"

acknowledgements for gifts given by the children will be posted in the April Newsletter.

Upstairs A.R.T.S. March

In the month of March, the children will begin their exploration of Growing Things. The Monday/Wednesday group will make some Nesting Dolls like the Russian Matryoshki Dolls. The Japanese story "Inch Boy" will allow the children to compare children's books from Japan with those in the United States.



The Tuesday/Thursday children will investigate Festivals of various ages: 'First Haircuts', 'First Birthdays', and 'Coming of Age'. We'll begin to develop our Growing Things Mobile.

In science, we'll plant some seeds that we will watch grow. Each week we'll water our little seedlings and keep a diary of growth. Our coleus plant will be ready to take home for Mother's Day. Also, we'll study reptiles and insects.



~ Donna Pries

Upstairs A.R.T.S. Dance

Our show this session went wonderfully and we will now be working on creating dances for our upcoming show. In our last show, we learned about dancing with a partner, counting in eights, and dancing to patterns in the music. In class, we continue with our "Simon Says" warm-up, catching animals, and making characters fly. We count in many languages including Japanese, Italian, German, and by fives and tens in English and Spanish while we expand our floor exercises and stretching. Last session, we focused on forward and backward skipping, right/left discrimination (especially when in a circle or facing someone), and balance. This month we will explore more challenging steps such as polka and "swinging" a partner. The children worked very hard on our last show, which was great, and with more hard work and knowledge, our next one promises to be even better!



~ Rebecca Pries

Reminder

Sharing Days are **Wednesday, March 10th** and **Thursday, March 11th** this month.

Upstairs A.R.T.S. Thank You to . . .

Lily Wozniak for the Tell Me A Story Fairytale Mix-ups to celebrate her 5th birthday. This activity will provide the children time to use their imaginations to develop their language skills.



Special Thank You to . . .

All the parents who came and spent time in our classroom as Reading Parents these past couple of months.



The PTO for providing the delicious Valentine Snack.

The PTO and everyone who helped make the Valentine Sock Hop a huge success.



Jumping Goal is Achieved!

In Larry's Physical Fitness class a challenge has been achieved. *Angie Strand* in the PM class is the first child to jump rope over 50 consecutive jumps. Therefore, Larry brought popsicles for Angie to share with the afternoon children.

Items Needed

- The Friday A.R.T.S. classes need Frappacino bottles for making vases.
 - Upstairs A.R.T.S. needs adult size shoe boxes with lids for making dioramas this summer.
- Please give to Donna or drop off in the office. Thank you!

Phone List Changes

Add to phone list:

Ethan Sandusky
Downstairs A.R.T.S.
Monday/Wednesday PM (blue group)
619 Hannah, Forest Park, IL 60130
parents ~ Rachel & Eric



New phone number:

Keira Quinn
773-350-0428

Juji & Gabriel Rodriguez
773-320-2808

2010 Academy A.R.T.S. Sock Hop Raffle News

The A.R.T.S. PTO 2010 Sock Hop Raffle was a great success. \$5500.00 was raised to benefit the school! Thank you to all who donated prizes and volunteered for our event! We would also like to thank the raffle committee *Paula Maggio* and *Karen Smith* for all of their hard work along with *Barbara Dari*, *Colleen Weiler*, *Meredith Farster* and *Wynne Lacey*. Thank you to PTO President *Joan Rockey* who as always was a huge help. A special thank you to volunteers: *Amy Werthmann*, *Amy Wilbourne*, *Anna DeLano*, *Anne Maxwell*, *Anne Oscherwitz*, *Colleen Berg*, *Colleen Condon*, *Heidi Brown*, *Ingrid Liu*, *Jennifer Gimpert*, *Jenny Harrington*, *Jill Dauphinee*, *Jim Ormond*, *Jodi Kolo*, *Karen Smith*, *Kate Haarvei*, *Kari McCarthy*, *Kevin McCarthy*, *Kim Tenhor*, *Kristen Alfonsi*, *Lynne Nacke*, *Mary Anne Spillane*, *Megan Chesney*, *Melanie Buckley*, *Melissa Waters*, *Michele Kruegel*, *Michelle Johnston*, *Renata Matuliauskaite*, *Sara Koury*.

Congratulations to all of our prize winners!

