

# ACADEMY A.R.T.S. NEWS

The Academy of Movement and Music

605 Lake Street

Oak Park, Illinois

(708) 848-2329

MAY 2010

VOL. 14, NO. 8

## A YEAR-END NOTE

We are fast approaching the end of this school year and it is important to take this opportunity to thank each and every family for making this year special. The children have grown not only physically, but also cognitively, emotionally, and socially as well. This comes about through the combined efforts of teachers, children, and parents. Not nearly as much could have been accomplished, or many times even attempted, without the unwavering support of our parent population. Your cooperation and generosity in terms of time and resources have been very much appreciated.

To those families with children who are graduating from the A.R.T.S. program and to those who will not be returning in the fall, thank you for having chosen the Academy to be a part of your child's preschool years. On these last days of school, we are as sad to see our students move on as they were when they first separated from you to come to the Academy some 1, 2, or 3 years ago. We hope to see you in dance, music, or production classes in the future.

We do not have a formal "exit" interview in the A.R.T.S. program. However, if you have chosen to enroll your child in another preschool for the fall and have not spoken to any of our staff about this matter, your child's dean would appreciate hearing from you. We constantly strive to improve our programs.

To those families who will be returning for the Summer and/or Fall A.R.T.S. programs, we have already begun to plan for another year of exciting learning experiences for the preschoolers.

To everyone, have a safe, relaxing and fun-filled summer. Thanks again for a great school year.

~ Stephanie

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

### **Last Days of School**

**May 19, 20:** A.R.T.S. Recognition Days "Graduation" Ceremonies at 9:30 am and 1:30 PM (Dismissal at approximately 10:15 am and 2:15 PM)

**May 24-June 11:** Ballet Recital Rehearsals  
Schedule available in the office for Upstairs A.R.T.S. Tues./Thurs. recital participants

**June 12: 1:00 PM & 5:00 PM** ~ Academy's Annual Ballet Recitals in the Main Auditorium, Oak Park and River Forest High School

**June 14-July 30:** Summer Session

## Spring Cleaning

Spring has finally arrived and many of you may find yourself taking on the task of spring-cleaning. We in the A.R.T.S. program (both upstairs and downstairs) have a small request to make. If in your sorting and selecting of what may stay and what must go – *PLEASE* consider donating any usable children's toys, puzzles, or books to our program. Many children use our materials all week so there is much wear and tear as well as broken or missing parts that occur over the school year. Our supply of Legos, Duplos, Lincoln logs, Brio trains, Wooden Blocks, Waffle Blocks, and Brio Mec can always use additional pieces. Our Brio Trains and track are especially in need of replacement pieces. If you do have any items you would like to donate, please bring them to the office or directly to Niki or Donna.



Thank you!



Any child who has a summer birthday is more than welcome to celebrate his or her birthday at school during the month of May. If you would like to do so, please let either Donna or Niki know of your intentions.

*Obrigado!*

*Gracias!*

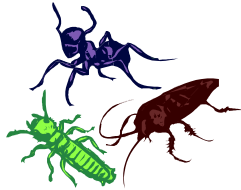
*The Academy Faculty & Staff wants  
to thank the PTO for all  
the hard work and support this year.*

*Hvala!*

*Merci!*

*Bedankt!*

## May in Downstairs A.R.T.S.



The month of May finds the children in the Downstairs A.R.T.S. exploring their final unit for the school year. Already they are very busy examining quite a collection of “Creepy Crawlies.” Our focus is on the world of insects, reptiles, and other creepy crawly friends living as close as our own backyards. We hope to learn a little bit more about the great variety of creatures that can be found while digging in the garden, playing in the grass, or walking in the woods this summer. We will search through some “grass” for rubber bugs and use our bug puppets to entertain our friends who are picnicking in our imaginative play area. Our Hungry Caterpillar and Snail Race games will be out for us to try our game playing skills. As a class, we will try our hands at watering a variety of flowers and other plants that provide homes and food for all these little creatures. As our art, music, and books take us into the land of worms and caterpillars, ants and ladybugs, our room will be crawling with activity for sure. There will also be time to rehearse our mini presentations for our Recognition Days as our busy year comes to an end.

~ Niki Merrick

### **Downstairs A.R.T.S.**



#### **Thank You to:**

**Franklin DeLano** for the books The Very Busy Spider and The Very Hungry Caterpillar in celebration of his third year. Our copies were very tattered. It is great to have these new ones just in time for our Creepy Crawly unit. Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, Frank!

**Katherine Johnson** for The Quiet Book in celebration of her fourth birthday. Who knew there were so many kinds of quiet. Have fun being four, Katherine!

**Jane Pearson** for the book Tiddler in honor of her 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. What a fun story about telling stories. Happy Birthday #3, Jane!

**Miles Toppen** for the book Giraffes Can't Dance in celebration of his 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. This is a great addition to our Academy Library for all our friends who love to dance. Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Miles!



#### **Special Thank You to:**

*All our parents, grandparents and sitters who have come in and read to us.* The children have really enjoyed having you as part of their day!

Following is the recipe for Playdough we make in Downstairs A.R.T.S. for the children:

#### **Maribeth's Playdough Recipe**

It is super easy and will last for months in a Ziploc bag in your refrigerator.

- 2 cups flour
- 2 cups water
- 2 Tbs. cooking oil
- 2 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1 cup salt
- food coloring as desired

Mix dry ingredients. Add oil and water with food coloring, mix in. (You will need many drops of food coloring to produce a strong color.) Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until it reaches the consistency of stiff mashed potatoes. Remove from heat. Divide into 4 balls. Knead to work out any lumps. Provide a rolling pin, cookie cutters, and an eager preschooler for hours of fun!

### **Phone List Changes**

#### **Add to phone list:**

Liam Shea

Downstairs A.R.T.S.

Monday/Wednesday PM (blue group)

919 N. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park 60302 708-445-1908

parents ~ Lisa & Ryan



## May in Upstairs A.R.T.S.



Throughout the month of May, the Upstairs children will continue to learn about peace. We will be going to Russia and Japan to meet two extraordinary girls who have helped children learn about peace. Our feet will leave a mark on the path to peace when we study about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s struggle for peace.

During this month, the Monday/Wednesday children will be busy. We will be getting ready for Mother's Day by mailing a card to our parents while we are at the Post Office. In literature class, the children will get the chance to share a favorite book with their classmates, and even help direct their storyline.

~ Donna Pries

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

There will be no “Sharing Days” in May.



### **Another Jumping Goal is**

**Achieved!** In Larry's Physical Fitness Class a morning child has achieved the jumping challenge. Mallory Meadows is the first child to jump rope 50+ consecutive jumps. By achieving this goal, she won popsicles for her classmates.

### **Upstairs A.R.T.S.**

#### **Thank You to:**

*Simona Sulminas* for the Tulip Flower Model and three wonderful books - Stella Star of the Sea, Tickle Tut's Toes and Make Van Gogh's Bed - to celebrate her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Tulip model was perfect for the children to explore the various parts of flowers during our Growing unit. The new books have already drawn a lot of attention from the children.



*Chloe Manno* for the Star Stacking Stencils in honor of her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. The children have already enjoyed developing wonderful design pictures with this project.

*Emmett Kindler* for the "What Comes Next?" Fun to Know Puzzles to celebrate his 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. These sequencing puzzles will be fun to explore.

#### **Special Thank You to:**

*All the Upstairs parents* who have helped us in our classroom as a substitute, reader and baking treats.



### **Class Portrait Orders**



A.R.T.S. school photo orders are being delivered next week. All of the photos are also posted on-line. If you would like to order additional photos, please send an e-mail to [info@sgreenphoto.com](mailto:info@sgreenphoto.com), and we will send you a link to view and order on-line. We really enjoyed photographing your children!

~ Stephen Green Photography

## **Summer fun ideas!**

Most parents' reactions to the idea of summer vacation stretching before them fall into one of two categories. Either you're looking forward to the break in your routine, welcoming the time to take "family field trips" to enrich your child's experiential background or you are experiencing a growing sense of panic over how to fill the long, hot days that lie ahead.

Whichever category you may fall into, here are some tried and true (and hopefully new!) ideas for summer fun from A.R.T.S. parents and staff. Each is an easy day trip from the OPRF area.

#### **BEMIS WOODS FOREST PRESERVE**

*West side of Wolf Rd. between Cermak Rd. and Ogden Ave., Western Springs*

Several walking trails (trail map is at far end of parking lot.) A favorite leads to the toboggan slides, which are quite impressive to see. Plenty of places for a picnic lunch.

#### **BLACKBERRY FARMS PIONEER VILLAGE**

*Galena Blvd. & Barnes Rd.*

*Aurora (630) 892-1550*

A nice blend of hands-on activities and museum-like exhibits, including pony, carousel, and train rides. Bring a picnic – the grounds are lovely!

#### **CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN**

[www.chicagobotanic.org](http://www.chicagobotanic.org)

*Eden Expressway and Lake Cook Road*

*Glencoe (847) 835-5440*

Nice walking and bike trails, many breathtaking gardens and a great cafeteria.

#### **CHOO-CHOO RESTAURANT**

*600 Lee Street*

*Des Plaines (847) 298-5949*

*Mon. – Fri.: 10:30 am – 8:00 PM, Sat.: 7:00 am – 3:00 PM*

Take a trackside seat and have your PB&J delivered by a model train. Plus it's just a few blocks from the McDonald's Museum.

#### **DONLEY'S WILD WEST TOWN**

*Route 20 & South Union Road*

*Union, IL (815) 923-9000*

*(40 miles from O'Hare Airport in McHenry County)*

Experience life in the Wild West: gunslinger showdowns, train rides, cowboy roping lessons, pop gun gallery, gold panning, canoe rides, petting zoo, and much more.

*(Over for more ideas!)*

### **FERRERA PAN CANDY COMPANY**

*7301 W. Harrison*

*Forest Park (708) 366-0500*

Visit the old fashioned, quaint candy store, decorated with fun wall murals. You can purchase candy at old-fashioned prices - .10 & .25.

### **GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY**

[www.garfield-conservatory.org](http://www.garfield-conservatory.org)

*300 N. Central Park – Green Line Stop*

*Chicago (773) 638-1766*

Enjoy walking through the Conservatory and visit the Children's Garden. No admission charge – small donation appreciated.

### **THE FRENCH MARKET**

*131 N. Clinton*

*Chicago (312) 575-0306*

*(in/beside the Ogilvie Transportation Centre)*

*Mon.-Fri.: 7:30 am – 7:30 PM, Sat.: 7:30 am – 6:00 PM*

Free entry. Fresh and prepared foods, lots of treats. Good place to have a delicious lunch. Take the El or train and turn it into a fun adventure.

### **THE GROVE**

[www.GlenviewParkDist.org](http://www.GlenviewParkDist.org)

*1421 Milwaukee Ave.*

*Glenview (847) 299-6096*

This large nature preserve has everything: quiet hiking trails, a large bog, tee-pees, long house, log cabin, and a wonderful interactive center complete with huge floor-level turtle aquarium. Weekends offer special events with related crafts for kids. This is a favorite destination all year long. It is generally free – exceptions such as Oktoberfest have a minimal charge.

### **LAMB'S FARM**

[www.lambsfarm.org](http://www.lambsfarm.org)

*Rt. 17 and I-94*

*Libertyville (847) 362-4636*

A very special place with farmyard, petting zoo, pony rides, restaurant, and ice cream parlor. Be sure to check out the pet shop! Run by developmentally disabled adults.

### **LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE**

*Willow Springs (708) 839-6897*

Nice, well-rounded nature center with three hiking trails and museum-like exhibits.

### **NAPERVILLE RIVERWALK**

*Downtown Naperville (630) 357-9000*

Linear Park along DuPage River includes fountains, gazebos, playground, sand beach, paddle boats and fishing.

### **PIRATES' COVE THEME PARK**

[www.parks.elkgrove.org](http://www.parks.elkgrove.org)

*999 Leicester Rd. & Biesterfield Rd.*

*(just south of the corner of Leicester & Biesterfield)*

*Elk Grove Village (847) 439-2683*

Pirates' Cove for its fun rides (kids can go independently), age appropriateness, low-key atmosphere and lovely land-scaping. Also, the price is right – you only pay for the child that rides. A mini-amusement park for children ages 2- 10.

### **PLEASANT HOME**

*217 Home Ave.*

*Oak Park (708) 383-2654*

National Historic Landmark home. One-hour tours Thurs.-Sun. Tours can be targeted to children. Special play-along games are part of the tour when children are present. The Historical Society has a historic toy room and a special vintage dress-up corner for kids of all ages. Adults - \$5.00 Children 5-18 - \$3.00 Under 5 are free. Friday is free for everyone.

### **RAINBOW FALLS WATER PARK**

[www.parks.elkgrove.org](http://www.parks.elkgrove.org)

*Elk Grove Village (847) 228-2860*

Children's adventure pool, slide area, wading pool, and zero-depth pool for babies. A special treat when Ridgeland and Rehm pools start to get a little bit ho-hum!

### **SHEDD AQUARIUM**

[www.sheddaquarium.org](http://www.sheddaquarium.org)

*1200 S. Lake Shore Dr. East*

*Chicago (312) 939-2435*

Check out the "Tots on Tuesdays" for 3 to 5 year olds and the "Animal Encounters" programs.

### **WARREN DUNES STATE PARK**

*Lakeside, Michigan (616) 426-4013*

A great destination for summer swimming, building sandcastles, walking in the woods, running down very high sand dunes, and getting far away for just one day!

### **WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE HAVEN**

*Park Ave. and 22<sup>nd</sup> St.*

*Glen Ellyn (630) 942-6200*

Wonderfully interactive nature center. Nice trails have signs to make your hike part of the learning experience.

