

ACADEMY A.R.T.S. NEWS

The Academy of Movement and Music

605 Lake Street

Oak Park, Illinois

(708)848-2329

APRIL 2009

VOL. 13, NO. 7

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

April 6: CLASSES RESUME

April 16: Upstairs A.R.T.S. performances "Water" at 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM

April 17: Last day to submit ideas for an "A.R.T.S. Summer Field Trip" for the May Newsletter

May 20 and 21: A.R.T.S. Recognition Days

Last Days of A.R.T.S. Classes

May 25: MEMORIAL DAY – ACADEMY CLOSED

May 26-June 12: Ballet Recital Rehearsal weeks

June 13: Academy Ballet Recital

June 15: Summer Session begins

Have a Fun-filled Summer Activity to Share?



As you may remember from last month's newsletter, we are asking you, our A.R.T.S. families, to share some of your favorite summer "field trip" ideas with us for our May newsletter on family field trips. We are still in need of suggestions. The criteria are simple:

- The trip must appeal to and be safe for younger children.
- Be within a day trip from the Oak Park/River Forest area.
- Be relatively inexpensive.

Please take the time to share your favorite place (or even a great place that you've heard about). Simply jot down the complete name, address, phone number (if known) and cost (if known) of the field trip 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" by April 17th. By sharing resources, we hope to have a May newsletter full of ideas for summer fun!

June Ballet Recital

Children who attend the Tuesday/Thursday Upstairs A.R.T.S. program are eligible to perform in the Academy's annual recital. This year our recital will feature younger students in Act I – "Mary Poppins" – on Saturday, June 13th at 1:00 PM in the Main Auditorium of Oak Park and River Forest High School; Act II – "Romance in Old Vienna" & "La Vivandiere" - for students in Elementary I through Advanced levels of Ballet will begin at 5:00 PM.



The Upstairs A.R.T.S. dancers will perform in Act I, which runs about 90 minutes in length. Rehearsals will be Wednesday, May 27th, 4:00-6:00 PM, Saturday, May 30th, 9:00-11:00 AM, Wednesday, June 3rd, 4:00-6:00 PM, Saturday, June 6th, 9:00-11:00 AM, Wednesday, June 10th, 4:00-6:00 PM. Dress rehearsal will be at the high school on Friday, June 12th, from 1:00-4:00 PM.

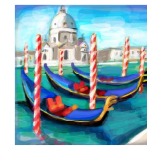
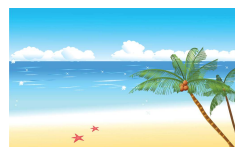
Eligible A.R.T.S. students will receive a packet of recital forms. Please let us know soon if your child will be participating in the recital. We will need to begin choreography, costuming and rehearsals ~ so your prompt response is greatly appreciated.

If the recital seems like a big deal ~ it is. Beautiful costumes, a real stage with lights and scenery and make-up! The younger dancers will have the best seats in the house. They will get to sit on the risers at the back of the stage, which allows them to see the whole show. We will have our most advanced dancers performing right along with our smallest beginners. Teachers and classroom demonstrators will sit with the children and are experienced in dealing with potty trips, fallen crowns, missing tails, itching tutus and anything else that may arise.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Stephanie Clemens. We have videos of previous recitals that you can take home to watch ~ either to help you in your decision about whether to participate or to help your child prepare for a wonderful experience!

We hope to see all of the Upstairs A.R.T.S. dancers performing in this magnificent production!

April in Upstairs A.R.T.S.



The month of April finds the Upstairs A.R.T.S. students continuing in their study of "Water." We will continue our exposure to Art Masterpieces depicting water scenes. The last week we will begin our study of "Wind."

Monday/Wednesday children watch for details about "Bring Your Own Story" at the end of the month. The children will be able to bring their favorite story for the other children to act out.

The Tuesday/Thursday children will learn how water is used for special occasions, finish their large sea animals, rehearse for their show, and look forward to seeing you at our performance. The performance will be held on Thursday, April 16th at 9:30 AM and 1:00 PM.

All the children will begin the preparation of their Mother's Day surprise. Then we'll begin our investigation of our next theme, "Wind."

~ Donna Pries

Reminder

Sharing Days will be **Wednesday, April 22nd** and **Thursday, April 23rd** this month.



Jumping Goal is Achieved!

In Larry's Physical Fitness class a challenge has been achieved. **Mia Wang** in the AM class is the first child to jump rope fifty consecutive jumps. By achieving this goal, she won a popsicle snack for her classmates that will be enjoyed when we return from Spring Break.

Upstairs A.R.T.S.

Thank You to . . .

Mia Rodriguez Nelson for the Magnetic Beginning Sounds project to celebrate her 5th birthday. A wonderful pre-reading activity that will help us in learning the sounds of the letters.



Special Thank You to . . .

The Friday children and teachers would like to thank *the A.R.T.S. families for the beautiful flowers* they donate that are arranged by the children.



Dentist Kevin Raihle, Ryan's dad, who came to the Friday Science Area to encourage the children to have good dental hygiene. He gave each child a coloring book and a toothbrush.

April in Downstairs A.R.T.S.



The month of April will find the Downstairs A.R.T.S. children taking on the task of learning about "Shapes and Senses." We will do a variety of activities over the next five weeks based on the five basic shapes – square, rectangle, triangle, circle, and oval – and on the five senses – sight, smell, hearing, taste, touch. We will explore the subject of shape with paper, pencils, templates, paint, glue and paper. We will handle all sorts of shapes as we work with our manipulatives. We will read about shapes, sing about shapes, find shapes in all sorts of everyday things, and even use our bodies to create shapes.

Woven throughout this unit will be an emphasis on heightening the children's awareness of the way in which we use our senses to learn about things. This hands-on knowledge is, in turn, a great way to develop vocabulary skills as we learn words with which to describe our sensations. Our science table will be the sight of various sensory experiences as we explore sight and smell. Touch, taste and hearing will be explored in separate practical life

experiences within the unit. Hopefully as our adventure with shapes and senses ends, the children will come away with a new awareness of the world around them.

~ Niki Merrick

Downstairs A.R.T.S.

Thank You to . . .

Aaron Willard for the book, shapes and patterns, in honor of his third birthday. What a terrific book with lots of words to learn and great pictures to help us do just that. Happy Birthday #3, Aaron!



Lily Molinaro for the books, Bear Feels Scared and Duck and Goose, in honor of her third birthday. What great friend books to share with your school friends. Happy 3rd Birthday, Lily!

Miles Toppen for the Musical Instrument puzzle and the Spring Peeps book in honor of his 3rd birthday. They are certain to become fast favorites with your Academy friends. Have fun being 3, Miles!

Special Thank You to . . .

Talia Sigismondi and her mom for donating some gently used puzzles to our classroom. Thanks for thinking of us!



All our reading parents who have come to read to the children. There are open spaces available if any moms or dads are interested in spending a bit of time in our book corner. Just stop by the office and sign up. The children really enjoy having you come and be a part of their day.

Reminder:

Dresses Don't Do Well in Physical Fitness!

Most of you have been doing a great job of appropriately attiring your daughters for school. Dresses are really hazardous to the girls in the physical fitness class. Even tops that are long and full get in the way during many of our activities. Some of the girls wear shorts, which is a wonderful option. Perhaps you could keep this letter to read to your daughter when she insists on wearing a dress. The A.R.T.S. program is full of movement activities throughout the week. Whenever your daughter wears a dress, she should wear shorts or tights under the dress. Thanks for your cooperation.

~ The Physical Fitness Teachers

Early Childhood Screening

Vision, Hearing, Language, and Pre-readiness
for children ages three and four

Thursday, April 23, 2009 ~ 4:00-7:00 PM
at Whittier School

715 N. Harvey, Oak Park, IL
Call to schedule an appointment: 708-524-3132