

ACADEMY A.R.T.S. TIMES

The Academy of Movement and Music
MARCH 2009

605 Lake Street

Oak Park, Illinois

(708)848-2329
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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 2: Teachers' Institute Day – No A.R.T.S. Classes.

March 7, 8, 14, 15: *MOMENTA* Performances at the Academy – "I See America Dancing" - Saturdays at 3:00 PM and Sundays at 2:00 PM ~ \$10.00/\$5.00.

March 18 & 19: **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 5: **SPRING BREAK!** The Academy will be closed.

April 6: **CLASSES RESUME.**

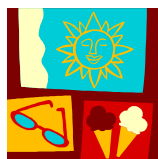
Summer A.R.T.S. 2009

The summer A.R.T.S. programs for 2009 look like wonderful fun. Downstairs A.R.T.S. children will explore activities based on "Storybook Summer." Upstairs A.R.T.S. students will research and perform "Magic Carpet Ride." **Registration for summer A.R.T.S. began February 17th for currently enrolled A.R.T.S. families only.** The brochure for the summer programs will be mailed March 10th and we will begin taking registrations for all other summer classes on a first-come/first served basis on March 12th. The seven-week program begins June 15 and ends July 31. 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 20th, 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 20th.

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 finds the Downstairs A.R.T.S. children on the go. Our focus has been on the many ways people travel during our unit of "Planes, Trains, Boats and Automobiles." Our imaginative play area has changed from bus to airplane to train to boat as our transportation needs change. We've been taking short trips to the zoo or museum or just to the ice cream shop. There is also the possibility that our travels will take us to another state or even another country! We have taken time to study our vehicles in motion in our sand table and put them to work making tracks in paint at our art table.

As we move along through the month, we will turn our thoughts and activities to spring. In our unit "Spring Fling," we will read, sing and even move about like bunnies and other baby animals as well as caterpillars and insects. Our practical life will include some spring-cleaning as we work on pouring and scrubbing. We will explore rain and wind and growing things. All these signs of spring are sure to find their way into this month's art projects. As our unit comes to an end, it will bring our spring break and maybe some warmer weather. Happy Spring Break to everyone!

~ Niki Merrick

Downstairs A.R.T.S. Art

Painting, gluing, stamping and coloring have all been used in the Downstairs A.R.T.S. program. Every Monday and Tuesday finds the children working on different art work. These projects allow the children opportunities to work with different materials and to express themselves in their creations.



Our upcoming unit is a look at spring and the celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Glitter painted shamrocks and a pot of gold picture will help us focus on this special day. Spring brings showers and wind, so we will design an umbrella and put together a wind sock.

Each creation is a learning experience and every project brings joy to the creator.

~ 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.

Upstairs A.R.T.S. March



In the month of March, we will continue our exploration of the Sea and Water festivals. First we'll fly to Japan and learn the legend of how Japan was formed. Through the Japanese folktale, "The Fisherman Under the Sea" by Mirjoko Matsutani, the children will investigate how children in Japan live. We will participate in a simplified version of the Tea Ceremony, which is essentially about hospitality.

The Monday/Wednesday children will have fun acting out stories about rain and the sea.

In Science, we'll examine properties of water such as floating and water's skin. Our curiosity will lead us to research animals of the sea. Dentist, Kevin Raihle, Ryan's dad, will come to the Friday morning class to talk about taking care of our teeth.

Through this unit the children will explore the importance of water and probe ways to care for it.

~ 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

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

Jack Berleman-Paul for the Firefly Bug Puzzle in celebration of his 4 ½ birthday. This cute puzzle will bring the children lots of fun when they work with this puzzle.



Jaxon Toppen for the books Shapes and Magnets and Let's Dance, Little Pookie to honor his 4 ½ birthday. Let's Dance, Little Pookie has already become a favorite book and we'll be able to explore our shapes with Shapes and Magnets.

Ben LaPorte for the book Growing Vegetable Soup to honor his 4 ½ birthday. This book will make a great addition to many of our units.

Jane Taub for the Sliders Rhyming Sounds to celebrate her 5th birthday. This project is perfect for our study of rhyming sounds that we are working on now.

Ryan Raihle for the Magnetic Rings and Leaping Frogs (Toss, Bounce & Score) in honor of his 5th birthday. The Magnetic Rings Game will allow the children to enjoy exploring magnetic poles. The Leaping Frogs game should develop our coordination as well as our math skills.

Philip Brooks for the Carnival of the Animals book and CD to celebrate his 5th birthday. The children will stimulate their imaginations with this version of the classic Carnival of the Animals music.

Audrey Johnston for the Phonics Spelling game in honor of her 5th birthday. Phonics Spelling is sure to advance our spelling and reading skills.

Special Thank You to . . .

Thank you to *Nurse Georgia Donovan, Liam's mom*, in the AM and *Doctor Frances Norlock, Luka Lisnic's mom*, in the PM who came to the Friday Science Area to help the children learn about the heart and how to care for their bodies.



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.

All the parents who supplied the delicious treats and snacks for our "Fire" Show.