

ACADEMY A.R.T.S. NEWS

The Academy of Movement and Music

605 Lake Street

Oak Park, Illinois

(708)848-2329

NOVEMBER 2008

VOL. 13, NO. 2

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

November 3: Open observation begins.

November 1-2, 8-9: MOMENTA performances at the Academy.

November 6: Upstairs A.R.T.S. performances at 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM "The Earth and Its Harvests".

November 21, 24, 25: Parent/teacher conferences 8:30 AM-3:30 PM. **No A.R.T.S. classes.**

November 21-28: No A.R.T.S. classes.

(November 22: Ballet classes are in session.)

November 27, 28: HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Academy Closed

(There are dance classes on Saturday, November 29!)

will continue in our music circle as we learn our song, "The Turkey Ran Away." You may even be taught a few verses by our Downstairs A.R.T.S. singers as Thanksgiving approaches.

On Thursday, November 6th, we will take our first "field trip" and journey upstairs to see a performance on "The Earth and Its Harvests" that the Upstairs A.R.T.S. children have been working on since the beginning of the school year. This is always an exciting event both for the performers and the audience.

After our break for conferences and the Thanksgiving holiday, the children of the Downstairs A.R.T.S. will return to begin our last unit of 2008 – "Celebration of Light!"

~ Niki Merrick

Parent Teacher Conferences

A.R.T.S. Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Downstairs A.R.T.S. on Monday and Tuesday, November 24th and 25th and for Upstairs A.R.T.S. on Friday, November 21st, Monday, November 24th and Tuesday, November 25th. There will be no A.R.T.S. classes on the days that conferences are scheduled. There will be babysitting available. You will be assigned a specific conference time on a day that your child normally attends school. Information about your conference will be mailed to you by the first week of November.

Downstairs A.R.T.S.

November



The month of November finds the Downstairs A.R.T.S. children stepping back in time to the days of Pilgrims, their American Indian friends, and the first Thanksgiving. Our imaginative play area will have our teepee, fire pit, and cooking kettle where there will be many opportunities to share both in conversations and in feast preparation. Our science table will be setup so we can examine corn in its many forms and talk about the part it played in the friendship between the American Indians and the Pilgrims. We will try our hands at making both pilgrim hats and Indian headbands at our art table and also have our first cooking experience as we pop our own popcorn to bring home. The discussion of Thanksgiving foods

Downstairs

Physical Fitness

Every day in the physical fitness room we work on developing the basic skills necessary for a strong, able body and mind. Each class begins with simple stretches and basic yoga poses intended to "warm-up" your child to the idea of physical fitness as an exciting challenge.

On Mondays and Tuesday we work the circuit. Like an adult circuit, ours is a sequence of equipment including mats, wedges, parallel bars, balance beams, tunnels, scooters, hurdles, stepping stones, arches, and ropes - all the tools to work on forward and backward rolls, jumps, balance, upper body strength, flexibility, spatial awareness, coordination and confidence.

Wednesday and Thursdays are "Game Days." After our stretching routine, we run for about three minutes to our favorite music. After we run we play a simple game like "Duck, Duck, Goose!", "Red Light, Green Light", or "High Water - Low Water" - Games such as these encourage team work while learning how to wait patiently for a turn. A sticker reward is given at the end of a Game Day for participation. The children often look forward to Game Day as an opportunity to "show off" some of their newfound skills.

Physical fitness provides a healthy outlet for your child's boundless energy. The children really do enjoy being physically active and would probably be more than happy to share some of their exercises with you. Just ask them!

~ Judy Bianchi & Anita Fillmore



Thank you to . . .

Amelia Dalton for the book Owen in celebration of her third birthday. It has already become a favorite in our book corner. Happy Birthday #3, Amelia!



Charlie Ryan for the book Leaves in celebration of his third birthday. What a terrific book to help us learn about the seasons. Have fun being 3, Charlie!

Mimi Moore for the book Fancy Nancy's Favorite Fancy Words in honor of her 3rd birthday. We will certainly have fun learning all these fancy words. Happy 3rd Birthday, Mimi!

Amanda McGreal for the book Never Too Little To Love in celebration of her fourth birthday. What a fun book to share with all your Academy friends. Happy Birthday to you, Amanda!

Olivia Trobetsky for the book Olivia in honor of her fourth birthday. Now we have another Olivia to enjoy in our class. Thanks Olivia and Happy Birthday!

Kate Werthmann for the book Fancy Nancy, Bonjour Butterfly in honor of her 4th birthday. The children are sure to enjoy Fancy Nancy's latest adventures. Have fun being 4, Kate!

Margaret Carr and her Great Aunt Judy for the book The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything. Thank you for sharing one of your favorite Halloween stories with your Academy friends. We read it over and over.

Roz Bassett-Dilley and her mom for their donation of gently used Playmobil 1-2-3 toys and peg puzzle. They are already a part of our green circle and shelf activities. Thank you so much!

All our parents who helped make our Fall Masquerade a big success.

Quick Reminders . . .

With the colder weather comes new coats, clothes, and footwear. Please remember to label these items. Also check those clothes in your child's backpack to make sure they are weather and size appropriate.



Changes in weather and children's sizes also signal the need to adjust those car seat belts. Just a little adjustment can make getting in and out easier on our aides at arrival and dismissal. Thanks!

Our reading parent sign-up list is in the office by

Kari's desk. Parents are welcome to sign-up and join us in the book corner beginning this month.

Downstairs A.R.T.S. Pumpkin Patch

Just a little reminder to the Downstairs A.R.T.S. children. We have started our pumpkin patch on the wall between Ruth's and Niki's doors and are hoping to have it filled with pumpkins. If you did not get your "pumpkin homework," just let us know and we will send a new one home with your child so your family can join in our pumpkin patch.



Upstairs A.R.T.S. November



November will see the culmination of our unit about the Earth and its Harvests. Thanksgiving is our Harvest Festival and the Monday/Wednesday children will become the Native Americans and the Pilgrims.

Our show "The Earth and Its Harvests" is Thursday, November 6 at 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM. All parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends are invited to join us for our performance. The Downstairs A.R.T.S. children will join our audience. If your child does not attend on Thursday, you may enjoy bringing your child to our performance.

In our discussions of the Harvests around the world we discovered that all celebrations include Thankfulness. Most also embrace a sharing of the Harvest. During the English Harvest Home food is collected for those in need. We would like to include a collection of canned goods for the needy also. If you would like to participate, bring any canned goods either upstairs to Donna or leave them in the office. The downstairs children are welcome to contribute to our collection of canned goods too. They will be on display at our performance and then given to a Food Pantry.

In our new unit "Fire", the children will study cultures that relate to fire. The cultures we will highlight in our show are: Fire inside the Earth – the volcanoes of Hawaii; Fire of the Sun – Norway's Sun Day; and Fire of the Candle – India's Diwali.

~ Donna Pries

Upstairs Physical Fitness

In Upstairs Physical Fitness the children have learned the proper sequence needed to complete the main circuit. Pulling, pushing, momentum



control, vaulting, rolling, and body shape awareness are all parts of the physical challenges of this circuit. After completing the circuit the children are free to explore the 10 workout stations that are designed to develop upper body strength (pull up bar and rope pull stations), coordination (crawlers, upside down crawlers, and buddy walkers), leg strength (the stepper, blast off, and jump rope), and the abdominals (rolling scooter). All children in the Upstairs A.R.T.S. program have mastered the basics of each station and are now working on strength building and endurance.

~ Larry Ippel

Thank you to . .

Caitlin Quinn for the Build a Castle puzzle in honor of her 5th birthday. This imaginative puzzle will allow us to build a castle in lots of different ways.



Anna Russell for the Color Changing Touch Squares to celebrate her 5th birthday. These squares change colors depending on the warmth of a person's touch. We'll have a great time exploring them in the Science area.

Mia Wang for the Dress Up Felt Fun in honor of her 5th birthday. The children have already had a lot of fun with this project.

William Gearhardt for the Build a Spaceship puzzle in celebration of his 5th birthday. We will also be able to use our imaginations while using this puzzle to build a spaceship in various ways.

Giacomo Rizzo for the Cookies on a Plate Game in honor of his 5th birthday. This game will help us practice our numbers and learn some simple addition.

To all the parents who helped us on our Field Trip to the Fire Station and those **who have spent time** in our classroom reading to the children.

Our PTO and all their volunteers who worked to make our two days of Fall Masquerade a big success!

♥ Valentine Sock Hop Raffle ♥

The Academy A.R.T.S. PTO is looking for donations for its 7th Annual Raffle, being held during the Valentine Sock Hop on Saturday, February 7th. Examples of prizes we are looking for are:

- Children's items (basket of toys, books)
- Gift certificates for merchandise
- Gift certificates for services (salon, spa, home improvements, etc.)
- Tickets to movies, theater, or sporting events
- Trips or hotel getaways

- Restaurant dinners
- Family admission to museums or other attractions
- Airline miles

If you or someone you know would like to provide a raffle prize, please contact one of the PTO Raffle Committee chairpersons: Marisa Green at [708-488-8035](tel:708-488-8035)/marisagreen@sbcglobal.net or Paula Maggio [708-358-0037](tel:708-358-0037)/maggio@mc.net. Thanks for your support!

Phone List Changes

Add to phone list:

Talia Luallen
Downstairs A.R.T.S.
Monday/Wednesday PM (yellow group)
100 S. Elmwood #8, Oak Park, IL 60302
(312) 375-0429
parents ~ Jill & Matthew



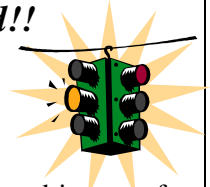
Ian Chmielewski
Downstairs A.R.T.S.
Tuesday/Thursday PM (red group)
1155 S. State St. #406, Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 360-0028
parents ~ Tanya & Don

Name Correction:

Jose (misspelled in our phone list) Molinaro ~ father of Lily Molinaro, Downstairs A.R.T.S.
Please add to your phone list.

Very Important ~ Please Read!! Drop Off/Pick-up Reminder

Please do not arrive early to drop off and pick up your children. The neighbors have complained to the police about our clients sitting in the driveway for excessive amounts of time blocking access to their driveways. If you arrive early for drop off, you will need to wait at the meters on North Blvd. until 8:30 AM or 12:30 PM ~ staff is not ready to start accepting children until 8:35 AM and 12:35 PM. At dismissal/pick-up time please do not line up in the driveway until 10:50 AM or 2:50 PM. If you arrive earlier, please wait at the meters on North Blvd. Please make all persons who drop off/pick up your child aware of these regulations.



Thank you for complying.



Preparing for Parent/Teacher Conferences

By Judith Wainwright, from Lauri, Summer 1995.
Reprinted with permission. Adapted for A.R.T.S.
by Stephanie Clemens.

Not so long ago, parents regarded parent/teacher conferences with dread. Surely, a “call to school” meant their child was in trouble, and the school needed parents’ help to solve the problem. Today’s parents regard parent/teacher conferences as a forum for exchanging valuable information about their children; i.e., the teacher needs information about the child that only the parents can provide, and the parents receive helpful suggestions from the teacher.

Don’t be intimidated by the appearance of a large group of teachers sitting around a table waiting to talk with you. That large group is the very diversity of skills that attracted you to our program; the collective wisdom of so many educators is a valuable resource for you and your child. The teachers also welcome conferences as a time to learn from you – and from each other.

Still, some parents are apprehensive about meeting with their child’s teacher – an obstacle that is easily overcome by planning ahead. If you find yourself in that group, here are some hints on how to get ready for, and what to do, at your parent/teacher conference:

1. Tell your child you are going to meet with his teacher. Ask him where to look to see things he has done. Find out if there are questions he wants you to ask.

2. Be on time. Your conference will be only 10 to 15 minutes long, and you’ll want to make the most of it. If time runs out, you can arrange for a follow-up conference. Don’t spend valuable minutes on small talk.

3. Arrive with a prepared list of questions (“Does my child follow directions?” or “Does she get along with her classmates?” etc.) **and any information you think the teacher should know.** If your child is grieving because of the loss of a pet, that is important information to the teacher. Listen carefully to the teacher’s responses – and take notes. They’ll refresh your memory later.

4. Listen Carefully. Almost all parents hear (at least once) that their child isn’t working to capacity or is behaving immaturely. If this is the case, resist the urge to defend your child. Instead, listen carefully and try to understand the problem. Ask for suggestions on how you can help.

By customizing these suggestions to your particular situation - whether your child is in preschool, kindergarten or elementary school - you can emerge from your parent/teacher conference as a confident partner in your child’s well being.

MOMENTA

Fall Concert Series ~ 2008

November 1, 2, 8, 9

Family Matinees are Saturdays at 3:00 PM and Sundays at 2:00 PM. In addition to five short works, including choreography by **Connor Cornelius, Deborah Goodman, Sarah Najera and Gina Sigismondi**, there will be a ballet based on a Japanese Fairy Tale – “The Shining Princess,” choreographed by **Stephanie Clemens, Sarah Najera and Manna Yamazaki**, with video projections by **Michael Bassett** of 13 Karat Productions, and origami sets and costumes by **Rick Beech**. This is truly an international collaboration as **Manna Yamazaki** came in from Japan to advise on costumes and to teach Traditional Japanese Fan Dance, and **Beech** lives in England. **Yamazaki** also folded and assembled the thirty components of an origami kusudama that represents the Moon, and then gave impetus to **MOMENTA’s** project involving its student dancers and other children in the community to fold 1000 cranes for peace. The finished cranes will be hung together in the foyer at the Academy. Music for the ballet is almost all traditional Japanese music.

Tickets are available at the door. Adults are \$10.00 and seniors and students are \$5.00. For groups of ten or more call ahead (708-848-2329) to find out about group discounts. The Academy building is accessible to persons with disabilities.

Adults and older children will enjoy **MOMENTA’s** evening concerts. **MOMENTA** will be repeating Doris Humphrey’s magnificent work from 1938, “Passacaglia and Fugue” – first seen here in the fall of 2007. There are new works by **Caroline Deziel, Serge Fokin and Ginger Lane** that will premiere at these concerts and highlights from the Summer Concerts, by **Teresa Deziel, Anita Fillmore, Sarah Green, Cora D. Mitchell, Leah Soffer and Raphaelle Ziemba**. One of the highlights of these fall concerts is “Flickers,” Charles Weidman’s 1941 parody of the silent film era. “Flickers” is in 4 “Reels,” rather than scenes: 1) “Hearts of Flame” – after films of Lillian Gish (Perils of Pauline, 2) “Wages of Sin” – a spoof on Theda Bara, 3) “Flowers of the Desert” – Weidman’s tribute to Rudolph Valentino, 4) Cowboys and Indians take the stage in “Hearts Courageous.” **Deborah Carr**, who danced with Charles Weidman in the 1970s came to Oak Park and worked for six days (almost 30 hours!) with the dancers. Carr has also loaned us an almost complete set of costumes (35!) for the work.

Tickets for the evening concerts are \$20/\$10/\$5. Group rates are available.

MOMENTA is the resident performing dance company of the Academy of Movement and Music in Oak Park. Founded in 1983 by Stephanie Clemens, Larry Ippel and James C. Tenuta, **MOMENTA** grew out of a need to create opportunities for local choreographers and composers and to give young artists performing experience. Today, **MOMENTA** is comprised of both a Senior and Junior Company. The Senior Company includes seasoned professionals and highly skilled advanced students while the Junior Company includes talented young dancers who are developing their performing skills. **MOMENTA** has performed nationally and internationally and regularly performs throughout the Chicago area.