

# Beachwood Nursery School

January 11, 2012 Director's Newsletter

## Child Development

Reading to infants and toddlers is important to literacy development. You can begin reading to your infant as soon as you begin talking to him or her. Reading aloud will help your child develop the language and listening skills necessary to begin a lifelong love of language and the printed word. At 3 or 4 months, hold your infant and read books with rhythmic language and brightly colored, simple pictures.

- In a few months, add books that have pictures your infant will recognize.
- Read from cloth and board books that your infant can hold and touch.
- Be dramatic. Use different voices; make faces; and feel free to wiggle, bounce, and sing to engage your infant.

From the age of 2 to 5, children can turn the pages in a book and follow the pictures, repeat the words they have heard you read, follow the story, and "read" on their own.

- Be dramatic and read often, varying the length to accommodate your child's interest.
- Involve your child by talking about the book while reading.
- Sound out some words and play with sounds.
- Have conversations about the book that you read last or will read tomorrow.

Five- and six-year-olds can begin the ritual with books they can read or almost read. Extend the bedtime hour as children get older so that they believe the reading period is an extra gift of time. Read chapter books to your school age child as part of your night time ritual.

## Supporting Social & Emotional Growth

Did you know there are 7 essential life skills that every child needs. I am reading an excellent book right now called Mind in the Making by Ellen Galinsky. The first question the author poses is "Think about some words that describe what life is like today. What words come to mind?" Many words that run into my mind is busy, high-tech, not enough time. Many words that are described in the book include complex, distracting, fast moving, 24-7, and stressful. We all want the best for our children, but how do we help them not only survive but thrive, today and in the future? It is clear that there is information children need to learn-facts, figures, concepts, insights, and understandings. But we neglected something that is equally essential-children need life skills. What is meant by this word skills? Take the words often used to describe the world: complicated, distracting. Or the words about time: 24-7, rushed, time starved, too much to do and not enough time to do it. To navigate this world, children need to focus, to determine what is important and to pay attention to this, amid many distractions. Focus is one of the essential skills we need to promote in our children. The seven essential life skills author, Ellen Galinsky, writes about children needing include:

Skill 1: Focus and Self-Control

Skill 2: Perspective Taking

Skill 3: Communicating

Skill 4: Making Connections

Skill 5: Critical Thinking

Skill 6: Taking on Challenges

Skill 7: Self-Directed, Engaged Learning

As I continue to read this book, I will share her insight on these skills in each months newsletter. Let me know if you decide to read the book, I'd love to have a conversation on it. Michelle Keenan

## Opportunities to Meet Parents/BNS Happenings

**Gift of Time Workshop:** January 31, 2012 from 6:30-7:30 presented by Mary Ellen Cassaro, Head Teacher/Assistant Program Administrator and Pat Quintenz, Head Teacher. Do you have questions about Kindergarten Readiness? Is your child a summer birthday? Come talk to the Head Teachers at BNS to learn and discuss about Kindergarten Readiness.

**SFI Parent/Teacher Meeting** to be held on Wednesday, 1/25 from 6-8 in Building 1. This is open to all parents & staff interested in becoming more actively involved in our school. If you are interested in organizing family programs, story nights, parent workshops, family nights & infant/toddler activities, please plan on attending. Please call the office by Monday 1/23 should you need childcare arrangements. Bring your ideas! Strengthening Families Initiative (SFI) is the parents opportunity to take part in developing a network and support system for our school and its families. For more information on SFI, go to [www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families](http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families). To give a summary of the SFI Parent Meeting in November, we were able to put together a few ideas. The first one being the Pandora Bracelet Raffle. This was a great success and we appreciate Tammi Blumenthal coordinating everything. The next success was getting Labels for Education off the ground again. Tracie Colangelo sent out flyers to all the families asking them to save their Campbell Soup Labels. Then she put up envelopes for each classroom so parents may deposit their labels into the envelopes. Our next idea that will launch this month, is a Community Event Calendar. Sarah McNabb volunteered to coordinate a Community Event Calendar that will hang in the foyer of Building 1. We did this a few years ago and had much success. Sarah offered her assistance in getting this up and running again. And finally, a thank you goes out to Danielle Giordano for delivering all of the Food Drive Items to St. Barnabas Church. Thank Goodness she had a truck because it was full. Thank you to the parents who have offered their assistance as well as for attending the meeting. We will be sending out an email for the upcoming meeting so we can discuss plans for the Grandparent Event that will be coming for Dr. Seuss's Birthday. Thank you again for all of your assistance.

**SFI/Three For Me** We announced at the Sing-A-Longs that each parent who donates items to the classroom, volunteers, makes play-dough, mystery reader etc, should fill out a classroom leaf with their family name on it. We will then hang the leaves on our Volunteer Tree which is located in the APR for everyone to see during our Family Events. At the end of the year, for every leaf, you will receive a ticket. These tickets are to be used in our Family Volunteer Appreciation Baskets. The Baskets are displayed in June & the winners announced at the Family Picnic. Tickets cannot be purchased. Tickets are given for volunteer efforts so make sure you fill out a classroom leaf! With that being said, don't forget to look at your classroom's Giving Tree. Supplies are always needed. Again we appreciate your generosity.

**Celebrating Grandparents Event:** Wednesday 2/29 & Thursday 3/1...Information to follow. This will be an evening event & will be Dr. Seuss and Read Across America themed. Come to the SFI Parent Meeting on 1/25 if you'd like to help us plan!

**Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Conferences begin the week of January 30 and will run through March. Please be sure to schedule your appointment with your classroom teacher. Sign-ups will be going up shortly.

**Open House:** February 11th, 2012 from 10am-1pm, BNS will hold an Open House for Registration. If you know of any families that would like a tour, please share this information with them. **Parents may register a time by calling the office.**

**Registration for 2012-2013 School Year:** Re-Registration Packets will be available February 21, 2012 for the 2012-2013 School Year. Registration will be accepted on Saturday 2/25 for Infants/Toddlers/Twos from 10-12 and for Preschool-Kindergarten from 1-3. This is for In-House Registration Only. New Registrations will be accepted Sunday, 2/26 for Infants/ Toddler/Twos from 10-12 and for Preschool-Kindergarten from 1-3 for New Families. **Please make note that we will no longer be accepting registrations for CHS subsidies for the 2012-2013 school year. We apologize for the inconvenience.**

**Speech Screenings:** Information will be sent home by the end of next week on speech screenings. The therapist will be coming into BNS to hold the evaluations during the school day. There will be a \$10 fee should you choose to have an evaluation.

## **BNS / Community Resources Family Connection**

**BNS has a Lending Library** for children's books & for parent resources in both buildings. Simply fill out the library card provided with the book & leave it in the card holder. You may borrow books from our lending library as often as you like. We also have some family board games available in Building 1 that are available for lending. If you have gently used board games, we will gladly add them to our lending library.

**Ocean County Health Department Sponsors:** Flu Clinic are being held at the O.C. Health Dept at 175 Sunset Ave, Toms River during Thursdays in January. The dates are January 12, January 19 and January 26. Flu Shots are \$20. The time is from 3-6pm. It is mandated through the state of NJ that all children in childcare/preschool must have a flu shot between the ages of 6 months and 59 months. Please bring us a copy that your child has received their flu shot ASAP as we will be audited for immunizations in February.

## **BNS School Policies /Procedures Highlights**

**Pro Care Computer Check-In:** All Families who have children attending BNS for lunch, school day, kindergarten, or child care must sign in and sign out on the Pro Care Computer Check In. There are computer stations in both buildings. Please see Kathy Moran or Michelle Keenan for assistance. \*If you do not have codes or find the computer is not working, please sign in and/or sign out on the clipboards everyday that your child attends.

Please remember if you might be experiencing difficulty checking in and checking out using the Pro Care System, this could be because your child was not checked in or out properly on the previous day. If some one else is dropping off or picking up, please remind them that they must be utilizing the computer system as well.

**Lunch Policy:** We encourage families to send in lunch in a wide mouth insulated thermos. This will decrease the amount of re-heating we must do at lunch time.

**Communication:** We do our best to assist all of our families. Should you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, please speak directly to your classroom teacher or to the Director. The Director, Michelle Keenan, will be on maternity leave until March. Please speak with Mary Ellen Cassaro, Head Teacher/Assistant Program Administrator and/or Kathy Moran, Office Manager for any questions of concerns. Justina Newman, Sponsor/Owner will also be available to speak to as well.

Email us at [info@beachwoodnurseryschool.com](mailto:info@beachwoodnurseryschool.com) if we do not have your e-mail.

Please feel free to communicate with your classroom teachers via e-mail. In-person conversations & phone calls are best but sometimes a quick email can answer simple questions. Please be reminded staff may only check email on a weekly basis. We have requested any behavior concerns be discussed in person or over the phone NOT via e-mail, Facebook, Twitter or any type of Social Media. It is in our employee handbook prohibiting staff to communicate via social media with a parent concerning these issues.

**Key Fobs/Security:** A \$20 deposit is required for each key fob. Your deposit will be returned at the end of the school year once your key fob is returned in good shape. The front doors of both buildings will remain locked. The doors in Building 1 (BNS) will be unlocked for arrival & dismissal but will then be immediately re-locked once the classes have arrived or have dismissed. Please ring the doorbell should you get locked out. We recommend all families attending the ELC (Bldg 2) to obtain a key fob. Please see the office staff.

**Lost and Found:** In building 1, there is a coat stand located in the glass enclosure for Lost and Found. When we find items in the classroom or on the playground, we will place these items on this coat stand.

**Parking Lot Safety:** Please be sure to hold your child's hand when crossing the parking lots of building 1 and building 2.

**Tuition is due on the 1st of each month!** Our teacher's salaries are 100% supported by your paid tuition. Please pay your tuition on time! Please remember late fees will be billed at \$2 per day from the 1st of the month if tuition is received after the 7th. Please speak to Kathy Moran should you have any billing questions, schedule changes or general inquiries. Families checking in and out on the Procure System can check their billing statements at the Computer Check-In Screens in both foyers of Building 1 and Building 2.

For families with tuition over \$500 per month wishing to pay on a bi-weekly basis, please set up an ACH/Electronic Funds Transfer account with the office. Checks may be deposited in the locked, black tuition boxes located in both foyers on building 1 and building 2

**Our Tax ID # is 22-272-1762**

**Snow Delays/Closures** Should T.R. Schools Close on the 1st day of inclement weather, BNS & ELC will also close. Should T.R. Schools close on the 2nd day due to inclement weather, the BNS ½ day program will also remain closed while The Early Learning Center will open for childcare families only, weather permitting & no state of emergencies. If we have a delayed opening, our doors will open at 9:00 AM. **There will be no Morning Childcare.** We will not be able to accept the afternoon Kindergarten children for any delayed openings or cancelled Kindergarten public school sessions until 11:30. We will not be able to accommodate the School Age Children for any delays or cancellations. Please refer to WOBM (92.7) / [www.wobm.com](http://www.wobm.com) for information on weather related school closings. Click on News, Weather, Storm Closings, then click on the letter B for our school listing. Again please reference the above website for information. **There are no credits for illness, inclement weather, absences or public school make-up days.**

## **Keep the Music Playing...**

Well our first Music Together Collection is complete. We finished our Bongos Collection by celebrating together with our annual Holiday Sing-a-Longs. Miss Robin and the BNS Staff held 8 Sing-a-Longs last month. We hope you had a great time. The turn out for each program was excellent and we truly appreciate you taking the time to join us for such as festive occasion. At the very last Sing-A-Long, we announced the winner of the Pandora Bracelet Fundraiser. Ms. Donahue purchased her 1 ticket at the Thursday Sing-a-Long and became the chosen winner at the Friday afternoon session. It was during our Infant/Toddler Sing-a-Long that Ms. Donahue's ticket was chosen. We are sure that she was thrilled when she received the phone call. We can't thank Tammi Blumenthal and Corrinne Jewelers enough for their generosity for donating the bracelet. Ticket sales brought in over \$500.

Miss Robin will begin the Music Together Bells Collection at the beginning of February. We take a short break during January so the teachers can prepare for Parent-Teacher Conferences while Miss Robin attends Professional Development Training at the Music Together Headquarters in Hopewell Junction. These are excellent workshops that help each Music Together Specialist make the most of the upcoming collection. We look forward to playing along with Miss Robin. And don't worry, music is still a part of each classrooms daily routine but our formal Music Together Program will resume by the end of the month. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Miss Robin through the office.