

January, 2010



# News from Learning Circle Preschool

*Happy New Year!*

## Please Don't Forget - We Play Outdoors Daily!

### Dates to Remember

- ☞ Tues 1/5 **Governance Meeting** at 10:15 AM
- ☞ Wed 1/13 **Financial Committee Meeting** at 7:00 PM; **Board Meeting** at 7:30 pm
- ☞ **NO SCHOOL 1/18/2010**  
Martin Luther King Day
- ☞ **NO SCHOOL 1/19/2010**  
Professional development
- ☞ Sat 1/30 **Children's Puppet Show** by Yorick's Marionette Theatre at 11 AM

We want to remind everyone one more time that we do go outside every day.

Children should be prepared for outdoor play with mittens, hats, boots, snow pants (for warmth) and other warm layers daily. You can hang a bag with outdoor clothes here at school, or bring your extra layers daily.

Even if the weather seems warmer on a given day we still need boots and snow pants daily. And if it seems too cold or nasty when you leave your child at school, please remember that if conditions change the children may very well go out later!

Please assure that your child is prepared each day. We have some extra clothes around, but find many children refuse to wear clothing that isn't theirs. Thanks!

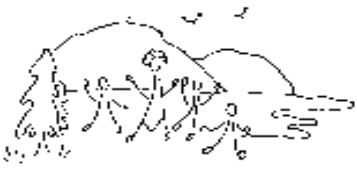
## When Children Are Ill

At this time of year we tend to experience a period when many children are ill for extended periods. It might be lasting fevers, persistent coughs, stomach bugs, or a multitude of other illnesses. There is nothing unique in this – it's a seasonal problem that all schools experience.

We can all work together to assure that the illnesses that inevitably travel through the school reach as small a population as possible, and that children who return from illness are not quickly re-infected.

Please keep your child home when he or she is feeling under the weather, and especially if coughs, runny noses, or other symptoms that would interfere with your child's ability to enjoy school persist. After an extended illness, children will need a day or so to stay home and rest, so that they are energetic participants at school. If your child has had a fever or diarrhea, please keep him/her home long enough to assure that symptoms of illness have truly passed, and that the illness is not moving towards a new stage.

We do what we can here at school to prevent the spread of these common illnesses by disinfecting surfaces and materials, insisting on thorough hand washing, and educating children on ways to prevent the spread of germs. We depend on all of you to assure that children stay as healthy as possible through this season. Thanks.



## Puppet Show by the Yorick's Marionette Theatre

We are thrilled to be able to host a marionette show, "Counting the Trees" by the Yorick's Marionette Theatre, a troupe based in Rhode Island, on Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM.

Learning Circle Preschool  
3 Blue Hill River Road  
Canton, MA 02021

**Phone:**  
(781) 828-4800

**Fax:**  
(781) 828-6450

**Email:**  
info@learningcirclepreschool.org

Counting the Trees is a 40-minute marionette show designed for audiences of all ages. It showcases 18 of Dusan Petran's wonderful hand carved wooden marionettes. After the show itself, audience members will have the opportunity to get a close look at the puppets and hear about them. These puppets are works of art!  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~puppetry>

We are offering this puppet show as the culmination of our month long whole school curriculum using puppetry to enhance the children's story telling and literacy skills. We hope you'll reserve the date now, and tell neighbors and friends. All are welcome!

### Credits:

Yorick's Marionette Theater has performed at major museums and events in the US and Europe, including: Boston MFA; F.Griswold Museum;RISD Museum; Boston First Night; Festival of Ideas,CT; Avignon Festival France

### Awards:

The National Endowment for the Arts,RI State Council on the Arts Fellowship for Traditional Arts and new works productions, RI Foundation for the production of 'Golem', Fidelity Investment, Cambridge Arts Association for sculptural works.

## Upcoming Open House and Information Night for Prospective Families Tuesday January 12 at 9 am (while school is in session) or Thursday January 14 at 7:30 pm

We hope you'll help us spread the word about our programs by letting neighbors and friends know about two upcoming opportunities to collect information about our program:

Parents looking for transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, or preschool options next year are invited to attend an Open House on Tuesday January 12, 9 am (while school is in session), or an Information Night on the evening of Thursday January 14, 7:30 pm.

At these meetings, parents will have the opportunity to review developmentally appropriate preschool and kindergarten curriculum, and view a slide presentation of a typical day at school. Katrina Selawsky, Director of the Learning Circle Preschool, will also answer questions about quality preschool experiences, kindergarten "readiness", and the impact of class size, emotional and social development, and teacher expectations on a child's successful school experience.

Although these meetings are primarily for prospective families, any current parents who have questions about their program choices for next year are also welcome to attend.

Word of mouth is our best way of letting families know about our programs. We appreciate your support!



## Discussion on Friendship and Social Development Friday February 5 at 9 - 10:30 am

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Many parents ask their child's teacher "Does my child have a friend at school?" You may be thinking about...

- *What friendship means at various stages of development*
- *How adults can support children's social development*
- *What skills children need to develop as they learn to "get along" with other children*
- *What children mean by the words they use as they talk about other children they define as "friends"*
- *Features of successful play dates*

Join a discussion with other parents about these and any other questions you may have about social development

Sign up today in our welcome room!

## Thanks for Donations to this year's Annual Appeal

Donations to this year's Annual Appeal continue to come in – thanks to all of you who have contributed so generously.

We are beginning to schedule a variety of enrichment experiences for the second half of the year that would not be possible without these contributions. A sample follows:

- A Birds of Prey presentation for our older children, many of whom have observed hawks recently near our playground. Trailside Museum staff will bring three birds for an hour presentation
- A presentation about owls specifically addressing the interests and discussions some of the chickadee children have shared this year
- A reading of Jan Brett's *The Mitten*, with a visit from a live hedgehog
- An introduction and hands on workshop on sculpture, including access to sample artwork from the Audubon's Visual Arts Center
- Two days of Barn Babies visits, so that all the children will have access to this wonderful opportunity to interact with baby farm and pet animals

Bringing presentations like these to the school is expensive; a presentation for a single class ranges in price from \$75 - \$300 or more. They offer invaluable curriculum opportunities, and are well worth the cost.

Right now, we have raised about \$2800 from both current families and families who have participated in our programs in the past through the Annual Appeal. It isn't too late to participate, as we continue the appeal through this academic year. If you haven't yet done so, we hope you will consider a donation of any size, to show your support of our program in general and, more specifically, of enrichment programs for the children like these.