



## **FROM THE DIRECTOR**

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

Dear Clara Barton Preschool Parents,

True to the old adage “In like a lion, out like a lamb,” we’re going to have a couple more days of the rainy days of March, and then spring will surprise us – (we hope)! As I write this newsletter column, it’s overcast and misty outside. Spirits are not dampened though, and all the classes are preparing for spring – starting plants from seeds for the backyard garden, playing with grass in the sensory table, digging in dirt, learning about how vegetables, flowers and fruit grow.

Here’s a snapshot of what is going on at Clara Barton today:

- The **Puffins** planted “seed potatoes” and other vegetables this week, and today cleaned, grated and mashed their own potatoes for snack. Four
- boys who were busily tracing and coloring at the art table were overheard to say that they didn’t know McDonald’s french fries were made from potatoes; they thought they were just french fries.
- The **Hummingbirds** helped make butter yellow playdough this morning – a number of them were squishing the warm, soft dough through their fingers and calling it yellow worms.
- Three **Cardinal** girls made a raft and were stocking it with food and other supplies for their trip down the river. One reminded another that she better move because she was standing in the water and was about to sink! Others had colored the water in the sensory table purple, were busily connecting tubing from the water table to the sink, and watching the purple water move through the clear tubing.
- The **Toucans** spent lots of time on opposite sides of the see-through plexiglass mirror “painting” each other green and blue from head to toe.
- And the **Eagles** worked on color mixing with food color and watercolor on paper towels, creating vibrant splotches of yellow, red and orange.

Gray outside, but a brilliant rainbow of play inside.

The teachers and I believe in the importance of play. We believe that confidence and self-esteem, as well as cognitive development, in your preschoolers are best promoted through experiential learning opportunities of free play and natural exploration. Spring is a perfect time of year to reinvigorate your connection to the importance of play.

Do you have a favorite play memory from your childhood? Share it with your child. Have a conversation with him or her. Children learn to listen, initiate, and respond in conversation with others. This verbal facility is a very important foundation of literacy development.

Engage in play with your child. Build on your child's interests and imagination. Act out a story that involves physical movement, such as searching for buried treasure on a stormy sea, jumping onto safe land, rolling away from "sharks" in the water. Children develop most stability skills – transferring weight, balancing, jumping/landing, rolling - through exploration and practice.

Go out and build a fort, dam a creek, or roll down the big hill. Get your hands dirty and your feet wet and remember the sheer joy of it all!

With warm regards,  
*Linda Owen*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

The Clara Barton Center for Children Board of Directors will hold its next meeting on

Wednesday, April 15, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Eagle classroom.



## **SPRING BREAK**

Clara Barton Center for Children will be **CLOSED** on Friday, April 10, 2009 and Monday, April 13, 2009 for Spring Break.



## **LET'S GIVE A BIG HAND**

to all Clara Barton parents who participated in the Spring Work Day.

The backyard garden and the front "pizza" garden were tilled and mulched. Sand was spread in both sandboxes. The front flower beds were weeded, leaves and debris were raked. Both the front shed and the barn were emptied, cleaned and reorganized. Toys were washed, cubbies, tables and chairs were cleaned, trashcans were painted.

The teachers and staff appreciate all of your time and effort.

**THANK YOU!**

## ***Class Notes***

### ***Toucans***

Fire and ice. Lions and lambs. March was its usual blend of contrasts and transitions. This month, our Toucans had a day in the snow, a fire drill, and a trip to the Glen Echo Fire Station. It would be difficult to say which event was most fun for the kids. Thank you, CBCC for keeping the school open during the final snow of the year. Though Montgomery County was closed and the side streets were not yet plowed, the teachers made it in and the children were rewarded with a day of snow play.



The fire drill in mid-March aroused a lot of curiosity about the workings of the fire alarm and tied in nicely with the field trip to the fire station. It was a great outing as the kids clambered aboard the fire truck and ambulance, and saw firefighters slide down the pole, put on gear and respond to a real emergency. While we were there, a call came in and two of our host firefighters hopped into the ambulance, turned on the siren and roared off.

March roared in with a storm, but appears to be gently giving way to Spring. It is a season for a lot of birthdays for the Toucans as our little lions and lambs begin to turn three. Happy Birthdays, Toucans, and Happy Spring all.

~ Jonathan Chambers  
(Elijah's dad)

### ***Hummingbirds***



March was a busy month in the Hummingbird class. One of the highlights was a field trip to the Glen Echo Fire Station. Fireman James and Fireman Jason showed us all around the station and even let the kids climb through the new ambulance. Fireman Jason showed us what firefighters wear to keep safe - sixty pounds of gear! The kids were fascinated by the breathing apparatus and the thick gloves he wore. Fireman James topped it all off by literally jumping through the ceiling and sliding down the fire pole. Needless to say, a number of the children expressed interest in trying THAT trick.

Back in the classroom, the Hummingbirds spent a lot of time taking care of their "babies" - feeding them, changing their diapers, giving them baths, washing their clothes and hanging them to dry, even having some real babies come to visit. (Check out the photos on the classroom bulletin board documenting all their hard work.) All these new skills will come in handy for one Hummingbird, Victor, who welcomed his new baby brother, James, to the world on March 16th. Congratulations to Lei, Qing yu, and big brother Victor!

Celebrating the arrival of spring, the Hummingbirds recently planted marigolds. The children enjoyed scooping dirt into their individual "planters," adding a few seeds and a bit more dirt, and sprinkling water on top. They will be learning a lot as they tend to their seedlings and their hard work will be rewarded when the flowers bloom!

Looking ahead, the children will finish up with the "Transportation" theme, and then move on to "Tools."

I'm told that the class will be treated to some "Tool Time" fun with Carl Adams (father of Benjamin in the Cardinals), which is sure to be a crowd pleaser!

~ Kial Young  
(Louisa's mom)

## **PUFFINS**



The year's at the spring  
And day's at the morn;  
Morning's at seven;  
The hillside's dew-pearled;  
The lark's on the wing;  
The snail's on the thorn;  
God's in His heaven -  
All's right with the world!

~Robert Browning

The Puffins are puffed up for spring! The Puffin room has transformed this month into a flowery, dirt filled, colorful extravaganza. . . and that's just the kids. The winter woodworking workshop has transformed into a spectacular flower shop with child labor round the clock (or until they are picked up from school). The kids are planting flowers, selling flowers, cleaning flowers, arranging flowers, and even seem to be taking great joy in sweeping up the mess made by all of the above. The collection of little-hand-made spring birds hanging from the ceiling is so vast that you can almost hear the chirping. And there must be much more than meets the eye going on in there in preparation for summer because our little puffin comes home everyday with a new picture of someone ("Mommy", "me and Cece", "Zack and me", etc) at the beach.

In an impromptu poll of the students, the overwhelming favorite reason to be excited about the arrival of spring is flowers. Here

are the results of our poll taken on the first day of school after the first day of spring:

Morgan: I like spring because the flowers pop up

Rahm : It is warm

Ella: Flowers and Butterflies

Eva: Flowers, sun and wearing shorts and short sleeve shirts.

Zeke: Flowers and Jumping

Max: It is so warm

Zack: Flowers and Max's Dad! (Obviously the budding genius in our class.)

Caroline: It is hot and I get to stay at the beach for 7 days

Sophie: Going to the beach

Livi: Flowers

Emmy: The warm weather

Marley: Planting flowers

Justin: When it starts to snow

Brooke: Birds singing

David: When the flowers bloom

Julia: The flowers & the warmth

Kyra: I like smelling roses

Cece and Maris both said they liked the sunshine and the flowers, with Cece adding that the days were longer, which must mean she wants more time with our children. We are happy to be the first family to invite Cece over for a play date. She can play with our children while we go out to dinner, a win-win.

So spring has sprung indeed for the Puffins. Cece and Maris are continuing to keep the puffins interested and engaged as always and everyone seems ready each morn (Morning's at eight for us though) and All's right in the Puffin world! Thank you Cece and Maris and all of Clara Barton for another great winter and the promise of a beautiful spring.

-- Rich Rosenfeld  
(Max Bean's dad)

## **CARDINALS**



On April 24, the Cardinals will be hosting a breakfast for their grandparents or special person. In anticipation of this, I asked the children what they liked best about their grandparents and what they liked to do best. Here are their sweet, endearing responses.

Elise: I like to see her and call her on the phone She gives me toys and lots of papers. I like to drive to Virginia to see her.

Krishan: I like to play cards. I like the food—chili and Indian rice. First they lived in India and now they live in Maryland.

Tyler. I like to do legos. I visit them in a car.

Ben: I like to make chocolate chip cookies and vanilla cookies. I visit them in New Hampshire.

Christopher: I like to play games with my Grandma.

Alicia: I like to draw shapes and go to the playground with my Grandma. I get to see her a lot.

Evan: I like to eat Korean pears. I visit them on the airplane. I like to run around their house—the bottom of their house is like a circle!

Lotus: I like to hug her. I like to play games.

Kate: I like to make my Grandma's bed with her. After I get to climb on it. I like to go to the beach and play in the water.

Claire: I like to play games. I like to eat pizza with them.

William: I like to play Four in a Row with them. We got it at a garage sale. We live with Grandma and Grandpa. My Grandma makes cookies and my Grandpa brings me airplane magazines.

Daniel: One Grandma is named Cookie and my other Grandma is Nana. I like to visit them. My Nana is coming to visit for Easter.

Gevvie: I like to play Uno with my Grandma. I like to make mac and cheese with my Nana and Papa. I am excited I am going to Disney World with them.

Anna: I like to play hide and go seek. I like to eat mashed potatoes with them. I go to see them a lot.

Kendall: I like when Papa gets the rooms ready for our visit; I like when Nana invites us to parties with cake; Bop cleans his house but not so good because he is sick.

Mia: They're very nice. And they like me. And they love me.

And, in honor of poetry month in March, I asked our resident poet, Mia McIntosh, to write a poem about Grandparents. Isn't this incredible??

GRAND PARENTS' LOVE  
As love flies by, this poem is right  
Like mom & dad  
They can come by

Like grandma & grandpa  
Love is always there

~ Alexis Feringa  
(Gevvie's mom)

## **EAGLES**



During the Eagle sound study of “Dd”, the Eagles shared their favorite dessert. The following is the results. As you can see, one flavor is dominant.

Danny: Chocolate ice cream sundae  
Austin: Banana split  
Mia: Chocolate chip  
Marco: Vanilla cake  
Kafu: Strawberry ice cream  
Harrison: Chocolate brownies  
Jake: Chocolate/vanilla ice cream  
Nathan: Chocolate cake with chocolate pudding topping  
Anna: Ice cream sandwich  
Michael: Ice cream w/ chocolate sprinkles & whipped cream  
Delilah: Ice cream cookie sandwich  
Maddie: Bear cookies  
Alidad: Chocolate candy  
Bea: Cookies w/ M&M’s & sprinkles  
Lucy: Chocolate chip cookies  
Evan: Donuts  
Piper: Rainbow sprinkle ice cream

~ Monica & Cyndi

## **Birdhouse**

### One Rainy Day In The Birdhouse

One rainy day in the Birdhouse, the children took it upon themselves to build with blocks in the hallway. It started off with Bea and Gevvie building with a couple of blocks by the Eagle’s door, while the other kids were zooming cars in the hallway. I was watching the two of them gather blocks two at a time from the Hummingbird room and building a huge creation. Emily, Lucy and Khira decided to join the fun and they two brought out more blocks. The boys (Austin,

Ben, Tyler, Jacob, Zeke and Zack) who saw what was going on wanted to also build in the hallway, gathered all the Cardinal blocks and they also worked together bring out those blocks and made a huge garage for their cars that they were playing with. In the back of my mind is how are we going to clean up the blocks especially all the Hummingbird blocks by the Eagle’s door. The kids were having so much fun that I didn’t want to stop them. On their own, the boys cleaned up all the blocks. But for the Hummingbirds’ blocks, we formed an assembly line with about 15 children with Miebeth at the front and Daniela and Ellen in the back and the kids handed blocks to each other until they were all picked up. It took about 15 minutes and we had a treat of homemade banana chocolate bread (that was made earlier) as our treat. It was well worth it, and thanks to everybody’s imagination and help it was an afternoon to remember.

## **APRIL AT A GLANCE**

Friday & Monday, April 10 & 13 -  
**SCHOOL CLOSED**

Wednesday, April 15 - CBCC Board of  
Directors Meeting, 7:30 PM All  
parents are welcome.

### ***Newsletter Submissions***

If you have an item you’d like to see included in the newsletter, please e-mail it to Paula Curran at [cbccpaula@verizon.net](mailto:cbccpaula@verizon.net).

***Check out our website:***  
**[www.clarabartoncenter.org](http://www.clarabartoncenter.org)**