

clara barton



CBCC NEWS



FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Dear Clara Barton Parents,

I hope you have circled two important dates on your calendars – the first one is next Monday night, February 9th. Please join us for a parent education workshop on “1-2-3 Magic,” to learn about easy-to-use discipline techniques to use with your children. Babysitting is provided for a nominal fee, but you’ll need to RSVP to Paula Curran at cbccpaula@verizon.net.

The second date is Saturday, March 14- the school’s annual silent auction fundraiser and dinner dance. There are a number of parents working with the co-chairs, Julie Glass and Amy Mermelstein, to provide a special evening of great food, drink, music, and items to bid on. I hope to see all of you there.

In the meantime, now that Punxsutawney Phil has seen his shadow and

we’re in for six more weeks of winter, I offer a few suggestions for fun indoor play:

Button Sorting: Buy a bag of mixed buttons at Michael’s or Bruce’s Variety and have your child sort them into piles or cups by color, size, number of threading holes, etc.

Wash Day: Fill a large bucket with some detergent. Allow your child to wash washcloths, dishtowels or doll clothes. Provide another bucket to rinse, and then hang them with clothes pins and a string in the bathroom.

Shaving Cream Cars: Spray shaving cream on a cookie sheet and allow your child to drive cars and trains through the “snow.”

Matching Pasta: Glue a different type of pasta to the bottom of a clear plastic cup, then provide the child a bag full of a mixture of all kinds of the pastas to sort.

Cutting Lines: Draw lines (dotted, swirly, straight) lengthwise on a piece of plain paper. Ask your child to follow the line you’ve drawn with scissors. You can even put a sticker at the end as a target.

Craft Stick People: Using a handful of large craft sticks, make people using crayons, google eyes, string for hair, etc. Cut

out clothes from construction paper or fabric. Glue small magnets to the backs and your child can stage a “play” on the refrigerator with them.

Produce Printing: Using washable paint, fill a paper plate with paint and cut a number of fruits and vegetables in half. You take one half and give your child the other. Dip in paint and print on paper.

Volcano World: In a small jar, put in enough baking soda to fill the jar halfway, and add a few drops of red or orange food coloring. Build a “mountain” around the jar with clay, leaving an opening to pour vinegar into the jar later. Let your child play with plastic animals or dinosaurs on the mountain and then, with great drama, add the vinegar. A containable and safe “explosion” will occur.

Animal Search & Find: Give your child a stack of a few magazines and scissors and ask her to find as many animals as possible.

Tissue Box Mailbox: When you have an empty tissue box, gather up some junk mail and extra envelopes, give your child some old address labels and a marker, and allow him to play with opening and sending mail and putting it through the slot.

Enjoy!

With regards,

~Linda Owen



GETTING READY FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As your child gets older and looks forward to starting kindergarten, you may be thinking about what s/he should know and be able to do. Parents can build their children’s skills, knowledge, and abilities. Here are some ideas:

Social and Emotional Development:

- **Try new things.** Let your child try new foods - have a “tasting party.” Help your child make new friends - organize play-dates or join a developmental sports team.
- **Make decisions.** Help your child learn to make decisions - by choosing the bedtime story, snack, what s/he will wear today. Encourage your child to start an activity, work on it, and finish it - “stick-to-it”ism is an important skill.
- **Talk about feelings.** Act out situations and emotions with your child using puppets or dolls. Teach by example - show your child how to handle feelings.

Physical Development:

- **Build muscles.** Have your child run, jump, hop, gallop, skip. Encourage using his or her hands - draw, tie shoelaces, button and zip jackets, cut with scissors, stack blocks, pour milk or juice.
- **Practice healthy living.** Teach your child to wash hands using soap

and running water for 30 seconds, to cover his or her mouth when coughing, to use tissues and how to blow his or her nose. Practice safety skills, including wearing bicycle helmets and always buckling up when driving in a car.

Language and Literacy:

- **Read and talk.** Read books and then talk about the story - what happened in the beginning? In the middle? In the end? Who was in the story? What did they do?
- **Play with letters.** Help your child learn the names of letters, especially those in your child's name. Ask your child to find letters in the newspaper, at the grocery store, on street signs.
- **Write.** Encourage your child to draw, scribble, or practice writing letters. Make a card for a friend and have your child sign it.
- **Have fun with sounds.** Tell nursery rhymes and ask your child to tell them back to you. Play rhyming games - e.g., what are some words that rhyme with "hat" and "bat?" Play word games - e.g., what are some words that start with the "P" sound?

Mathematical Thinking:

- **Count.** Help your child learn numbers. Count things - e.g., the number of crackers on a plate, chairs at the table, blocks in a basket, eggs in the carton.

- **Focus on shapes.** Help your child learn the names of shapes. Go on a shape hunt outside your home and ask him or her to name the shapes of trees, houses, buildings, road signs, windows, bicycle wheels, rocks.
- **Sort and make patterns.** Show your child how to sort objects by color or shape. Make patterns (red circle, yellow circle, blue circle, red circle, yellow circle...)
- **Measure.** Have your child help you cook, letting him or her use the measuring cups and spoons to measure and add ingredients.

Scientific Thinking:

- **Explore.** Go on scavenger hunts to find objects you describe - e.g., something bigger than a pumpkin, soft, green, and bumpy. Hike through the woods, walk along a creek, turn over logs.
- **Make predictions.** Ask your child to predict whether a magnet will stick to different objects. Ask your child to predict the color of the inside of a new fruit or vegetable.

Social Studies:

- **Learn about people.** Point out people and talk about what jobs they are doing. Ask your child to draw a picture about his or her family. Read books about people from different cultures.

- **Explore the community.** Look at maps with your child (ones you draw or road maps). Have your child draw a map of his or her room, your house, your neighborhood. Visit local merchants.
- **Talk about rules.** Point out and read aloud signs that tell people rules to follow - e.g., "No dogs allowed." "Don't walk." "Please whisper in the library." Talk about reasons for these rules and encourage your child to follow them with you.

The Arts:

- **Be creative.** Let your child draw, paint, build. Make puppets and act out a story.
- **Make and enjoy music.** Sing songs. Make up new songs. Listen to a variety of music with your child. Help your child dance, clap, or tap to the beat of the music.
- **Look at art.** Point out different types of art in museums, in books or magazines, on signs. Talk about what you see - colors, shapes, patterns - and ask your child if s/he likes it and what about it does s/he like.

Have fun with it!

~Excerpted from *Ready At Five*, 2008.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2009 6:30 – 8 pm "1-2-3" MAGIC

Effective Discipline for Children ages 2-12.
Join us to learn about a nationally recognized program of practical, easy-to-use discipline techniques for families and educators. Presented in the school library by Laura H. Milin, M.Ed.

April Welch and Elizabeth Owen will provide childcare on site. \$10 per family. Please RSVP to cbccpaula@verizon.net or 301.320.4565 and indicate if you need childcare.

PRESIDENTS' DAY



Washington



Lincoln

Clara Barton Center for Children - Cabin John and Concord Center - will be CLOSED on Monday, February 16, 2009 in observance of Presidents' Day.



AUCTION, AUCTION

It's right around the corner ... a social occasion not to be missed ... the Annual Auction – **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER!**

DATE: Saturday, March 14, 2008

TIME: 7-10 PM

WHERE: Clara Barton Community Ctr.

Invitations are coming soon! Get together with new and old Clara Barton friends – enjoy great food & drink, and bid on lots of fun items. Funds raised will be used to purchase much-needed new furniture - tables, chairs, and cubbies – for the classrooms, as well as to support the financial aid program.

The auction is CBCC's biggest fundraiser and social event of the year. There will be great items up for bid. Don't miss this night of fabulous deals, great food, and wonderful company – and all for a great cause!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 18, 2009, 7:30 pm

The February meeting of the Clara Barton Center for Children Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the

Eagle classroom. All parents are welcome.



CBCC Board of Directors Needs You

The CBCC Board of Directors needs parents like you to fill anticipated vacancies on the board for the 2009-2010 school year. Several critical members of the board will be graduating from the board as their children do the same and go on to elementary school. While we will miss their company and involvement, this provides you with the perfect opportunity to become more involved in your child's school. All parents of current CBCC children are welcome. If you are interested in becoming a CBCC Board member, please contact Tamara Zemlo (Zach & Zeke's mom) at tzemlo@verizon.net. CBCC thrives through parental involvement, and its success depends upon its leadership. Please consider participating on the board. It is an enriching experience, and CBCC needs your support.

~Linda Scott Lane, President



SESSION I
A SPACE ODYSSEY
June 22 - July 10, 2009

Travel with CB the Astronaut on a voyage through the daytime and nighttime skies to the planets and stars. As **CBCC Summer Camp** Astronauts we'll discover a new planet where no one has gone before, build our own rockets and more.

SESSION II
DINO-MANIA
July 13 - 24, 2009

Journey back to a time when giant lizards ruled the Earth and T-Rex was king! **CBCC Summer Camp** Paleontologists will study what life was like in prehistoric times. Learn some interesting facts about dinosaurs, find and make fossils, and hatch our own dinosaur "eggs!"

SESSION III
UNDER THE BIG TOP
July 27 - August 7, 2009

Run away with the **CBCC Summer Camp** Circus as we explore the world under the Big Top. Campers will take on the roles of ringmasters, tightrope walkers, jugglers, popcorn vendors and more. We'll learn all about being clowns with costumes, make-up, and stunts.

SESSION IV
BEACH BASH
August 10 - 21*, 2009

Join us at **CBCC Summer Camp** for an end-of-summer adventure complete with sandcastles, treasure hunts, arcade games, and water play. We'll have a cookout on the shores of the imaginary CB Beach.

*NOTE: The camp will be closed on Friday, August 21, 2009 for a teacher professional day.

SEE PAULA CURRAN FOR A BROCHURE OR MORE INFORMATION.

FEBRUARY AT A GLANCE

Monday, Feb. 2nd - Summer camp registration begins. Applications are available in the office if you do not have one already.

Friday, February 6th, Auction Meeting, 9 a.m. in the school library.

Monday, Feb. 9th - Deadline for priority summer camp enrollment for current preschool students.

Monday, Feb. 9th - Parent Seminar, "123 Magic", 6:30 p.m. in the school library.

Monday, Feb. 16th - **SCHOOL CLOSED** in observance of President's Day

Wednesday, Feb. 18th - Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 pm, Eagle classroom

Class Notes



TOUCANS

The Toucans have started 2009 off with a bang! They have been very busy in the art department making wonderful things. With the use of recycled wrapping paper, they made a festive and "Green" fireworks collage. The Toucans have also made the American flag on Inauguration day, colorful paper mittens and hats, and frogs and polar bears for their classroom "pond." At the end

of the month (January 26) is the Chinese New Year and Reed's mom is going to come in and do more artwork with the kids to celebrate. In the food department they made yummy (I know, I ate most of Lexi's!) gingerbread men with raisin buttons and eyes. And they had a lovely parent/child luncheon with delicious food and nice conversation.

The day I visited the Toucan classroom things were a bit different: both Karin and Deborah were not there and subbing for them were Cristina and Asma. The kids were about to come inside for lunch. Sean and Denis were getting off their bikes; Reed, Jibrael, and Emma were coming down from the jungle gym; Sydney and Emily were finishing up in the play house; and Thomas was watching Lexi make "cookie dough for everyone" in the sand. Once inside, we all washed our hands and sat down for lunch. Lexi and Sydney both had boxed peanut butter crackers. Someone said there had been a recent peanut butter "paste" salmonella scare so we had to throw away their crackers. Due to some very upset feelings, an impromptu homemade peanut butter cracker and blueberry muffin party ensued courtesy of Miebeth (thanks again Miebeth- great idea)!! Although not every child had to throw part, or most, of their lunches away, they all enjoyed a muffin and most had one or several peanut butter crackers. While eating, there was not much conversation, but Emma brought up Santa and Christmas ending. She was also looking forward to Valentine's Day.

~Lisa Elkin (Lexi's Mom)



HUMMINGBIRDS

For February's newsletter, we report on the Hummingbird's New Year's resolution, inauguration, and that age old question, 'what is love?'

January brought a new year, a new administration, and a new season of American Idol. New Year's resolutions often deal with renewed commitments to eating healthy and the Hummingbirds are no different. Healthy foods were featured in the form of book readings, art projects and an up-start grocery store in the Hummingbird classroom. The highlight of the healthy eating theme will be a field trip to Giant!

The children, when asked *'Who was sworn in as President of the United States?'* responded:

"Obama" – Jackson

"I voted for Obama" – Louisa

'What does the president do?' elicited these gems:

"That's too tricky" – Ian

"I don't know" – Anna, Inga

"Opens the presents" – Eileen

"Work" – Nathan

In February, anticipated events include: Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year celebrations. Mei, Liya's mom, is planning to help us celebrate! Songs, parties and lots of talk of friendship and love will punctuate the month's activities.

The Hummingbirds thoughtfully responded to the question *'what is love?'* with the following:

"A kiss" – Alex

"It's my sister's Webkin" – Reed

"A person" – Jackson

'Who/m do you love?' prompted thoughtful musings:

"Mommy, daddy, Jessica, and you" – Talia

"Play-dough" – Victor

"Mommy" – Louisa, Nathan, Jesse, Ian

"Mommy"... 'anyone else?'... "Just

Mommy" – Anna

"Wubsy the Warthog" – Eileen

"Daddy and Mommy (and Esther)" – Nick

Parent with limited journalistic skills signing off....

~Jeff Berger (Talia's Dad)



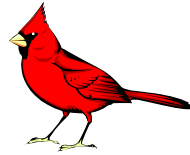
PUFFINS

With the Presidential Inauguration still fresh in our minds, the Puffin class wanted to share some advice with our new president.

The children recognized that being president of the United States could be “a very hard job” and “even harder than being a mommy” and thought that it would be helpful to suggest a variety of ways President Barack Obama could relax after a long day in the “big, white house.”

Brooke – Play dress-up
Caroline – Take a nap
David – Make rockets
Ella – Play with his friends
Emily – Drive a taxi around
Eva – Watch TV
Julia – Go to McDonalds
Justin – Make a fort and hide
Kyra – Take a bath and splash lots of water
Marley – Hug lots of people
Max – Paint pretty pictures
Morgan – Play with blocks and build bridges and roads
Olivia – Make sure he shares his toys
Rami – Read books
Sophie – Eat cookies and not brush his teeth
Zack – Go on vacation and rest under a tree
Zeke – Do computer games

~Tamara Zemlo (Zack & Zeke's Mom)



CARDINALS

The Cardinals are continuing to learn new Letters of the Week, and are enjoying the newspaper project, laughing at jokes in the funny papers and telling their own news stories. January has been a cold month for all of us, with ice on the canal and the river, and a bit difficult for our transplanted Texas family to tolerate. To try to inspire us, I asked the Cardinal children what they like about winter:

Krishan: “Learning how to make snowballs. Throwing snowballs.”

Daniel: “They sometimes have snow.”

Tyler: “I don't know.”

Kate: “Making snow angels in the snow.”

Gevvie: “I don't like the cold.”

Benjamin: “I like to play in the snow.”

William: “Snowball fights.”

Mia: “I like to play in the snow.”

Anna: “Making a snow man.”

Alicia: “Making snowmans and paper snowflakes.”

Christopher: “I like going skiing.”

Elise: “Playing in the snow and having a snowball fight.”

Evan: “Snow.”

Lotus: “Snowboarding and sledding.”

Kendall: “Because it snows.”

Claire: “Because I get to catch snowflakes, go sledding, build a snowman, and make snow angels with my sister Emily.”

Clearly, a theme has emerged. Perhaps we will have a good snowfall soon so that all the Cardinals can fully enjoy their winter!

~Laura Gough (William's mother)



EAGLES

What Valentine's Day means to your Eagle:

A ♥ We give lots of cards and put hearts in the cards.

B ♥ It's a new year.

C ♥ You take pictures and make Valentine's cards.

D ♥ To make eagles.

E ♥ It's a surprise.

F ♥ Love.

G ♥ I don't know yet.

H ♥ It's hearts.

I ♥ It's thank you.

J ♥ It's when you invite people over and...I don't know.

K ♥ It's a day for love.

L ♥ It's to show people how much you love them.

M ♥ It's a special day.

N ♥ It's a day that you give people favors.

O ♥ I get out a big piece of paper and ask an adult to write my life story on it.

P ♥ I think it's February.

Answers:

Kafu-D, Anna-C, Harrison-E, Delilah-A, Danny-B, Lucy-K, Austin-F, Jake-G, Beatrice-H, Michael-M, Piper-O, Mia-N, Marco-P, Madeline-L, Evan-J, Lucy-K

~Nadja Ward (Michael's mother)



The Birdhouse

Happy New Year!!! The Birdhouse children are really growing!!! Last month we learned about bears, stars and darkness and transportation. We had lots of special activities going on this month pertaining to these themes such as making and lacing teddy bears, making teddy bear puppets, making star/moon mobiles and star printing. Our favorites continue to be racing cars in the hallway and dressing up and dancing. The older boys are teaching everyone how to play checkers. They are very good players and I have never won a game!!!! Daniela has joined us two days a week (Wednesday and Thursday) and April is helping Monday and Friday and Ellen and I are solo on Tuesday with Linda's help.

~Miebeth



Science News

The month of January was dedicated to world of senses and boy did we have fun with them! The first session was smelling, touching and hearing. The children were given a wide variety of things to smell such all kinds of spices, soaps, coffee and my favorite vanilla. Then they were given a feely cup with a hidden object and they had to guess what was inside. The hardest to guess was the unopened bandage. Then we had to guess what was in the sound boxes. The second session was the tasting and

looking. I think tasting was the favorite. They had to taste sour – lemon, salty – pretzels, and sweet – cookie. They had to tell the difference between salt and sugar water and smooth (banana) and crunchy (pretzel) food. For looking, we saw some very funny pictures and we had to describe them.

~Dr. Miebeth, Ph.Un.

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.

Check out our website:
www.clarabartoncenter.org