

clara barton



CBCC News

June 2009

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Clara Barton Families,

I was so pleased to see almost all of you at the **Spring Musical**, and very proud of all of your children – they were so poised in the midst of all the attention [and cameras] being directed at them. I want to give a big hand to Tracey Eldridge for directing the program, and a special thank you to Jon Glik for his fine fiddling!

In the May newsletter I said I couldn't forget **the hard-working Room Parents**, and then I did just that! I forgot to include **Assie Crossman**, mom on Jibrael, who contributed so much as a room parent in the Toucan class. My apologies for the oversight, and thank you!

For those of you who are “graduating” from Clara Barton, I wish you a fond farewell and the best of luck in the future. I hope that you leave feeling that the teachers and staff of Clara Barton have enriched your child's life. We hope you'll keep us posted in the fall on your child's progress.

I'd like to share with you the 2009-2010 school year staff assignments.

- In the **Toucan Room**, **Karin Webb** will be returning to begin her 34th year at Clara Barton. **Deborah Duffy** will be returning for her fourth year as co-teacher in the Toucans.
- In the **Hummingbird Room**, **Liz Clark** and **Esther Bonilla** will return as co-teachers. Liz will be starting her 14th year at Clara Barton and Esther will be starting her 7th year.
- In the **Puffin Room**, **Cecilia (“Cece”) Flores** will be returning, having completed her 19th year at Clara Barton. **Maris Miles** will be co-teaching in the Puffin classroom, starting her 5th year working at Clara Barton.
- In the **Cardinal Room**, **Cathie Morton** will return to start her 14th year at Clara Barton. **Paula Lang** will be returning to Clara Barton to teach full-time as the co-teacher in the Cardinal room. Paula is

returning to us from Washington Hebrew Nursery School where she has been Director for two years. Prior to that, Paula taught at Clara Barton for two years, in the Eagle class and in the Puffin class. Please join me in welcoming Paula back!

- In the **Eagle Room**, **Monica Meyer** will be returning, having completed her 14th year at Clara Barton. **Cindi Dixon** will start her second year of co-teaching in the Eagle classroom.
- **Miebeth Janssens** will be continuing as the lead teacher in the Birdhouse (Full Day Program), starting her 5th year at Clara Barton.
- **Ellen Barnhard** will be returning as the Teaching Assistant in the Birdhouse (Full Day Program), starting her 11th year at Clara Barton.
- **Antonette Odubiyi** (“Ms. Toni”) will join us as a Teacher Assistant in the Birdhouse (Full Day Program), as well as continuing to teach the creative movement class.
- **Asma Kadmiri** will be returning as a Floater Teacher, starting her 5th year at Clara Barton.
- **April Welch** will be a joining the staff as a full-time Floater Teacher. April is starting her 6th year at Clara Barton – she has taught at summer camp and has worked part-time at both the preschool and the Concord Center.
- **Tracey Eldridge** will be returning as our music teacher, starting her 14th year. Tracey will teach on Friday mornings. We will again this year have Iris Kesterman’s Creative Movement Program for the children.

Ms. Toni will be teaching on Monday and Tuesday mornings this upcoming school year. **Senora Lupe Marks** will return with her Spanish for Young Children program – she will teach on Wednesday and Thursday mornings this year.

- **John Surr** will continue to volunteer in the Hummingbird classroom on Monday and Friday mornings, as he has done for the past five years. John is a resident of Carderock Springs, a married father of three grown daughters, and a grandfather of two girls. A retired attorney, he has spent years advocating at the local, state and national levels for quality, affordable, comprehensive early childhood services. Having taken many classes in early childhood education, John likes to spend time in the classroom and his credentials meet and exceed all of the licensing requirements of the State of Maryland.
- **Paula Curran** will return, starting her sixth year as Administrator, and I will return as Director, starting my 14th year at Clara Barton.

On behalf of the teachers and staff of the Clara Barton Center for Children, I can tell you that we are looking forward to an exciting upcoming school year, appreciate your continued support, and welcome your input.

Fondly,
Linda Owen



Mark your calendars now for the **End-of-School-Year Family Pizza Picnic** to be held on **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2009** - the last day of the school year - on the back playground, starting at 6 pm. More information will be forthcoming via flyer in your child's cubby.

**The LAST DAY OF SCHOOL:
Wednesday, June 17, 2009.**

We will operate on a normal schedule on that day. The Center will be closed to students on Thursday and Friday of that week; then we will re-open on Monday, June 22, 2009 for the first day of summer camp.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

The annual **PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE & PROGRAM EVALUATION** will be distributed via your child's cubby this month. Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to complete this valuable source of feedback for us. You can return your

completed questionnaire to the big white envelope that will be hanging in your child's classroom.

BON VOYAGE TO DANIELA

It is with great sadness that we say "bon voyage" at the end of the summer to Cardinal teacher, Daniela Capbert.

This year Daniela has been attending graduate school at Loyola College in Maryland, pursuing her Master of Arts in Teaching. During the upcoming fall semester, Daniela will be student teaching in Howard County Public Schools. Daniela joined the staff of the Clara Barton Center for Children in September 2005, co-teaching in the Toucan class for one year before becoming a co-teacher in the Cardinal class for the last three years.

Daniela is highly regarded by the children, parents, and teachers of Clara Barton. She has developed warm and respectful relationships with the children, as well as the parents. Daniela will be remembered as a collaborative team member who is generous with her willing spirit and good humor.

Please join the teachers and staff of Clara Barton in wishing Daniela all the best of luck in her future endeavors. She will be missed!

Class Notes

Toucans



Iris taught movement class on the day I visited. Toucans stretched rubber bands of different sizes.

It is funny to watch how they all love the mirror. Iris sings a song, “I’m so glad to see you, I could hardly wait/Let’s (clap our hands, tap our heads, tap our knees, etc.) to the count of 8: 1, 2, 3, 4.....” It has become a popular song in the Patton household; I encourage Toucan parents to give it a go on car trips and in the grocery line!

“Did you know spider monkeys can climb trees really fast?!” says Thomas Bean in the middle of Movement class. It sounded urgent.

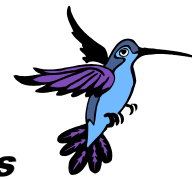
The Toucans are planning to go on a strawberry-picking field trip in June. They are singing great at practice for their Spring Show, but Karin warns not to expect too much at the performance, when they all would rather sit with “We” the Parents. Ask your Toucan about caterpillars, which has been a theme for 2-3 weeks. I for one am schooled almost daily in how caterpillars turn into butterflies. The whole school hatched their butterflies and released (read: chased) them on the back playground. Don’t forget to check out the lima beans growing on the Toucan bulletin board. They are growing as fast as our children. Finally, the Toucans planted a garden, which campers can look forward to harvesting this summer. They planted cucumbers, beans, and Sweet 100 tomatoes that can be eaten right off the vine.

Here are the words to their Spring Show song:

Mr. Moon, Mr. Moon
You’re out too soon

The sun is in the sky
So go back to bed, and cover up your head
And wait till the day goes by

~ Sheila Patton (Denis’s Mom)



Hummingbirds

“A teacher affects eternity; [s]he can never tell where her/his influence stops.”

~Henry Adams

The month of May was filled with plenty of sunshine, lots of rain, and many fun-filled activities for our Hummingbirds. The children spent their days watching caterpillars turn into butterflies and learning about/touring the post office and flower shop. The Hummingbird parents very much enjoyed our Mother’s Day Tea, as well as the beautiful drawings and picture frames created by our children. Last- but certainly not least- we all treasured the weeklong celebration/appreciation of our beloved CBCC teachers. And so...here goes one final ‘shout out’ to Liz and Esther, who have nurtured our children and helped lay the foundation for them to become creative, moral, and compassionate human beings.

“Why do we love Liz and Esther?”

Alex: “I love playing babies with them.”

Anna: “I just love Lizzie and Esther...and hamburgers.”

Ian: “I love making drawings with them.”

Eileen: I love my Mommy and Daddy...and Lizzie and Esther, too!”

Jackson: “I love doing puzzles with them.”

Jesse: “I love playing space shuttles and rocket ships with them.”

Liya: “Esther hugs me.”

Louisa: “I love doing a puzzle with them.”

Nathan: “I love when they give me a sticker.”

Taylor: “I love doing puzzles with them.”

Victor: “I love building a house with them.”

Reed: because they are so nice

Liz: “Esther makes me laugh!”

Esther: “Lizzie and I get along really well and have a perfect ‘partnership.’ We often think the same thing at the exact same time!”

Paula Curran: “I love the fabulous art projects they do, especially shaving cream art.”

Linda Owen: “I love that they are truly children at heart.”

Absent for this interview were Talia, Inga and Niklas.

On behalf of all the Hummingbird parents, I would like to thank Liz and Esther again for helping our Hummingbirds ‘spread their wings’ to become the best Puffins, Cardinals, and Eagles they can be. We will miss Liz and Esther greatly, and know that the incoming Hummingbirds are fortunate indeed!

~ Kathryn Voglmayr (Jessie’s mom)



PUFFINS

Friday May 29th was the Clara Barton Spring Musicale. I decided to pay the Puffin class a visit the day before to find out what the kids had in store. When Kyra and I arrived around 8:45, the Puffin room was cheery, and smelled of fresh play dough. The kids were playing in tidy groups of 3 or 4 – the boys on the floor, the girls at the tables.

“What songs are you going to sing tomorrow?” I asked a group of boys busy playing with trucks. “Tingalao!” said David. “I don’t know” said Zack. “Ask Eva”. Eva of course had an opinion: “We’re singing Skidamarink. I don’t know what

else.” Ella and Morgan laughed and nodded in agreement, tugging at my baseball cap.

I then queried the kids in the loft. Max ignored my question, but instead launched into a full rendition of Itsy Bitsy Spider in Spanish, which was quite impressive. Rami and Julia followed with English versions. Sophie said her favorite was ‘Twinkle Twinkle’.

The kids soon grew tired of answering my hard-hitting questions. With Eva leading the charge, a group of girls successfully pried away my cap and hid it in the loft. Next were my shoes! As fun as that was, it was time for this reporter to leave.

Unfortunately I missed the Musicale itself (my 20-year college reunion beckoned), but Krista tells me it was a great event. The Puffin kids first sang “The Magic Penny”, then “For the Love of Fish and Spiders”, and closed out with an impromptu Spanish version of “Itsy Bitsy Spider”. The finale was the entire CBCC cast singing a rousing version of “See You Later Alligator”. Tracie has clearly taught them well. Just think - in 15 years or so one of our little crooners could be onstage with Ryan Seacrest – you never know!

~ Scott Wilkerson (Kyra’s dad)

CARDINALS



Cardinals Ready For The World

Our Cardinals are moving on to life post-Clara Barton, causing me to wonder what’s in store for this happy group of kids. They’ve studied our solar system, visited the post office and learned the days of the week. They’ve been to the florist; sung about a

thousand songs and can write their own names.

So, with all this experience, what will they do next? On a sunny morning in May, I interviewed the Cardinals and asked each one the eternal question: "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

A few boys were interested in helping to protect the safety and security of our communities:

Christopher: A fire truck driver

Tyler: A policeman

While the world of athletics was attractive to some:

Krishan: A boxer

Evan: A baseball player

Elise: A horseback rider

Three Cardinal girls were interested in medicine, of the human and animal variety:

Anna: A veterinarian

Kendall: A doctor

Lotus: An animal doctor

Some Cardinals have aspirations that are out of this world:

William: An astronaut

Alicia: A giant

Gevvie: A princess and a ballerina

And other Cardinals had ideas that are as varied and interesting as they are:

Claire: A photojournalism teacher

Daniel: A super spy

Kate: An artist

Mia: A zookeeper

And finally, **Ben Adams** was absolutely certain what he wanted to be- even if it is a truly difficult job: A dad

Our beloved Cardinal teachers have their own hopes and dreams for the future; we

wish them the best in their attempts to become:

Cathie: Calgary Stampede Rodeo Director

Daniela: The next American Idol

One final class member was unavailable for comment; Peanut Butter, the toad, met all my questions with an unblinking stare. We feel certain his future is wet and soggy. Best wishes to all families for a wonderful summer.

~ Laura Miller (Daniel's mom)



EAGLES

As the end of the school year (and our time at Clara Barton) rapidly approaches, and the Eagles eagerly await summer, it seemed like a good time to look back at the year and remember some of our favorite experiences.

It took some time to narrow their choices down to one, but here are what the Eagles had to say when asked what their favorite thing about this past year was:

Beatrice: painting and dress up

Maddie: making paper airplanes

Alidad: playing trucks

Evan: playing in the loft

Danny: playing with blocks

Austin: going on field trips

Marco: playing with Wedgits

Mia: playing on the small monkey bars

Lucy: woodworking

Kafu: playing Diamond Castle

Delilah: woodworking

Anna: playing in the loft

Nathan: playing with the Alpha Bots

Harrison: playing with my friends

Piper: meeting new friends

Jacob: eating lunch

Michael: playing with blocks
Ms. Monica: being with the children and listening to all of their commentary
Ms. Cindi: field trip to the flower shop

The Eagles (as well as their parents) all want to thank Ms. Monica and Ms. Cindi for a great year!

~ Beth Vergnetti (Mia's mom)



Birdhouse News

With the start of summer weather, the Birdhouse children are really enjoying the water. With our brand new crocs and the water table overflowing with water, we have made some interesting water works. What started out as a moat around the small brown house has turned into a river with tunnels and bridges. Everyday, we are adding more and more structures to our water ways. Also there is always a group of children making mud pies eagerly awaiting to feed anyone who comes into their restaurant. They are delicious!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thanks for the wonderful year with your children. I have enjoyed watching them grow and being a part of their lives.



Science News

May brought out plants and estimation for our topics. We all planted cucumber and sunflower seeds and decided where they should grow – the sun, the dark, the refrigerator or the freezer.

We found out the plants that grew in the dark love to grow, but they are yellow. The ones in the light grew, but they were green

and the ones in the freezer and refrigerator were cold and did not grow.

With estimation, we did a lot of guessing from piles of books, things in a bag, guessing how many of Miebeth's footsteps covered the circle rug, and guessing which was longer – around your head or the length of your arm. We also found out the length of adult's head and arms are different than a child's. Try it at home.

~Dr. Miebeth, Ph.Un.



**From Toucan Teacher:
Deborah Duffy**

Incorporating Math Into A Preschooler's Day

Introducing preschoolers to mathematical concepts in a fun and relaxed manner is important to their future mathematical development. While pre-school children are not yet ready to do long division or average out how far they can jump, there are many things that parents and teachers can do early on to build a strong foundation of mathematical concepts for the future. Below are a few tips for making math fun for your preschooler:

1. **Counting:** Count out loud to young children. We are always counting in the Toucan class. We count children, objects in books, anything we see! We march to different counts and we sing counting songs. Pointing to objects as you count them

shows children the relationship between a number and its corresponding object. For older children, creating games like “How many steps/hops will it take to get to the water fountain/door/parking lot, etc.” is a fun way for them to also learn about measuring and estimating.

2. **Shapes:** Shapes are everywhere, and casually pointing them out in everyday life is a fun way for young children to learn to identify them. On a walk or a drive, help your child identify the various and interesting shapes of street signs. Count the number of triangles or octagons that you see. Let children touch and feel different shaped objects. Older children can also grasp three-dimensional shapes and their relationship to one-dimensional figures, e.g. the oatmeal container is a cylinder with a circle on each end. Under close supervision, give your 4 and 5 year olds mini-marshmallows and toothpicks to build their own three-dimensional shapes.

3. **Sorting and Matching:** Have your child help you sort and match socks while folding laundry. Children can sort common household objects such as buttons or pasta into different groupings (e.g. by color, by size, by shape, etc.).

4. **Songs and Finger Plays:** “1,2,3,4,5, I Caught a Fish Alive” incorporates counting and number correspondence. “Five Little Ducks” and “No More Monkeys Jumping on the Bed” teaches reverse sequencing.

5. **Books:** There are many story books geared toward pre-school age, which incorporate math concepts. **Inch by Inch** by Leo Lionni teaches children about non-standard measurements. **Ten Black Dots** by Donald Crews focuses on counting and creativity. Your local librarian can help you find more books.

6. **Money:** Young children have very little opportunity to use money. Setting up a

mock supermarket, restaurant or other shop complete with play money and cash register is a great way to get young children comfortable with handling money. In this tight economy, it is also a great opportunity to teach older preschoolers about the value of money, e.g. “We have \$3 and this toy cost \$5—do we have enough money to buy it?”

Making math fun early on will help young children develop a strong math and literacy foundation that will benefit them throughout their lives!