

Little Notes



Preschool and Kindergarten Newsletter
May 2010



Nick O'Connor and Will Croteau at the Bugs in 3D movie during the K class field trip the Museum of Science.

Kindergarten News

The seeds that were planted in September have blossomed into sixteen remarkable children. These students and their families invested time, faith, and love, by embracing an "arts principled", all-day, kindergarten program. It was this dedication and appreciation for an arts education that successfully nurtured our program and consequently established it as one of Hingham's top kindergartens. It was this commitment that allowed these children to succeed and grow into intelligent, sensitive, talented and cooperative individuals. Unlike most kindergarten classes, their experiences will be so memorable, because in many ways, the curriculum was tailored around their interests and individualized to their needs. This allowed them to take ownership of and pride in their accomplishments and create the foundation for a lifelong love of learning.

The children, Miss Karen, Miss Emily, Mrs. Goldstein, Ms. Su, Miss Adrienne, Eddie, and I worked as a team, pioneering new curriculum ideas that bridged the gap between "the classroom teacher" and "the specialist" with cross-curricular teaching methods. ("Cross-curricular teaching is often seen as a way to address some of the recurring problems in education, such as fragmentation and isolated skill instruction. It is seen as a way to support goals such as transfer of learning, teaching students to think and reason, and providing a curriculum more relevant to students (Marzano, 1991; Perkins, 1991)").

By sharing classroom themes and instruction with specialists; we have made children's learning experiences more concrete and meaningful, as well as provided various outlets to demonstrate their knowledge about certain topics, advocating Gardner's Multiple Intelligence Theory. With the help from our very supportive (continued on page 3)



3 Day pals Jack Henry Lyons and Liam Burns dressed for high tea

Dear Parents,
I am still dancing on air from the beauty and grace that was exhibited at our Tea Parties. What a joy it was to see all our treasures using their best manners and allowing the joy of the moment to carry their spirit of love to all the Mom's and Grandmother's present on such a special day.

I want to Thank Tom Boyer for such a splendid performance, his presence ensured an elegant time for all. Tom is an accomplished musician and well respected faculty member at SSC.

A few 3 Day parents have requested drop off days for the remainder of the school year, anyone wanting to participate please speak to the teachers. I want extend an opportunity for any parent who wishes an exit conference for their child, I am available at your convenience just see me to set a time and date.

Thank you all for your support, humor, respect, suggestions and for allowing us the pleasure of spending this special time with your child, it has been an honor.

First Time Play's last day is May 26th they will have an ice cream party at snack time.

Two Day's last class is JUNE 1st they will have a Teddy Bear picnic with teachers and parents @ 11:30.

Three Day's last class is JUNE 2nd, On Friday, May 28th, they will have a Road Rally Day, and parents will come back @ 11:15 for a pizza and chicken nugget party. Parents can sign-up to bring; watermelon, salads, water bottles, desserts and popsicles. JUNE 2ND will

(continued on page 3)

Important Dates

Sunday, May 23

Mom's Night Out, Zumba at Mama's Move, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, May 26

FTP class last day
Kindergarten Play, *The Grouchy Ladybug*, 9:15 am

Thursday, May 27

Show and Tell for 2 Day class
Pre K Art Show, 6-7pm



Friday, May 28

Show and Tell for 3 Day
3 Day class Road Rally, pizza party at 11:15

Monday, May 31

Memorial Day, No School



Tuesday, June 1

Last day for 2 Day class, Teddy Bear Picnic at 11:30

Wednesday, June 2

Last day for 3 Day class

Thursday, June 3

Last day for Pre K class



Friday, June 4

Last day for Kindergarten
End of Year Party, Old Ship Parish House, 5:30-8:30 pm

Calling all photos for the end of year slideshow! Please get your photos to Ellen Larkin asap. You can email them or put them on a cd (if you have many) Inblarkin@verizon.net.



Nick O'Connor and Connor Traynor studying butterflies in the butterfly area at the Museum of Science during their field trip

Notes from Creative Seeds

Financial Aid

All families wishing to apply for financial aid should have already gotten forms in for next year. Email Mary O'Connor for more information:

m.oconnor@sscmusic.org

FYI

- Registration forms and payments for this fall are overdue now and need to be submitted ASAP
- The School Handbook will be posted on the SSC website instead of paper copies being distributed. This is in the works now and will be on the website over the summer
- Orientation programs for the various classes will be held in September. If you have any specific questions before this, please see the teachers
- A school survey will be distributed via email early next week - so please be on the lookout for it and be sure to let us know what you think!

SSC Book Club

Don't Be a Sea Squirt - Come Play with Us!

If you don't know what a sea squirt is, I was with you until reading *Play*. A sea squirt looks like a tadpole. It is born and spends its beginning seeking nutrients from the sea, and when it reaches adulthood attaches itself permanently to a rock or a boat's hull or pilings. And then it becomes the "couch potato of the sea", facing an utterly gruesome ending by digesting its own brain. Yuck!

But, as Dr. Brown reminds us later, we all run the danger of becoming sea squirts - at least metaphorically - "When we stop playing, we stop developing, and when that happens, the laws of entropy take over - things fall apart. Ultimately, we share the fate of the sea squirt and become vegetative, staying in one spot, not fully interacting with the world, more plant than animal. When we stop playing, we start" To fill in that blank, come to a book group meeting. Jennie still has 4/5 extra copies for sale if anyone is interested. \$20.

The first meeting took place Friday, May 14 and was just really fun. We had about ten folks in attendance and a lively conversation. Folks who attended emailed their "play stories" - how they play as an adult or played as a child. We had to guess who was who. Can you guess who these adults are?

"When I was a little girl my sister and I used to pretend we were "Kathy" and "Sylvia" and would have all kinds of adventures as our alter egos. Most of our childhood play revolved around pretend with or without "toys" and dolls. This extended to the neighborhood kids as well." - ???

"I play a lot with my boys, but as far as myself... I guess I would have to say taking Zumba classes. I have always loved to dance and about 8 years ago (before kids) used to take hip hop dance class. I wasn't that good at it but I loved it. Now I get my "groove on" and exercise at the same time by taking Zumba class. That is about the only "me" time get right now." - ???

(continued on page 5)

SOUTH SHORE CONSERVATORY
MOM'S NIGHT OUT

**ZUMBA
 AT MAMAS MOVE**

**SUNDAY, MAY 23RD
 6:30PM**

**JOIN THE PARTY!
 COME SHAKE YOUR BOOTY TO SOME
 FIERY LATIN MUSIC,
 THEN SIP SANGRIA AND TASTE SOME
 TAPAS.**

\$15 PER PERSON

What is Zumba? a spicy Latin inspired workout class with great music, guaranteed to help you find your groove! Great for all fitness levels - truly a fun way to sweat! You do not need to know how to dance to enjoy this class (the lights will be dimmed anyway!) Workout gear and sneakers are suitable attire.

Mamas Move is located at 45 Pond Street, Norwell (near Queen Anne's Corner - next to Audi dealership - parking and entrance around the back)

Oh, The Things They Say!

A conversation between Miss Karen and a kindergartner:

"What are you eating, Miss Karen?"
 "I'm having some vanilla mousse. It's like pudding."
 "Oh, I've never had that before. Is it good?"
 "Yeah, it's not made out of moose though."
 "I know that! If it were it would be covered with hair!"

Another conversation between a Kindergartner and Miss Karen while inspecting a picture of a Dung Beetle:

Miss Karen asked, "Do you know what a dung beetle is?"
 "Yeah...let's call it a dumb beetle instead!"

"It's about manners Mommy, Manners are everything!"
 -2 Day child, Owen Young said to his mother, when asked about the Tea Party beforehand.

(kindergarten, cont.)

parent committee and several faculty head, we hope to broaden the conservatory community with more school-wide themes and performances next year.

As you may know, we have received international and local recognition of our children's art work. Museums abroad have acknowledged and praised our children's pieces. I interact with teachers from Hingham Public Schools who rave about our all-day kindergarten program and the wonderful children they have taught from our school. Our all-day kindergarten program allowed us to stray from the box, linger on interesting topics, and explore materials and ideas to their fullest potential, expanding comprehension levels and critical thinking skills.

On a personal note, I consider this year to be an exceptional year (even though I say this every year). This incredible group of children developed a deep bond, concern and love for one another that should be fostered into the future. They treated each other like extended family.... critiquing honestly, forgiving easily, encouraging excellence, praising frequently and laughing daily. I only wish we could be together for a couple more years.

The combination of wonderful students, supportive families, outstanding colleagues and an amazing learning environment make this an exceptionally difficult year to say goodbye. I thank you again for a memorable year and wish you all a happy and relaxing summer

Love,
 Mrs. Martin, Miss Karen, Mrs. Goldstein, Ms. Su, Miss Adrienne and Eddie Spaghetti

- *The Grouchy Ladybug-May 26th @ 9:15
- *Family Party - June 2nd (9:00-2:00)
- *Last Day of School-June 4th

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(Miss Carol, cont.)

be an Unbirthday celebration with cupcakes and ice cream and lemonade during regular school time.

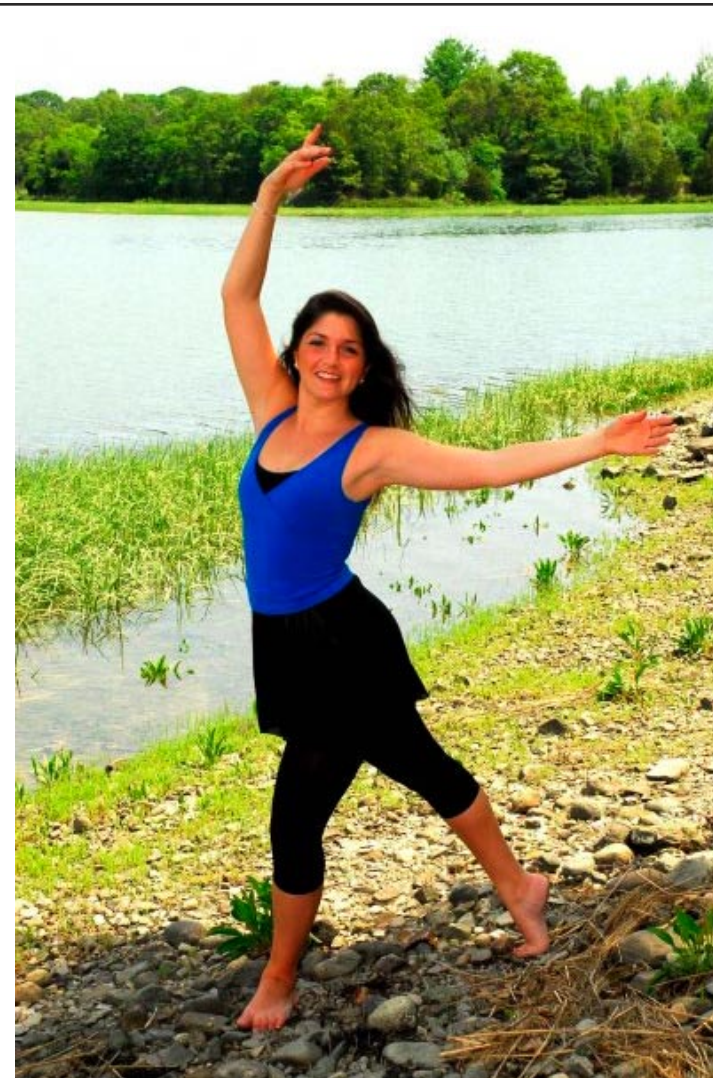
Pre-K's last day is June 3rd, they will perform @ 12:15 in the lobby with Miss Su, Miss Adrienne and Eddie Spaghetti for all parents and relatives. Their celebration will include and ice cream social @ 3:00 for parents to attend.
 WOW! What celebrations!

Love, Laugh, Learn and Play!
 Miss Carol

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Charitable Outreach

A big thanks to everyone for all the generous donations we have received throughout the year. For the last month of the school year we are accepting donations for the SSC classrooms. Please refer to the sheet that was emailed to everyone and also the signup sheet on top of the bin in the sign-in area. Leave all donations in the bin. For large-size donations, please give to Rachel, Kerrie or Pam D. Once again, thank you to everyone for a great year!!!



Preschool teacher and Creative Movement teacher, Adrienne Perfetuo

Summer Activities

Join the Conservatory for some family fun this summer at the Jane Carr Amphitheater

Musician and Cartoonist, Keith Munslow

Sunday, July 18 at 10 am
 This highly interactive show will delight everyone with its unique mix of funny and original songs and stories, tongue-twisting poems, oddball characters and on-the-spot cartoon drawing!

Seymour Barab's "Cinderella"

Sunday, July 25 at 10 am
 This child friendly opera is an updated version of the classic Grimm's fairy tale *Cinderella*

For more info and to purchase tickets visit our website.
www.sscmusic.org

Meet Adrienne Perfetuo, a 3-Day Preschool Teacher and Creative Movement Teacher; Kindergarten and Pre-K. She received her B.A. in Dance and Performance Studies from Roger Williams University. She has been studying dance for 20 years, from Ballet to Jazz, Tap to Hip Hop, although her main focus is Modern and Creative dance. She has also trained thoroughly in Figure Skating for 16 years.

"Working with children is so fulfilling and rewarding, there isn't anything I would rather do."

Teaching and choreographing is a huge passion for Adrienne. Works she has created have been featured in the American College Dance Festival, and received great reviews! She is currently working on her Masters Degree for Early Childhood Education, and hopes to soon become a fulltime Preschool or Kindergarten teacher.

Adrienne joined the South Shore Conservatory faculty in 2005 and has donned many a hat during her time thus far including; Music Together Teacher, Preschool Teacher, Early Childhood Registrar, Creative Movement Specialist, and Summer Program Teacher. When she is not at the Conservatory you can find her at the Scarlet Oak Tavern in Hingham as a server.

Due to the success of last year's summer programs, the Conservatory is delighted to offer a theme-based arts program for preschool/kindergarten students this summer. And yes, you will find Adrienne as a Summer Program Teacher! Each week features stories based on a specific theme. Campers explore music, art and drama as they add songs, instruments, props, and scenery to tell each story. Campers also gain understanding of the four instrument families through hands-on classroom activities. Sign up for one or two weeks of fun!

SSC Summer Camp Information:

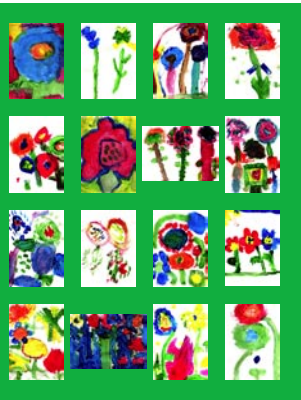
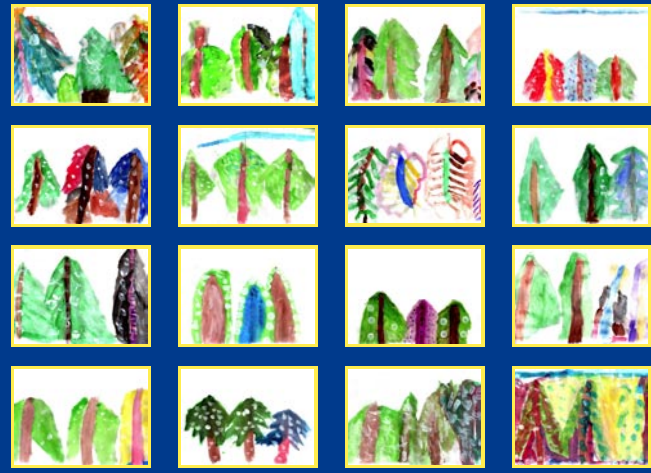
The Arts Tell A Story 2010
 A Summer arts program for children 3-6
 First session: June 15-18: *Me and My Instrument*
 Second Session: June 22 - 25: *Families All Around Us*
 One Conservatory Drive, Hingham

Daily Schedule:

9:00-9:30: Arrive/free play
 9:30-9:45: Circle time
 9:45-10:30: Music/Art/Drama/Story
 10:30-11:15: Music/Art/Drama/Story
 11:15-11:30: Snack
 11:30-12 pm: Outdoor play/free play indoors

Tuition is \$175/week. All programs subject to minimum weekly enrollment of 6 campers, maximum of 16. If you have any questions please contact Carol Scheig, SSC Preschool Director at 781-749-7565, ext. 17 or c.scheig@sscmusic.org
 Register online at: http://www.sscmusic.org/the_arts_tell_a_story.html

Posters for Sale!



Please let Pam Desmarais or Jenny Barrett know asap if you are interested in buying a poster of collaged artwork by children at the Conservatory. Posters will be 16 x 20" and cost \$35. These posters will be printed per order.

Winter Trees, Kindergarten 2010, top; Kindergarten flowers, Kindergartners of 2009, above left; Balloons and Circles, Pre K, 2010, above right



The Earth Day celebration at SSC was a huge success! Thanks to all of you helpful and earth loving parents and families, the Conservatory has many lovely new plantings. Moms hard at work, far left; SSC children studying Impressionist art on their trip to the MFA over April vacation, left.

Have a great Summer!

(creative Seeds, Cont.)

"I took a few classes over the course of a few days learning and honing my skills at mountain climbing and belaying and repelling. Then it was time. I hiked with my gear to a base camp at about 11,500 feet. I heard stories over freeze-dried food for dinner about how the groups from that day who had attempted to summit had to turn back due to bad weather. Practiced more knots and then tried to sleep in a large tent with 20 other people. Woke up at 3 am to start the ascent. I was in a small group -3 other men (1 being our leader) and me. Attempted the hardest route to the summit and slipped on one of my outside ascents only to be pulled tight by my climbing partner. At 9 am, I made it to the very top of the Grand Teton in Wyoming at 13,800 feet!! Spent about 1 hour on top amidst the sunshine and fresh air and enjoyed some snacks and water, not to mention the glorious views of Wyoming and Idaho. I was so exhilarated! What an absolute thrill of a lifetime! Had a blast climbing back down; did a 100 foot repel over a big cliff that was really cool. Back at base camp, we collected the rest of our things and continued to hike all the way back down to our cars getting back at about 9 pm. A full day that was totally awesome!!" - ???

We also talked about how kids are not being allowed to roam their neighborhoods and play freely anymore. How we miss the days when someone would just say, "go play", and that was it until lunchtime, and then dinnertime.

Our first "play group" met on Friday, May 14. Other meetings are scheduled for:
Friday, July 23
Thursday, August 12
Tuesday, September 7

Questions for future book groups:

- 1 - How did your play as a child inform your identity as an adult?
- 2 - What was your favorite toy as a child?
- 3 - What is your child's favorite toy?
- 4 - How does your child play?
- 5 - What is your latest memory of really imaginary play with a friend?
- 6 - What was your favorite grade?

Cheers,
Jennie



The children at the Conservatory enjoyed their tea parties and Mother's Day Celebrations and thanks to our beloved teachers, they had impeccable manners!

