



## April 2011 Newsletter

Dear Playhouse Families,

Nature sure did play a trick on us with the storm on April 1. I hope we never have to see snow pants and boots make a comeback again this season. We need spring badly at the Playhouse.

Our main news is that it's **TIME TO REGISTER** for September on-line. You can pick your classes and bring/mail your \$50 registration fee for the 2011-2012 school year. Our hours will stay the same with the exception of our afternoon Preschool and Pre-K classes. Pre-K will be available M, T, W, and F afternoons from 12:30 – 3:30. The Thursday afternoon group will also run from 12:30 – 3:30, but it will be a regular stay and play day with Ms. Donna. Also, you must sign up for a minimum of two days per week (at least three hours a day). We will give out our summer forms this week as summer registration cannot be done on-line.

Please join me in welcoming back Ms. Maureen to our program. She took care of her husband until he passed from cancer in January. We are so blessed to have her back on our team. Ms. Melanie, who worked with us on Wood Street, has returned to assist in the Toddler, Preschool, and Pre-K programs. Ms. Mechelle, who also worked with us on Wood Street, has been subbing on an as-needed basis. Thank you, Mechelle. Sharing a classroom with all the wonderful Playhouse teachers makes it a joy to come to school each morning.

Happy Spring to All!  
Ms. Ida

### *PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM*

The past three weeks we've been studying about backyard birds. We've looked at pictures of birds and talked about bird behaviors such as migration, pruning, molting, laying eggs, and building nests. We also discussed how not all birds can fly and what birds eat. We heard and learned to imitate and discriminate various bird calls as well as making bird feeders and our own suet. This past week we talked about the latest theory that dinosaurs are not really extinct but have evolved into birds. However, some scientists think that dinosaurs evolved from birds. I guess it's the old chicken or egg question – it has been fun to explore, though!

### *CURRICULUM NIGHT CANCELED*

Although we didn't have enough interest to have the informational evening, your child's teacher is happy to sit down with you to talk about our curriculum. We hold conference hours every Monday from 8-12:30. You can sign up on the sheet provided as you enter. Some parents reported not getting the flyer regarding curriculum night, so we will send out e-mails consistently for any upcoming events. It worked really well for Pajama Days.

### *PAJAMA DAYS*

PJ days were so much fun. Your children look even more adorable in their pajamas. We had pancakes, waffles, and French toast sticks for snack, listened to a bedtime story, then played outside in our jams. You can see some pictures on our bulletin board as you enter.



## APRIL VACATION

We will be closed on Monday, April 18, but open regular hours during the rest of the week. Please sign the Vacation Attendance Poster in the coat room if your child is *NOT* coming that week or certain days that week. We need this information to schedule our teaching staff. Ms. Donna and Ms. Margaret will both be away. Thanks for your help.

## APRIL PROGRESS REPORTS

You can expect a checklist report on your child by April 30. You or your child's teacher may request a conference to discuss any concerns that arise.

## TOOTH BRUSHING UPDATE



We just disposed of all our toothbrushes because it was time and we've had so much illness at school. If you do not want to send in a brush for your child, please sign and return the attached form, opting out of this practice. Please send in a brush or the form by April 15<sup>th</sup>.



## HELPING HANDS

Please consider donating even a small sum to our tuition assistance program in lieu of end of the year teacher/playhouse presents. This year, we've been able to help five families reduce their cost. We hope to keep this going for a long time. Thanks so much.

## SCHOOL PICTURES



Christopher, from Studio C in Upton, will visit us on May 10 & 11 to take individual and class photos. These are regular school days. If your child does not attend that day, we'll give you a scheduled time to come in for their photo.

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Thanks to both Rebecca and Hannah for helping in our afternoon program. Their loving spirits and enormous energy give us the boost we need in the late afternoon hours. Hopefully, both of them will work in our summer program this year.



## NURSING SCHOOL

Ms. Joanna will be reducing her teaching hours starting mid - May to attend the MGH nursing program. She will still teach on Monday and Friday afternoons. She'll be missed by all, especially her mother.

## SIBLING CONNECTIONS

Ms. Ida, Ms. Joanna, and Ms. Mandy will be participating in a walkathon on May 15 at Newton North High School. This fundraiser will support the non-profit Sibling Connections, which works to reunite siblings who were separated when placed in the foster care system. Ms. Joanna and Ms. Mandy have been volunteer counselors at the week-long summer camp and monthly gatherings for over five years. Every dollar raised makes a difference for the kids! Visit our fundraising site at <http://www.sc-walkathon.org/sibling/teampage.asp?fundid=1637> or sign up on the pledge sheet on the bulletin board to donate! Thank you for your support!