



# Earthplace Nursery School Twos' News

Volume 5, Issue 15

Jan. 17, 2012

## Real Art for Real Children

We grown-ups provide the time, the space, the materials, and the atmosphere needed to create wonderful works of art that only children can create. But in valuing a child's first artistic attempts, we should appreciate the attempt at using the materials rather than the finished product.

Real art for real children is

**personal.** Art can be as simple as a first attempt to use a variety of materials. Later on, your child may choose to use one color to represent happy feelings and a different color to represent angry feelings.

**spontaneous.** Be ready for a creative moment by keeping art materials handy.

**inventive.** Color may be applied to paper using brushes, fingers, or cars and trucks.

**imaginative.** Eventually your child will create representational art, such as a picture of mommy. Mommy may have several arms and blue hair.

**unique.** An imaginative expression and materials of the child's choice encourages ownership and a positive sense of self-esteem. No two works of art look the same when young children are the artists.

**therapeutic.** A completed creative work establishes feelings of self-

satisfaction and self-confidence.

**fun.** Whether a child is concentrating alone or in a shared creative group, a positive, enthusiastic atmosphere of enjoyment is essential!



## In the Classroom

All classes heard the story *The Mitten* this week. Each child created mittens, using a variety of stickers. The mittens are hanging up in our classroom. The T/Th 8:45 a.m. Class thanks Teagan Arbitman for bringing in winter stickers to share with her classmates. They were used to decorate the mittens.

Lead teachers were out of the classroom having Parent-Teacher Conferences this week.

Our animal visitor was Rosie the tarantula.

## Family Day

Our Twos classes will celebrate Family Day on Saturday, Jan. 21,

2012. On that day, Earthplace students may join us with their parents and siblings to play together in our setting. Your child's teachers are looking forward to seeing you, your child, and his/her siblings.

8:45-9:40 a.m.: M-W-F class

9:45-10:40 a.m.: T/Th 8:45-10:30 a.m. class

10:45-11:40 a.m.: T/Th 10:45-12:30 p.m. class

We'll also be celebrating Warm Up to Winter that day.

You'll be able to call us in case the weather poses a need to reschedule.

## Winter Fest- Warm Up to Winter

Please join us at Warming Up to Winter at Earthplace on Saturday, Dec. 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Family activities include:

- ◆ a hike family with our naturalist, Miss Becky, at noon. Find out how animals survive in the cold weather, and look for animal tracks.
- ◆ a bonfire with hot chocolate and s'mores at 1 p.m.
- ◆ Drum-N-Dance at 2:30 p.m. Drums and other percussion instruments will be provided.
- ◆ A nature walk at 3:30 p.m. to learn about how plants withstand winter.

Between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., the indoor activities will include making Inuit snow goggles, a crystal snowflake, and a snowflake catcher. The Firehouse Hot Dog Cart will be available here for lunch.

There will be a charge of \$20 per family.

## Music on Sat. Jan. 28

Our next Saturday music experience, featuring Deirdre and Sean Murtha, will be on Saturday Jan. 28 at 2:30 p.m. The Murthas will present winter music and songs.

## For Fours: All About It

Tuesday afternoon nature activities for four year olds are available once a month from 4–5 p.m. The next program on Feb. 28 is Clouds. Advance registration is required.

## Science Fun: K–5

Our next Science Fun topic, available to children in grades K–5, is Friction. This program is available on Feb. 10, 11 or 12 from 4–5:15 p.m. Advance registration is required.

## Nature Fun: K–5

On Jan. 18, children in grades K–5 may participate in a program on the topic of Mammals. This program is available from 4–5:15 p.m. Advance registration is required.

## Yoga at Earthplace

Yoga will continue weekly in the Eco Room on Fridays from 9–10 a.m. You are welcome to join the group at any time. Please bring your own mat and any other props you might want. There is a suggested donation of \$15 per class; all donations will support Earthplace. Please let us know if you are interested in attending.

## Spring Silent Auction and Wine Tasting

Planning has begun for our 4th annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction event, which will be held on Saturday March 10 from 7–10 p.m. All nursery school parents will receive invitations, and we hope every family will participate. This year we will use the proceeds from the event to purchase furniture and supplies for our new Fives program that will be starting September.

We ask that you please help us in three ways:

\*Attend the event. The price of admission will be the same as last year, \$40 per person.

\*Bring friends and family!

\*Contribute goods and/or services.

We are gathering donations to three theme baskets: a Green Basket, a Wine Basket, and A Child's Garden Basket. This is our school's major fundraiser of the year. We'll be telling you more about it each week.

## Summer Camp Registration

We're thinking ahead and planning for summer camp 2012. State regulations say that children who attend summer camp must have reached their third birthday. Parents of current students will receive summer camp registration information in the mail.

## Winter Recess

Our school will be closed for Winter Recess from February 20–27.

## In the Community

\*The Westport Weston Health District will have a limited number of free radon testing kits available in January from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For

more information, call 203–227–9571 ext. 242.

\*In honor of National Tea Month, the Norwalk Public Library is hosting a Teddy Bear Tea Party on Thurs. Jan 19 from 10:30–11:45 a.m. for children from 3–5 years of age. For more information call 203–899–2790 ext. 3.

\*In honor of National Tea Month, the Norwalk Public Library is hosting an American Girl Tea Party on Thursday Jan. 19 from 3:30–5 p.m. This program is for elementary school children. For more information call 203–899–2790 ext. 3.

\*Some of the programs available for younger children Westport Public Library in January and February are Baby Mother Goose Time, Toddler Mother Goose Time, Good Times with Nursery Rhymes, and Rhythm and Rhyme. For more information, consult the library at 203–291–4810.

## Wish List

\* winter stickers

\*thermal waterproof mittens (for lending to students outdoors)

\*stacking washer/dryer for the Animal Hall

\*bookcases for the Nursery School office

## Dates to Remember

Jan. 20: Yoga

Jan 21: Family Day for Twos

Jan. 21: Warm Up to Winter

Jan. 28: Music with the Murthas

Feb. 20–27: Winter Recess



**Earthplace**

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