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DATES TO REMEMBER

- **APR 22**
Work Day
- **MAY 5**
Parent/Teacher Conferences
- **MAY 13**
Spring Picnic
- **MAY 26 – 29**
No School
- **MAY 31**
Staff Meeting –
Early Dismissal 11:00
- **JUN 9**
Last Day of School
- **JUN 19**
First Day of Camp

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Lisa Beck
DIRECTOR

Music has always been an extremely important part of my life. I grew up listening to a wide variety of music from Broadway shows to Beethoven to the Beatles and everything in between. I developed a deep appreciation of music, and I feel so fortunate to be able to share my passion for music as I take over for Ms. Patti as the BNS music teacher.

Music is powerful. The right song can cheer you up on a rainy day or calm you down when you are feeling incredibly stressed out. A skillful teacher can use a simple rhythm to quiet down a boisterous group of children in an instant or can sing a song to motivate a group of children to work together to clean a room that is in complete disarray. It is truly magical to observe the effects music can have on children and adults.

Music also encourages children to strengthen a number of pre-academic skills in a fun and engaging way. Below are just a few of the endless ways that children learn through musical exploration:

- 🎵 All songs are made up of rhythmic patterns, and understanding patterns is a critical step in mathematical learning.
- 🎵 Many children's songs encourage children to explore relationships, such as fast/slow, loud/soft, and high/low.
- 🎵 Music encourages movement, which is a wonderful way to promote physical development, motor planning, and creativity.
- 🎵 When engaged in a group sing-along, children are working on important social-emotional skills like taking turns, expressing emotions, and working with others to create something beautiful.
- 🎵 Songs expose children to new vocabulary, different languages, and interesting rhymes, which all help with pre-reading and writing development.

MRS. B'S FAVORITE SONGS FOR:

- Taking Turns:** "Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar?"
- Rhyming:** "Down by the Bay"
- Math:** "5 Green and Speckled Frogs"
- Feelings:** "If You're Happy and You Know It"
- Relationships:** "Two Little Birdies"
- Movement:** "Shake Your Sillies Out!"



VALENTINE'S SOCIAL (FEBRUARY 11TH)



ALEXANDRA HOLT
 HEAD OF SOCIAL COMMITTEE
 (mom of Elodie, 4s and Miles, 2s in Fall of 2017)

"LOVE BUGS" was the theme at this year's Valentine's Day event. The Social Committee did a wonderful job putting together a fun morning for kids and their special grown-ups. Kerry Tropeano greeted everyone at the door, and beautiful decorations and some fun craft projects, put together by Tracey Boritzka, were waiting inside. **Jenny Tan** and her family set up an amazing photo booth and took some of the most adorable love-themed pictures of the children. Courtney DeStefano baked delicious cookies and provided sprinkles, frosting, and other fun treats for the children to make all their sugary fantasies come true. Coffee, bagels, and muffins were provided by local coffee shop, Moonbean Cafe. Finally, the 2s classroom was transformed into a sensory room by Toni-Marie Marano and Rachel Hearst. The children were particularly drawn to this room and spent hours playing with beans, rice, and wonderful play dough that Mrs. Beck made with her own children especially for this event. It was such a fun morning and nice to be cozy together after two snow days. Thanks to all who came out and joined us! – Alex



WHERE IN WESTCHESTER?



DID YOU KNOW?

Our BNS experts conduct early childhood education and training to teachers in the community. Here are some events coming up:



Mrs. B is presenting **“Pause, Observe, and Reflect: The First Steps in Developing a Responsive Curriculum”** at the *2017 Spring Infant Toddler Conference*.



Mrs. B will be training at the upcoming the *Westchester Association for the Education of Young Children* event. The event’s theme is **“Celebrating the Authentic Work of Young Children”**.

SPRING BASH (APRIL 1ST)

Silent Auction Cocktails Live Auction Dinner



A NOTE FROM JOHANNA PENSYL

VP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, FUNDRAISING
(mom of Blaire, 2s and Maeve & Sloane, 2016 BNS graduates)

Thank you to all who ate, drank and bid to support BNS at the 28th annual Spring Bash! Over 60 people came out to the William J. Vescio Community Center on April 1st for a night of fun. The auction raised close to \$10,000 for BNS through ticket sales, sponsorships and auction item sales. A special thank you to Janniello's for the food, DePrez Wine & Spirits for the wine and Six Degrees of Separation for the beer. It was a great night!





SPONSORS & AUCTION DONORS

- 105-Ten Bar & Grill
- ACME
- A Maze In Pottery
- Baci Hair Salon
- Bella Maiya Day Spa
- Benjamin Steakhouse
- Blue Walrus Frozen Yogurt
- Briarcliff Cleaners
- Briarcliff Manor Fire Department
- Breaking Ground Dance Academy
- Briarcliff Toy Shop
- Captain Lawrence Brewery
- Chatterbox 54
- Chilmark Wines & Liquors
- Dave's Cast of Characters
- Dodd's Liquor City
- Drug Mart
- Dunkin Kehn
- Flames Steakhouse
- Good Food
- Gentle Family Dentistry
- Holbrook Cottage
- Jacob Burns Film Center
- Jodi's Gym
- Lauren Kara Photography
- March Boutique
- Moonbean Cafe
- Mooyah
- North State Barber Shop
- Paradise Nails
- Rivertown Pilates
- Royal Nails
- Scattered Books
- Sharon NDiaye
- Sportime USA
- Starbucks
- Tazza Cafe
- Value Drugs
- Westchester Skating Academy
- Wondrous Things
- Young Living Essential Oils

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHT: 4s MARDI GRAS

Throughout the month of February, the 4s class took an in-depth look at **Mardi Gras**, incorporating elements of science, social studies, literature, and the arts to learn about this cultural event. Mrs. McKay was inspired to do a unit on Mardi Gras after visiting her daughter who lives in New Orleans.

The class enjoyed preparing and eating a variety of foods from the Louisiana area, including beans and rice, po'boy sandwiches, and king's cake. Reading books about Mardi Gras piqued the children's interest even more, and they suggested doing a Mardi Gras parade of their own.

The unit culminated when the children paraded through the 3's class throwing beads to the cheering students. The class used materials they found in the classroom to create a float as well as masks and costumes. The children decided to call themselves the "Monkey-Alligator Krewe" after having read about the krewes that march in the parades.

This experiential unit gave the children a taste of Mardi Gras and also provided an opportunity for them to learn about respecting and celebrating traditions that are different from their own.



ARE YOU READY FOR SUMMER??



Your favorite teachers at BNS are gearing up to take campers' learning to new levels. This year's theme is **NATURE**.

Each week will highlight a different aspect of the children's natural environment, such as **SAND**, **LIGHT**, and **PLANTS**, just to name a few. Daily activities will bring nature into the classroom, giving children a chance to experiment, observe and incorporate nature into their everyday play.

- Camp runs from June 19th to August 4th.
- There are 2-day, 3-day and 5-day options available.
- *Baby and Me* for those 18 months of age and older! What a great way for your little ones to get know the school.

Sign up today!!