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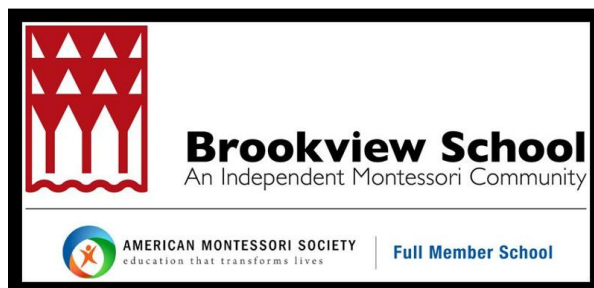
# Brookview School

January 8, 2012

Vol 4, Issue 10



## Brookview School Community Newsletter



Dear Brookview Community:

Welcome back. I hope you have had a wonderful holiday season and that 2012 has started out well for each of you!

The photo above shows the Brookview "Tuesday Morning Choir" in a holiday performance at the Orchards Mall. Brookview students have shared the gift of music a lot this holiday season. Read on to learn more.

Have a great week!

Jennifer Spikner, Sue Dubar, & Suzie Finster  
The Brookview Management Team

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Many Thanks

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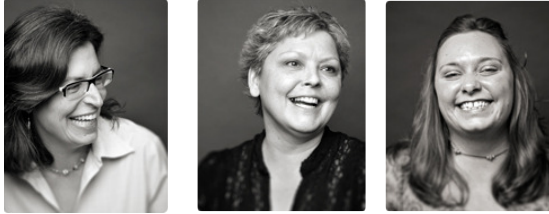
### Quick Links

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### On the Calendar...

**January 9:** Primary & Elementary Programs resume.

**January 12:** Open House Tour for prospective families, 8:30 AM.

**January 16:** Martin Luther King Day. School closed. Infant & Toddler Programs Open. Childcare available for children 3 and older by advance reservation.

**January 20:** Snow Tubing at Five Pines (assuming there is snow by then!)

**February 3-12** Coastline Children's Film Festival

### Why are the Lower Elementary students conducting?



This lesson began with a game in which the students walk around in a circle, while repeating the names of their friends. The children quickly learned that some names fit into duple meter (two or four-beat patterns), and some fit into triple meter (three-beat patterns). For example, "Ty-ler" fits perfectly into 2/4 time. "Ni-cho-las" is most comfortably spoken as two eighth notes and a quarter, which also works in 2/4 time. "I-sa-bel" fits perfectly into 3/4 time. "Ma-ri-a-na" is also spoken in 3/4 time, but because the accent is on the third syllable, the first two syllables are what we call a pick-up beat in music, thus creating an agogic (naturally occurring) accent in the proper place.

The kids had a great deal of fun with this exercise and we gradually added piano accompaniment, and spiced up the walking by doing a plié on the accented beat. This was much easier for some children (particularly those who take dance classes) than for others and than it was for me. I'm a bit of a klutz with such things, but sometimes it's nice for the children to see their teacher be imperfect-it relieves the pressure for them to have to be perfect.

As a second step, the children were asked to listen to musical excerpts I played on the piano, to decide whether they were in duple or triple meter, and then to walk in the circle accordingly. Finally, I handed out conducting batons and showed them that they can conduct duple meter by making a "J" design in the air, and can conduct triple meter by making a triangle. They were also free to make their own designs, as long as it fit the meter.

I was struck by how expressive the students were with their batons. I think the lesson had particular resonance for them because they remembered when Robin Fountain, conductor of the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, came to visit a couple of months ago, and spoke with them about conducting.

The study of conducting and musical meter is useful in so many areas. Firstly, it gives the kids a chance to learn through movement. Secondly, it can introduce or reinforce the concept of fractions. Third, it cultivates their listening skills. We will certainly be doing more work with the conducting batons.

Larry Schanker

### The Gift of Music

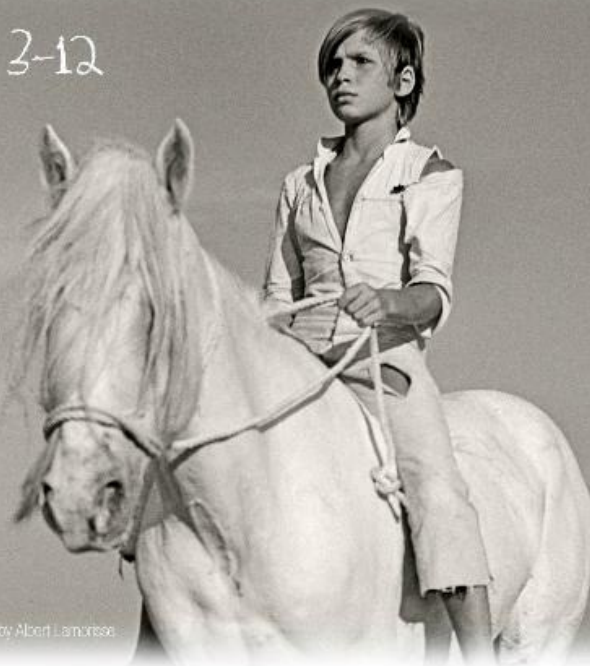


Brookview Upper Elementary students shared the gift of music with senior citizens at two assisted living centers this holiday season: The Whitcomb and Roylton Manor. The children rehearsed with Mr. Larry and Miss Lindsay for several weeks to prepare a selection of holiday songs. The children enjoyed singing and the seniors loved the music, so it was definitely a win-win endeavor!



Second Annual Coastline Children's Film Festival

February 3-12



Sill Images: 'WHITE MANE' (1953) - a film by Albert Lamorrisso

## 2nd Annual Coastline Children's Film Festival

Award-winning Shorts, Documentaries, Features and Workshops

@ the following venues: Acorn Theater, Anna Russo-Sieber Gallery,  
Box Factory for the Arts, Bridgman Public Library, Citadel Dance and Music Center,  
Krasl Art Center and the New Buffalo Performing Arts Center.

Call **269 925-3544** or go to **www.brookviewschool.org**

You must pre-register for workshops at: [www.annarussoart.com](http://www.annarussoart.com) (269-208-4409) or  
[www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org) (269-983-0271)

Admission to films is free/1\$ suggested donation



Funded in part by the New Buffalo Fine Arts Council with support from Chemical Bank

# SUNDANCE FOR SQUIRTS

Thank you...

Thank you to all of the Brookview teachers and staff who donated their time for the Parent Give-Back Holiday Childcare Day: Maggie Bischoff, Sue Dubar, Susan Finster, Kim Getz, Marie Heim, Ellen Korcek, Kim Sesson, Kim Smith, Margaret Rodgers.

Thanks to everyone who donated gifts for Benton Harbor families in need through the [Readiness Center](#).

The mission of the Readiness Center is: *To provide educational programs for low-income parents and their pre-school through grade five children with the goal of fostering self-esteem in both parents and children by offering a variety of educational opportunities in a setting wherein they can be successful.*



### Brookview School Wish List

Computer Monitors (Preferably Flat Screen)  
Electrical Outlet Covers

"Our aim is not only to make the child understand, and still less to force him to memorize, but so to touch his imagination as to enthuse him to his innermost core."

- Maria Montessori

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