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Brookview School

October 9, 2011

Vol 4, Issue 4



Brookview School Community Newsletter



Brookview School
An Independent Montessori Community



AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY
education that transforms lives

Full Member School

Dear Brookview Community:

It was great seeing many of you at the State of the School Address. For those of you who couldn't be there, here are the highlights:

- Brookview School is in a more solid position than it has seen in many years.
- We have reached our enrollment projection of 130 students (as compared to 114 one year ago).
- Immediate openings are available in the Brookview Infant Room. Please tell your friends and colleagues!
- Our financial situation continues to improve, which has allowed us to set a realistic fundraising goal for the year: \$126,000 (as compared to a target of \$219,000 last year).
- Brookview is more international than ever, with families from nineteen different countries. This enriches our students' experience by allowing them to interact

In This Issue

Parent Education Special Event
Staying Safe in Case of Fire
Please Drive Carefully to Keep our Children Safe
Plan ahead! Shop with SCRIP
Thank You!
Farm Update
Community Service

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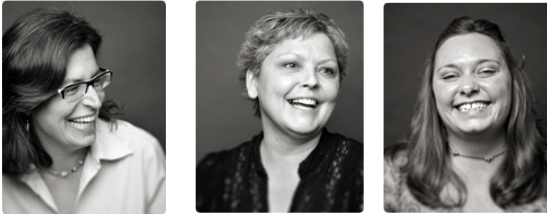
with classmates from different cultures on a daily basis.

- Brookview has restructured its administration and is now being run by a three-person management team.
- Brookview has invested heavily in professional development and has a highly qualified faculty and staff.
- The Brookview Curriculum Guide, originally written in 1996, has been updated and expanded.
- Brookview School is a full member of the American Montessori Society and an Affiliate of the Michigan Montessori Society.

We're glad to have you as part of the Brookview Community and we thank you for the opportunity to provide an authentic Montessori education for your child!

Sincerely,

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



On the Calendar...

October 18: SCRIP Orders due.

October 19: Sustainable Business Forum Event-hosted by Brookview School: Overcoming Obstacles to Recycling, 12:00 PM.

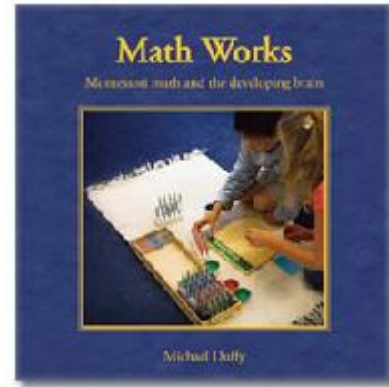
October 20: Parent Education Brown Bag Lunch: Self-Discipline, 12:30 PM in the Great Room.

October 22: World Premiere of Larry Schanker's Concierto for Jazz Piano, Mendel Center Mainstage, 7:30 PM

October 27: Special Parent Education Event-Michael Duffy, 6:00 PM

Building your Child's Brain Power with Montessori Math

Brookview School is excited to present a special parent education event that you won't want to miss! Michael Duffy, Montessori teacher, teacher trainer, and author of the book *Math Works*, will be speaking to parents at Brookview School on Thursday, October 27 on how Montessori math helps your child's developing brain. This event is free of charge, and childcare is available by reservation- just contact Charlotte at the front desk to reserve a space for your child. Join us for a light bite to eat at 6:00 PM. The talk will begin promptly at 6:30. If you can only attend one parent education event this year - this should be the one!



Staying Safe in Case of Fire

It's undeniable: kids love firetrucks. But in addition to the fascination with shiny red fire engines, sirens, ladders and hoses, we want to make sure that our children know what to do if they are ever caught in a real fire. Safety is our priority, and the Brookview Primary team spent the first few weeks of school focusing on safety- including fire safety. [Click here](#) to see a one-minute slideshow of the Benton Township Fire Department's recent visit to Brookview School.

And Speaking of Safety...Please Help us Keep our Children Safe!

Please, please, please help us keep our children safe by following the following procedures in the Brookview parking lot:

1. The parking lot is one way. Follow the arrows. Please do not enter the parking lot and make a quick left turn to park in front of the rows of parked cars.
2. Please stay in your car in the car line and allow the staff to help your child into or out of the car.
3. Please come to a complete stop at the crosswalk near the playground.
4. Please do not leave your car unattended near the front door. This is a fire lane and must be kept clear at all times.
5. Please drive slowly. The minute you save by speeding puts our children at risk.

Please do your holiday shopping with SCRIP cards

Question: What would happen if every Brookview family chose *one retailer* and bought a gift card for that company through Brookview School's SCRIP program?

Answer: Brookview would raise a lot of money and it would decrease our need to fundraise in other ways.

What is SCRIP? It is a simple program with huge potential. Pick a retailer. Let's say Walgreens. Buy a \$100 Walgreens Gift card from Brookview School for \$100. You order online -it takes about 30 seconds. Brookview earns six dollars. OK, so that's not very much money. But let's say all one hundred Brookview families participate...now we have six hundred dollars. And if we do this every month throughout the school year, with each family purchasing a SCRIP card for one store where they typically shop anyway...it becomes six thousand dollars. And that's just if each family purchases one gift card.

The holidays are coming up, and with just a bit of planning, we could earn a nice chunk of change toward this year's fundraising goal. Believe me, it's worth it! It's free money for the school, and it doesn't cost you anything! Think about the holiday gifts you plan to purchase over the next couple of months and what stores you plan to patronize. Watch Tom Allen's cool [video](#) that walks you through how to get set up. SCRIP orders are placed on the first and third Tuesday of the month, and the cards arrive in a few days- usually by Friday of the same week.

Once you get in the habit of shopping with SCRIP, you'll see how easy it really is. So go ahead, try it! Questions? Contact Britt Smith at smith49085@sbcglobal.net.

Many Thanks!

Thank you to Jenny Novakovic, Maria Jordan, Vanett Word, Erin Beck, Janet Wolski and the rest of the Slow Snack Crew for the fabulous snacks that you have been cooking up for the children! What other school offers delicious, nutritious homemade snacks to their students every day?

Thank you to the Berrien Community Foundation for the donation of an LCD Projector!

Farm Update, by Lindsay Gaspari, Upper Elementary Lead Teacher

Brookview welcomes two new animals to our farm, a buckskin pygmy goat and a black Suffolk sheep. These animals were rescued from a farm not far from Brookview where they were being neglected and their living conditions were unsafe. They were starving and running in a herd with one other sheep and four nanny goats. Most of the other animals have since found new homes, and Brookview is proud to have given them a chance at vitality. They are recovering nicely, sunken sides filling out and strength returning. They are learning to trust humans again. The goat is even learning how to walk on a lead!



There is one lamb left to rescue, another little black Suffolk like the one we have. He was the most severely malnourished, unable to even stand when he was found. He was rushed to a clinic with uncertain expectations of his survival. Though his red blood count was lower than the vets thought possible to survive, he pulled through. He has recovered. Although he is undersized, he is able to stand now and browse the field. He loves red clover in particular. "Livingston" still needs to find a home and we would love to bring him to Brookview.

We are fortunate to be able to run the Brookview farm on a very modest budget due to the donation of hay and other supplies from Brookview families and the generosity of Dr. Kathy Koudall, Professor of Agriculture at Andrews University,

who vaccinates, de-worms, and shears our animals free of charge as well as takes care of them for us during the summers. Unfortunately, unanticipated veterinary costs during Snowy's final weeks used up all of the farm budget and more. In order to bring Livingston to Brookview, we must raise the funds to pay for having him neutered.

FARM FUNDRAISER: Can & Bottle Drive

Upper Elementary students are launching a can and bottle drive as a fundraiser for the farm. Please drop off any rinsed bottles and cans you would be willing to donate, and encourage others to do the same. Any additional donations would also be appreciated. For further information, contact Ms. Lindsay at lgaspari@brookviewschool.org.

Community Service

Talk with your children about helping others. Here are two ways you can help families in need this fall:

Operation Coats, an initiative of the Women's Service League, is collecting coats, warm winter boots, scarves, mittens, hats, and snowpants to help keep folks warm this winter. Please donate your outgrown, gently worn items by placing them in the dropbox in the office during the month of October. Brookview parent Maria Jordan says, "Women's Service League works with the Salvation Army to provide coats each year for members of the community who otherwise might not have any. Children's coats, hats, gloves, etc. are always needed the most."

Stuff-a-Truck for families in need to help make sure every family in our community has food to eat. From October 17 through November 7, a collection box will be available in the Brookview office for donations of non-perishable foods. Food will be distributed to families in need in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties free of charge through the Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency.

We encourage you to talk to your children about the importance of giving back. Has your child outgrown last year's winter coat? If so, make a point of washing it, and then guiding your child to drop it in the collection box to help keep another child warm. The next time you are at the grocery store, ask your child to select a non-perishable item to add to the Stuff-A-Truck collection box later this month. Encouraging your child to help others beginning at a young age will help your child to develop empathy and to live a life of giving.

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." ~Dr. Seuss

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." ~Mother Teresa

"Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the

environment."

Montessori

- Maria

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