



BETHPAGE NURSERY SCHOOL



22 Lexington Ave
Bethpage NY 11714

Quarterly Newsletter
Volume 1 - Fall 2011

Directors Corner

Dear BNS Families,

School is in full swing and the children, teachers and I are all finally in our routines☺. All of us have adjusted nicely to the 2011-2012 school year.

I am sure that you have noticed by now that there has been tremendous growth since those early September and October days. In fact, the children and teachers are interacting well. I usually notice these changes by Halloween, but this year to my delight the classes were running smoothly by the second week of October.

I am excited by the season of Fall because it marks my favorite time of the year. I adore the changes in the weather and nature. I LOVE listening to the kids when they discuss leaf colors, falling leaves, deciduous and evergreen trees, costumes, candy, turkeys and what they are Thankful for with their teachers. To date, my favorite response to the "What are you thankful for?" question is: "Happy Meals." I learned from that response that we can be excited and grateful for the simplest pleasures in life.

I hope that this Thanksgiving you can enjoy the many simple and beautiful things in your lives.

Ms. Joanie

Directors Hours

Since we have AM and PM sessions this year I have split sessions. My hours are Monday through Thursday from 10AM to 2PM. Most days I am in by 9:30AM and leave by 2:30PM. If you need to get in touch with me you may email me at joanie@bethpagenurseryschool.org or leave me a message at BNS.

I do have some flexibility with my schedule. So, if you need to meet with me or would like me to observe your child just let me know and I will adjust my schedule.

Toddler Separation

Our BNS 2s are fabulous. We had our share of tears in the beginning and still occasionally experience some sad goodbyes, but Ms Sara, Ms Kathy, Ms Laura and Ms Lauri are amazing at calming the children's fears and making the 2 hours a blast for them. It is important for all to understand that the primary goal of our Toddler program is to allow for a healthy, safe and fun separation from parents and caretakers. Ms Sara's lessons and activities engage the children in multiple ways so that they can explore and understand the themes of the day. The day includes thematic play, fine motor exercise, gross motor play, art, music, songs, poems, finger plays and literature.

SPECIAL NEWS: Ms Laura gave birth to Dylan James DiBlasi on November 5, 2011. We will miss her until her return in January, but feel extremely fortunate to have Ms Lauri with us as her sub!

Nursery

The Three year old classes are superb. I would have to say that this year's classes were very ready for nursery school and took the least amount of time to adjust. Ms Tammy and Ms Christine have created the warmest nursery learning environment for their classes. It is imperative that 3 year olds be in a school setting that nurtures them socially, emotionally, developmentally and academically. Ms Tammy plans activities that develop the whole child and not just isolated skill sets. She bridges activities so that children may experience concepts in multiple ways. For example: apples, pumpkins, leaves and turkeys have been used in science, math, literature and art. Your 3 year old can rattle off facts, tell your stories, sing songs about, pattern and sort leaves...open up a dialogue or create an activity to extend what they have been learning!

Nursery Friday Enrichment

Ms Laura and Ms Christine's Friday 3 year old class is having so much fun. Ms Laura takes the curriculum from Ms Tammy's nursery classes and expands upon the themes. Currently we have 5 openings in the class and would love to have your little one join in the fun. Hurry because the class usually fills by January. The cost is \$85 per month and the class runs Fridays from 9:45AM to 12:15PM. (Ms Kristin is subbing until Ms Laura returns in January.)

Class Updates

Pre K

Our Pre K classes are both doing very well. It is very obvious to me that Ms Sara and Ms Kristin are planning activities that will prepare the children for kindergarten next year. There is a balance of play and academics that I do not see in many preschool programs. My teachers utilize methods other than dittos to teach major skills. On occasion we need to use a work sheet, but for the most part hands on and multisensory activities are performed by children with teacher assistance. 4 year olds thrive on art, songs, poems, predictable activities, math games, etc. They shut down in whole group ditto sessions and get lost because they lack the focus, attention and discipline in their bodies. They need to move and experience what they are learning. When it is appropriate to work on a ditto or an assessment, Ms Sara and Ms Kristin work in small groups with their students. At the same time the wonderful assistants, Ms Mary (AM) and Ms Kathy (PM), work with children or supervise center time.

Pre K is a culmination of many important factors: education in the home, prior school programs, library programs, sibling interaction, educational television programs, reading, conversation, observation and social activities. It is not just what happens a few half days per week at school. It is what occurs in the child's lifetime 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year and began at birth. The teachers and assistants do the best that they can to open their students' minds and plant seeds that will emerge when the child is ready. We hope that BNS parents are our partners and expand on our themes and activities. We expose the children to so many things but need your support to make sure that the children continue to learn and practice what was taught in school. Utilize the newsletters from Ms. Sara and Ms Kristin to get involved and participate in the preschool learning experience. 😊

I am happy to officially announce that Ms Kristin is expecting her 3rd child in February. In her absence I will be taking over the PM Pre K class.

K Readiness

Ms Tammy and Ms Kathy's class meets on Tuesdays from 12:45 to 3:30PM. In her class the children focus on phonemic awareness, print concepts, balanced literacy, writing and math through centers and small group activities. We have 3 openings in the class. If you are interested in the class, please let me know. If we have at least 8 children interested I will open an additional K Readiness class in January. I will hold the class in the lower level. The cost of the class will be determined and based on the amount of sessions that will be offered.

Other School Happenings and Updates....

Fundraising

Thank you for your continued support of Bethpage Nursery School. We hope you will continue to show your support. Our upcoming events are:

11/22/11 Thanksgiving Bake Sale
12/1/11 Vendor Night at BNS
12/3/11 Drop and Shop at BNS
12/10 and 12/11/11 Pancake Breakfast

Winter Wonderland

The holidays are quickly approaching. Please note that the classes will be having parties the week of 12/19/11. The Pre K and Nursery classes will be inviting special visitors to their classes to celebrate. Look for information from your child's teacher.

Registration

We will be holding priority registration in January for the 2012-2013 school year. Registration is on a first come and first served basis. I will be sending out class offerings in early January. Priority Registration will be held the week of January 16. Open house will be on January 28, 2012 from 12-3PM. At that time registration will be open to the public. Details will follow.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

At this time all of the children should be entering without being walked into the carpet area. Parents are NOT allowed to hang up their child's coat or hang up his/her belongings. We are trying to teach the children to take care of basic needs. We have been asked by the Bethpage school district to teach the children how to put on and take off their coats by themselves. Kindergarten teachers do not want to be losing valuable class time for coats.

Please be careful not to block the driveway in the morning. I have staff that are scheduled to arrive at BNS by 9:30AM. When parents block the driveway they cannot park. We are trying to keep the peace with the neighbors. The best way that the staff can achieve this is by NOT parking in front of their houses for long periods of time.

Finance Reminders

Please note that tuition is due by the 1st of every month. You are given a 10 day grace period. If tuition is not paid you owe an additional \$15 in late fees. If tuition is a month past due your child will not be permitted in school until the bill is paid. If you have questions regarding tuition or fees please call Jean Bury on Fridays between 9AM and 12PM at the school.