



"The best classroom and the richest cupboard are roofed only by the sky."
Margaret McMillan

Spring 2014 Newsletter



Dear Annette's Preschool and the Clubhouse Families,

It may be safe to finally say the snow days are behind us! Our playgrounds are full of frolicking children, sledding, climbing, balancing and swinging as the temperatures begin to rise and the snow melts away. Our Monkeys and Lemurs have been out in the strollers, and today a handful of Lemurs walked the entire way to the CVU track and back...the children are truly ready to stretch their muscles in the sunshine! Here is the Spring Newsletter -- please read through and follow the links as it contains some important future dates and events. As always please contact me with any questions.

Thanks for all your support through this long Winter!

Andrea Sambrook
Director

- Please remember to follow us on **Facebook** to stay updated on local upcoming events, legislative updates on early childhood education, school closings, and celebrations of achievement, recognition and tradition. You can follow us by subscribing to the [Annettes's Preschool Fanpage](#). Help us stay connected!
- Every classroom now has a set of hanging folders where you will find notes, artwork to go home and important forms. Please be sure to check your child's folder every day. Please use the teacher mail folder to return any communications.
- Here is our school [calendar for 2014-2015!](#) Please add these important dates to your iPhone, tablet, calendar, notebook or memory!
- **New Indoor Gross Motor Space:** A collaboration has blossomed! The preschool and the school age staff have set goals to improve the school age space for day time use by the preschool children! Ms. Khari and Ms. Tricia have designed new features of the space to include indoor swings for the little ones, hoppity hops, balance beams and more mats for those rainy spring days when legs still need to run!
- In February, the [Nurturing Families program](#) began on Thursday nights in the Clubhouse (you can still join!) and offers free dinner and childcare for parents to attend the multi-topic workshops on parenting, child development and stress management.
- Ms. Maria brought books to life on Wednesday 4/3 by organizing a visit from local children's book illustrator [Liza Woodruff](#) and a set of themed art activities, indoor snow play, and hot chocolate. Liza read a "big book" version of Ten in a Sled and shared her original artwork, both in print and on the spot with all of our Annette's children!
- Please join us later this month for our **EcoNight** -- (see details below). As part of our improved sustainability, we would like to encourage use of 8oz or 12oz jam jars with lids for lunches that need to be reheated to reduce the use of disposable paper goods and plastic. We will provide plates for lunches.
- **Parent Advisory Committee:** Are you a parent interested in your child's education and in contributing thoughts and ideas on the future path of

Annette's? We will be holding an orientation meeting in May to share ideas with parents in order to get feedback and insight. In addition, please watch for our annual **Parent survey** which will be coming out soon. [Take a look here to see the results from last year's survey](#). We are proud of our program but always value your suggestions. We will invite you to participate again online via Survey Monkey, but will also have paper copies available in each classroom if you do not have access to a computer. We are aiming high for 80%+ participation as we are required to summarize and share the results with the state of VT through our annual STARS application!

- **Parking:** We have a system with an extra one-way exit to relieve congestion at the entrance drive. Please do NOT block the gravel exit, and refrain from parking up by the playground since this is for "quiet cars" - i.e. those that don't move until after hours to keep the tiny foot traffic safe all day long.
- **Pick Up:** We recognize that sometimes circumstances can keep you from getting or being where you want to be! We very much appreciate every effort you can make to arrive before 5:30PM so that your reunion with your child can be smooth and prompt. We are conscious of closing our building on time so that our staff can meet their family and educational commitments in the evening. Please also call ahead if you will be late - 482-2525 - this allows us to give certainty to your child that you are on your way and makes their waiting easier.

UPCOMING/ONGOING EVENTS:



New this Spring! All classes will enjoy a professional **music enrichment** program with Peter Alsen from **PUKAMusic** beginning on April 11th. Peter is an experienced music educator and performer whose specialty is working with young children, as well as providing music therapy for children and the elderly. The preschool enrichment sessions will be on Friday mornings and are sure to excite, motivate, engage and otherwise get the sillies out of each and every child enrolled at Annette's! No registration required as it is part of our support of the arts at Annette's Preschool and the Clubhouse. A separate session will be arranged for the Clubhouse.

NEW!! The Petite Maestro Program: Beginning on April 28th, Peter will be working with a limited number of preschoolers in small groups to focus on instruments, singing, tempo, rhythm and rhyme as essential music education designed specifically for 3-5 year olds. Enrollment is open and the limited number of openings will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Pick up or [download a flyer](#) by the sign in sheet in your child's class to read more and enroll!

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- **April 5th : FREE Clothing and Book Swap** at the Hinesburg Town Hall 9-10:30AM
 - **April 16th : Art Show 3:30-5:30PM**, Creative Studio @ Clubhouse.
 - **April 19th: 10AM Easter Egg Hunt** at Annette's for our **PRESCHOOL** children! The Easter Bunny herself will join children in finding where the over 600 eggs are hidden

- **Tuesday, April 22nd, 4:30-6PM: Eco-Open House Fair!** All of our classrooms are preparing an eco-fest of activities for young children age 6 weeks-12 years! Play our scavenger hunt, collect stamps on an Eco-Passport and win green and sustainable prize raffle items!
- **May 6th: Teacher Appreciation Day!** Be sure to share a kind word or a drawing by your child during Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5-9) - it will surely bring a smile to your teacher's face!
- **June 13th: 3:00 Moving Up Ceremony for Toucans!** Toucans wave a fond farewell as they look toward Kindergarten in the fall. ALL moving-up Toucans will be welcomed in the Clubhouse Summer Camp where Ms. Jackie will be heading up the K-3 group! Free swim lessons, themed sessions and art with Ms. Sherrie are all awaiting them! Be sure to register NOW with Tricia at tricia@clubhousecamp.com OR [Register online here](#). For a taster of last year's memories, take a look at [this short movie](#). The Toucan class will only be open to next year's Kindergartener's beginning in June, so be sure to make a smooth transition to summer camp by joining in the Buddy Up program or a Kids' Night Out! We will also reserve a spot for your child in the Clubhouse After School program for the Fall too!
- **June 13th: Kick Off Summer Family BBQ** with music performance by Peter Alsen! 3:00PM following the Toucan Moving Up Ceremony.
- **June 16th : Transition Day** for summer! Children who are developmentally ready to move up will do so on Monday 6/17, where some new friends will join us too. Of course, 2 free transition mornings will be in place in the week prior in order for children to visit their new classrooms and meet their new friends and teachers.

Supporting Our Staff and Improving Our Programs



For the first time, our entire staff attended the **Vermont Association for the**

Education of Young Children (VAEYC) Conference in Killington, and our school age staff attended the **Vermont Afterschool Conference** in October. Nationally reputed speakers, researchers and presenters gathered with childhood educators from across the state for a day of exceptionally robust professional development and learning. Conferences such as these improve our practice each and every day. Ask your child's teacher what they took away with them and how they are using it!

The Petite Artiste program with Ms. Sherrie was a runaway success this winter! Three sessions and two fabulous art shows enabled almost 30 children to experience a focused, intentional art process in a small group setting. Sherrie will culminate her year-long program with the final art show of the year, and turn her talents to the Clubhouse Summer Camp arts planning. Sherrie has developed an after school print making class for children age 5-12 and is running it now!

Another new series at the Clubhouse this winter has given school agers a new social outlet with friends: **Kids' Night Out!** Ms. Tricia has run 3 successful Friday night events including a Wii Challenge Event, Karaoke Night and an Under the Stars Night with an indoor planetarium and movie! Be sure to "like" the [Clubhouse Camp Facebook page](#) to keep up with more spring events, and especially to enroll in the Summer Camp with free swim lessons in our new pool!

PLEASE WELCOME: Ms. Chelsea Burke as the new co-teacher in the Jaguar classroom, Ms. Ashley Correia as our enthusiastic substitute for infants and preschool and Ms. Beverly Tucker as a part time substitute and housekeeper to keep our program tidy and neat!



Strengthening Community Connections

In November, the **Ages and Stages Child Development Workshop** was held in the Toucan classroom for over a dozen parents and teachers. Learning about typical stages of child development was only half as exciting as winning tickets to the Polar Express in Burlington! The wind, ice and snow did not deter a cadre of Annette's staff to head to the **Polar Express** headquarters - dressed as elves to greet the children on the steam train! We plan to make it an annual event as a sponsor of the VT Children's Trust and to share more tickets with our families!.

As winter approached, Annette's reached out to fellow community members Hinesburg Community School and the



Sustainability: Connecting Children to the Natural World

The **Early Childhood Alliance**, along with local area teachers, Annette's teachers, parents and staff attended the **Legislative House Party** at Annette's in November to kick off an advocacy campaign to support increased investment in the Child Care Financial Assistance Program and Early Learning Partnership funding. Scores of letters were submitted and mailed to all of our Representatives and Senators at the capitol. And once the legislative session was underway, I attended the **Early Childhood Day at the Legislature** on March 12th (in the middle of the snowstorm!) to speak at a press conference and also to provide testimony

Friends of Families to bring the very first [Storywalk](#)® to Hinesburg! Annette's purchased and installed 32 wooden stakes, parents drove to Montpelier library and *Stella Fairy of the Forest*, and *If You Give a Pig a Pancake* was born in Geprags Community Park during November and December!

to the Senate committee on Health and Welfare. It was exciting to be among so many dedicated educators and be able to bring the voice of Annette's families to the floor of the legislature! You will no doubt hear more about the Campaign for Children which is being spearheaded by a grant from the Permanent Fund to help continue child advocacy.

The winter weather snowed us in before the **Natural Playscapes** committee could finish up two new Music Walls for the Infant and Preschool playgrounds! However, thanks to many interesting and unusual parent donations, we will be ready to affix them on the new stockade fence which will host our musical accoutrements in the next month!