

Blooming Grove Academy Newsletter

January Newsletter 2010



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Watch for early registration forms to come home soon! By registering your child early for next year, you can save, save, save!

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From the Director, Peg Hayden

Do you know what your child is learning at BGA in regard to the 4 R's? The best way I can think to relate to what your child is learning in this regard is to share a possible sentence children should be able to understand after spending some time in our program. I hope this is helpful.

1. **Responsibility** - "I can take care of myself and my needs."

2. **Respectfulness** - "I like myself and the others I work with, and I will treat them the way I want to be treated."

3. **Resourcefulness** - "I can learn from the world around me, solve problems and be creative based on what I learn from it."

4. **Responsiveness** - "I can make a difference in the group to which I belong by responding to their needs and concerns with the hope that they will do the same."

Another very important aspect of your child's learning environment is the Positive Discipline approach to teaching children self-regulation. It is based on 8 simple concepts that are the heart and soul of an Adlerian environment.

1. **Children are social beings.** They function in social settings, working to find their place by observing how others behave and interact with them.

2. **Behavior is goal oriented.** Children may not be aware of their goal and may find mistaken ways of achieving it.

3. **A child's primary goal is to belong and be significant.** Children live and grow in families and small groups and communities. They seek ways to find their place in the group.

4. **A misbehaving child is a discouraged child.** Sometimes children may misbehave in order to find a way to belong. (You will be receiving a "Mistaken Goal Chart" in your child's backpack. Please review this to gain an understanding of the motivations behind some childhood behaviors.)

5. **Children have social interest.** They want to show concern for others and have a desire to contribute to society.

6. **Equality of treatment is sought.** Everyone

deserves an equal right to mutual respect.

7. **Mistakes are wonderful opportunities to learn.** It takes courage to admit mistakes and find the learning in them.

8. **Make sure the message of love gets through.** When the atmosphere in our home and classrooms is one of cooperation and love, everyone is encouraged.

How does this look in the classroom? Your child is presented with 3 school rules.

1. I will not hurt myself, others or anything else.
2. I will stay with my class at all times.
3. I will take a go or stop quickly and quietly.

They will have lots of daily opportunities to make choices and learn from their mistakes. Taking a go or a stop simply gives the child tools for learning how to re-direct their own behavior and is done in a non-punitive, supportive manner. Dialogue is shared throughout the process about feelings and choices. "What could I have done differently?" Other tools are shared as well. Class meetings are a routine way for the entire group to address concerns and get suggestions from peers about how to proceed with a challenge. Teachers are always seeking ways to encourage students. Although we like to hear praise, it's not always the most supportive way to learn. Our goal is that children will set goals for themselves and not perform in order to hear the praise words.

As you can see, we care about the social-emotional development of your child, as well as their creative and academic progress. We strive to develop the whole child. By strengthening each child's balance, we truly can change the world one child at a time.



Lost and Found

There are still items in the lost and found. There is a box located on the lower level in Extended Day, as well as a clothesline in the upper level near the boy's restroom.

Please check these areas regularly to see if there are any items that belong to your family. At the end of the year, any unclaimed items are donated to a charitable organization.



A Christmas Carol Field Trip

In December the elementary and middle school students attended A Christmas Carol at The Bloomington Center for Performing Arts. A Christmas Carol has enchanted audiences the world over with its simple message of selfless giving. In this musical interpretation of the Charles Dickens classic, the unrepentant Ebenezer Scrooge is made to see the light as he survives merciless battery of revelations by the ghosts of his own

Christmases: Past, Present, and Future. A Christmas Carol captures both the humorous and touching moments of the classic story with witty dialogue and fresh new songs. The holiday season is a “kind, forgiving, charitable time,” in the hands of this holiday classic.



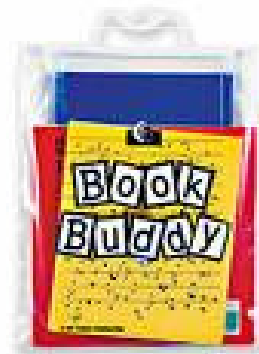
Teachers Talking by Cristen Susong

This year teaching physical fitness to the students of BGA has taught me a great deal about how children move and create. It has also reminded me how awesome it is to see the “Four R’s” in action. The younger students love to dance, play with the parachute, run, and kick and throw balls, balance and play games that test their physical abilities as well as their ability to play as a team. The older students are ready for more challenges. Playing on teams is now easier because of BGA and their years of learning about respect and responsiveness. If someone is not being included in a basketball game the students respond appropriately. If there is an argument about whether a ball hit the line or not, the discussion is solved in a respectful way. Blooming Grove Academy has planted the seeds of team work since these students were 3 and 4 years old. What a wonderful way to enter secondary education; already equipped to handle the problem solving and team building challenges that lay ahead.

Reminder: PE will now be on Monday. Please make sure your child is wearing appropriate footwear. (No snow boots) Thanks!

Library Book Buddy Bags

You have probably noticed library books coming home in the cute “Book Buddy” bags. Each Thursday students have library time and check out a book to take home and read. Please enjoy these books with your child by reading with them when you have a quiet moment. Then simply put the book back in the bag and return it the next Thursday. The students have been so great about returning books on time. Keep up the great work.



Box Tops

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Keep collecting Box Tops in support of Blooming Grove! The next submission to General Mills is in late February 2010. That's just a few short months away! Please consider asking friends, family, or even your company to help collect Box Tops in support of BGA.

Remember, the General Mills Box Tops for Education Program has four ways you can help BGA earn money:

Box Tops Coupons - Clip Box Tops coupons from hundreds of participating products found in the local grocery stores and turn them into BGA. We earn 10 cents for each Box Top redeemed.

Marketplace - Shop online at your favorite stores like JC Penney and Lands' End, through the Box Tops for Education Marketplace. BGA earns a percentage of each qualifying purchase at no additional cost to you.

The Box Tops Reading Room - Through the Reading Room, you can shop online at Barnes & Noble and up to 6% of your purchase goes back to BGA.

The Box Tops Visa Card - Use the Box Tops for Education Visa card and BGA earns 1% cash back every time you charge

We're on the Web!
Bgakids.net

Many things are taken into consideration when deciding whether or not to cancel school. It is never an easy decision or one that elicits 100% agreement. Our policy as stated in the Family Handbook reads: "BGA will cancel or close the school on bad weather days if conditions specific to our school, staff or student population warrant cancellation. Missed days will be made up at the end of the school year if possible. Because so many of our parents are transporting their children themselves, please use **your discretion** in deciding if you can safely transport your children to school. All school functions are cancelled if school is not in session or dismissed early." Please tune into the radio/TV stations below, to determine if school will be cancelled on bad weather days.

If bad weather should arise once school is in session, we try to remain open if at all possible. If conditions worsen and we feel we need to dismiss early, we will call the radio/TV stations listed below. **Please do not call the school to see if we are dismissing early.** The office is typically very busy monitoring the weather, and taking phone calls may further delay decision making.

For school closings listen/watch local stations:

WJBC-1230 AM
WBNQ-101.5 FM
WEEK TV- NEWS 25