

Singing Voices

Fall 2008, Volume 1, Issue 1



A NOTE FROM JULIE

Dear Music Together Families,

I hope you are all enjoying the Fall semester with the BONGOS Collection!! I am so excited to be sharing our very first newsletter with you. Included within you'll find our Music Together Fall Calendar, highlights on our community outreach program, parent education, staff member spotlights, and a community calendar. I welcome any feedback regarding other areas that might interest you for future issues.

Many thanks for your continued support of the Music Together program and for continuing to nurture the next generation of music makers - your children!

In Harmony,
Julie

Julie Capuano

Director

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Fall semester runs from 9/15 - 12/5
Classes will not be held on 11/27 or 11/28

Babies Workshop

Sunday, 10/26 from 11:30 am - 12:45 pm

For families with babies 8 months or younger
An hands-on workshop with your infant (no older siblings please)
Come coo and snuggle with us as we guide you through a variety of ways to interact musically with your baby in a mixed-age setting

Parent Education Event

Sunday, 11/9 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Parent Education to help parents enhance and understand their child's musical development

Family Jam Night

Friday, 11/21 from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

More details to come!!

All special events will take place at Creative Music on Rte. 25 in Monroe unless indicated otherwise



Community Outreach

Music Together has been a pioneer in providing people who would otherwise not get to experience Music Together with an opportunity to do so through their outreach programs across the country. Some of the groups who have benefited from Music Together Outreach programs include children in low-income or at-risk families, children with special needs, teen mothers and their babies, the elderly, and migrant workers and their families.

One of Music Together's largest outreach programs is based in Bridgeport, CT. This local outreach program was spearheaded by Music Together of Fairfield County Director, Jackie Jacobs. Members of the outreach team include Director of Music Together of Monroe/Newtown, Julie Capuano, also serving as Assistant Director on the project, and Lis Rothchild, Director of Let's Sing Music Together in Milford. Jackie, Julie, Lis along with their colleagues Bizzy Bender and Andrea Schear are teaching the Music Together curriculum to children and parents in low-income and at-risk families as part of the Total Learning Initiative (a multi-year federal and state funded project for children 0-9 years old). This initiative, a project of the Agency for Bridgeport Community Development (ABCD), uses arts education to bridge the achievement gap. During the 2007-2008 academic year, evaluations were conducted by an outside, independent research and evaluation organization, the Michael Cohen Group. Here are the results:

- 1.) Preliminary results from a study funded by the Connecticut State Assembly and the US Department of Education affirm that preschool classes that used the Music Together® Preschool music and movement program model showed statistically significant gains on the Head Start Creative Curriculum Assessment in the domains of Cognitive Change and Language Development.
- 2.) In the Socio-Emotional domain, Music Together children made greater gains than control groups. These gains approached but did not meet the level of statistical significance.

For more information regarding this outreach program please visit bridgeporttotallearninginitiative.org

RESONATE: the parent ed corner

Did you know that it is developmentally appropriate for young children to learn through play? One of the basic principles of the Music Together philosophy states that your child's musical growth is best achieved in a playful, non-performance-oriented learning environment. So, leave your expectations at the door when it comes to your child's learning process. Allow the process to unfold and trust that however your child is participating (playing) – whether it is through quiet observation, jump-in participation, or room exploration – they are getting something out of the experience.



Teacher Spotlight: Elise Miller

Music Together of Monroe/Newtown's newest teacher is Elise Miller. Elise discovered Music Together while completing her BA in Music at CCSU in the spring of 2007. After years of teaching music and working with young children she knew that this was exactly what she wanted to do.

An accomplished flutist and vocalist, Elise has a lifelong love of music to share with her classes. Her enthusiasm for community music-making and her desire to make it accessible and understandable to even the most apprehensive and shy music-makers permeates her work. But, what really informs what she does is being a parent in the program. She, like you, gets to make music alongside her child in class and, like you, gets to watch, listen, and wonder at the musical growth that follows at home - the real classroom! Elise relates, "Our classroom experience gives us an opportunity to experience the joy of making music with our children in a fun, non-performance oriented community setting. This, combined with a rich, at-home music-making experience gives us a chance to discover so much about our children on so many levels. We all know the emotional power of music, but to take the experience to the next level and make it a whole learning experience, that's powerful! Music Together takes all aspects of a young child's development into account when developing their curriculum. It's emotional, social, physical, intellectual, & lots of fun!! Music Together really is a gift!!"

Elise is happy to be teaching six weekly classes this semester so, if you're not in one of her classes already, she hopes to make music together with you and your family once or twice for a makeup session.

learnmore@

www.musictogether.com/parentguideDVD

Music Together debuted their new parent guide DVD this semester entitled "Music Together at Home: Helping Your Child Grow Musically." This new guide is a combined 15-minute DVD and 16-page booklet that will now replace the booklet "You and Your Child: A Guide for Parents and Caregivers" as the guide given to families who are new to Music Together, along with their songbook and CDs. This new guide can also be accessed by returning families via the link above. We encourage all families to take some time to watch the new guide, to learn more about Music Together's mission & philosophy, and to meet it's founders Kenneth K. Guilmartin and Lili M. Levinowitz, Ph.D.

www.musictogether.com/ResearchAndDevelopment

What is the importance of early childhood education and what is music's role in it? What sets Music Together apart from other early childhood programs? Do you ever wonder why we do things the way that we do ("the why behind the what")? Do you ever wonder what it means when we say that we're a research based program? For answers to these questions and more visit Music Together's Research and Development page via the link above. Find out whose work has most influenced the program, including field experts Howard Gardner, Edwin Gordon, John Holt, Lillian Katz; and Joseph Chilton Pearce to name a few. You can also access the archives of research articles and past newsletters in the "About Us" section.

READ MORE:

Edwin Gordon - A Music Learning Theory for Newborn & Young Children
Mary Sheedy Kurcinka - Raising Your Spirited Child
Daniel J. Levitin - This is Your Brain on Music

LISTEN MORE:

Julie CD player - Putumayo Animal Playground
Denise's CD player - The Nutcracker Suite (Tchaikovsky)
Lis' CD player - Putumayo African Playground
Elise's CD player - Starry Night (lullabies from around the world)

DID YOU KNOW ...

You can not only purchase developmentally appropriate musical instruments at Creative Music in Monroe, but you can now also purchase a number of Putumayo kids CDs as well!!



OFF THE

BEATEN PATH . . .

THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO TOWN!!

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus will be at the Arena at Harbor Yard in Bridgeport from 10/23 - 10/26. Call (203) 345-2307 or visit online at www.ringling.com for more info

FAMILY FUN AT THE BEARDSLEY ZOO

Tiny Adventurers Program (ages 3-5)

(10/29 from 10:30AM - 11:30AM & from 1 PM - 2 PM)

(11/26 from 10:30AM - 11:30AM & from 1 PM - 2 PM)

Learn about an animal or a part of the Zoo through staff talks, crafts and animal interaction.

Zoo Tots (11/11 from 10:30AM - 11:30AM)

Ages 18 mos. To 3yrs.

Call (203) 394-6565 or visit online at

www.beardsleyzoo.org for more information

PUMPKIN AND FALL HARVEST SEASON

Pumpkinseed Hill at Jones Family Farm in Shelton

(9/27 - 10/31 from 10 AM - 5:30 PM Daily)

Pumpkins, squash, decorative gourds, scenic hay rides, corn maze, fall flowers, Indian corn, hay bales, cornstalks, apples, cider, cookies, music and dancing!

Call the Farmer Jones Crop Report at 203.929.8425 for the latest details!



PICK YOUR OWN APPLES

at Beardsley Cider Mill & Orchard in Shelton

Weekends from 10am to 5pm through October

Call 203-926-1098 or

email Info@beardsleysidermill.com