



# The Barclay Street School Press

[www.thebarclaystreetschool.org](http://www.thebarclaystreetschool.org)

March 2010

## Happenings in the classroom...

**Elisa & Yari:** Room 1 has been learning about the importance of Community Workers. We had the pleasure of having Dr. Sara Fikree visit to discuss and show the group how to floss and brush teeth properly. She also covered the advantages of eating healthy foods (milk, fruit, and vegetables) opposed to sweets (candy, cookies, etc.). The responsibilities of construction workers, postal workers, firefighters, and police officers were also discussed. We took walks around the neighborhood and spotted construction sites and identified the types of construction vehicles used. We paid a visit to our local post office and observed the tellers working busily with customers. We also waved hello to the fire trucks and police cars as they drove by. In addition, we made numerous trips to the New Amsterdam library to read a large variety of books and to take notice of the hard work the librarian does to keep our minds filled with knowledge with the help and guidance they provide!

**Judith & Janina:** In this month of February room 2 has learned the alphabet letters E - H and also sang songs related to the letter of the week. We also had a special visit from a Dentist and celebrated Valentine's Day by exchanging cards and eating yummy cupcakes. During circle time we talked about the weather and what kinds of things we can do that are fun to do in the winter. We also made collages related to the letters and conducted science experiments, such as what objects can float on water, and explored the inside of eggs. During our cooking session we made Gingerbread, to celebrate the letter G.

**Natalie & Jennifer:** This month we have been talking about healthy teeth. We learned that we have 20 teeth when we are children and 32 when we are adults. We also know that eating healthy foods and brushing our teeth twice a day will keep our teeth white and shiny and cavity free! A nearby dentist even came in to our class to talk to us about our teeth. We had a great time celebrating Valentine's Day. During the celebration, the children got to pass out Valentines to their friends and enjoyed some fun valentine snacks. We even wrote a Valentine Story as a class.

**Maria's Spanish Class:** Hola familias/ Hello families! We started the month of February/empezamos el mes de Febrero/estudiando/ studying about animals that hibernate/animales que duermen en el invierno. We used Scholastic posters as our viewing guide. The children also learned where each animal lived/tambien aprendieron donde viven los animales que duermen en el invierno. We studied about the bear/ el oso/ the snake/la culebra/ el mapeche/the racoon/ the turtle/la tortuga/ the skunk/ el zurrino, y la ardilla and the squirrel. After learning about the animals and where they lived/despues de aprender de los animales y a donde viven/the children acted out their favorite animals/los ni-nos actuaron como sus animales favoritos.

## Notes from the office...



- **School Closed:** BSS will be closed for Spring Recess from Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>
- All AM Classes are invited to BMCC to see "The Little Engine That Could" on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. More information will be sent home.
- First Day of Spring: Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>
- **Scholastic Book Clubs...**The March Scholastic is now available online. If you would like a paper copy please see Yari. Scholastic orders are due by **Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**. The latest Scholastic book orders are available online at: [www.scholastic.com/parentordering](http://www.scholastic.com/parentordering)  
username: barclaystreet  
password: bookorders
- **Spring Cocktail Party...** This Spring we would like to have another cocktail party. The one that we had in the fall hosted by Amber & Bill Ward was a huge success and a lot of fun. If you are interested in hosting and/or need more details please contact Debra Goldberg through email at [Debra@thebarclaystreetschool.org](mailto:Debra@thebarclaystreetschool.org) or by phone at 212-571-2715



## Recipe Corner



### Gingerbread Recipe (Serves 8)

Preparation Time (10 minutes)    Cooking Time 20 to 25  
Minutes

- 7 tablespoons dairy-free margarine, softened, plus extra for greasing
- 1/2 cup fruit sugar
- 1 egg, beaten
- 3 tablespoons date syrup
- 1/2 cup plus 1 1/2 tablespoons rice flour
- 1/2 gram flour
- 1/3 cup millet flour
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 3/4 inch fresh gingerroot, peeled and finely chopped

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly grease an 8 inch spring form cake pan with dairy free margarine and line the bottom with a circle of baking parchment.
2. Using an electric mixer, beat the margarine and sugar together in a large mixing bowl until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in the egg, a little at a time, then the date syrup.
3. Sift in the flours and add the ground ginger and the fresh gingerroot. Fold in with a metal spoon until the batter is thoroughly mixed.
4. Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake in the hot oven 20 to 25 minutes until it is a rich golden brown and a skewer inserted into the middle comes out with just a little of the batter sticking to it. Take the gingerbread out of the oven, leave to cool in the pan 3 to 4 minutes, then turn out into a wire rack and leave to cool completely before serving.



## Sounds of The Barclay Street School

### The Dentist Says

The dentist says, please brush your teeth brush your teeth brush your teeth. The dentist says, please brush your teeth and you'll have a healthy smile.

The dentist says, please floss your teeth floss your teeth floss your teeth. The dentist says, please floss your teeth and you'll have a healthy smile.

The dentist says, please eat good food  
eat good food  
eat good food

The dentist says, please eat good food  
And you'll have a healthy smile!



### Got my Toothpaste (tune: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star)

Got my toothpaste.  
got my brush.  
I won't hurry.  
I won't rush.  
Making sure my teeth are clean,  
front and back and in between.  
When I brush for quite a while,  
I will have a happy smile.



## Potty Talk Overheard at BSS...

Teacher to child:

"Mmmmmm you smell good! Is that cologne you're wearing?"

Child:

"No, just my pants!"

Child to a peer:

"We have the same pants."

Teacher:

"Yes, it's true. The both of you are wearing corduroy pants."

Child:

"Yeah, they're also called quarterback, like the jets!"

**Child says to teacher, "Can you sit still? I am trying to draw you ... in Egypt!"**

# Routines for learning...

## Helping Children Adapt To A New Sibling

"Yes, but when does Joey go back to the hospital?"

At times, parents may ask you for advice in helping their children adjust to a new brother or sister. Most children welcome new siblings with excitement and affection, but the changes in their lives may also frustrate them. A mixture of positive and negative feelings and behaviors is common in children when a new brother or sister arrives. For example, children may feel jealous and left out, but they may also feel a great deal of pride and affection for their new sister or brother. Here are five ideas based on current research that can help promote good sibling relations.

### TIMING PLAYS A PART

Parents often consider timing when they are planning a new child. Some experts believe that children between 18 months and three years old have the hardest time adjusting to new siblings. Children under 18 months may have fewer problems because they don't realize how life is changing for them. Four- and five-year-olds have more mature social and cognitive skills, so they can handle frustrating situations better than three-year-olds can. Parents should think about these things, but they should make their decision based on what will work best for the entire family.

### PREPARE CHILDREN FOR CHANGE

It's important to prepare children for a new child. Most parents read books about new babies to their children. Some excellent books on this topic include 101 Things to Do with a Baby (Ormerod, 1984, Puffin Books) and She Come Bringing Me that Little Baby Girl (Greenfield, 1974, Harper Trophy). Another good book on this subject is A New Baby at Koko Bear's House (Lansky, 1987, The Book Peddlers). Parents may also introduce their children to newborns when they have the opportunity, and they may talk about what a new baby can and cannot do. If the family is adding an older child through adoption or foster care, the same sorts of activities will help children prepare. Activities like these can also occur in child care settings. You probably should include some of these stories and discussions if you're aware that a child in your group is expecting a new sibling.

Many hospitals offer sibling preparation classes. Young children who attend can see where their mother will stay if she is going to the hospital. They can also learn what new babies are like and how to avoid hurting them. All these ways of preparing children for the first set of changes they will experience can be very helpful.

Prepare children for the way they should behave with the new baby. Parents often worry that their older child may be too rough with the baby. As a result, they may emphasize many things children should not do with their younger siblings. Parents should give more attention to showing children ways they can have a safe and enjoyable time together. An older child needs to know how to play with a baby, how they can communicate, and how to handle conflict. Most sibling preparation programs do not work on the social skills a new brother or sister will need.

### HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN HOW TO BE A SIBLING

Help your children find a role to play with their new sibling. Possible roles include assistant caregiver, teacher, helper, or playmate. As assistant caregiver, a child could fetch diapers, help entertain the infant, or help decide what the baby needs or is trying to express. Don't push children into a care giving role, though, if they don't want it. If you do, they may feel that being a sibling is only a burden. Help the child find a different role to play, or wait until the baby is older and the children can interact together more successfully.

### ONE LAST PIECE OF ADVICE

Babies seem to come into the world ready to adore their older siblings. Make sure your older children know how important they are to their brother or sister. It will give them a sense of pride and foster mutual enjoyment.

REFERENCES: Kramer, L., and J. M. Gottman, 1992. Becoming a sibling: "With a little help from my friends." \*Developmental Psychology\* 28:685-699.

## Spotty - The Guinea Pig

Spotty is the guinea pig and class pet of Amanda and Christine's classroom at *The Park Preschool*. He spends his weekdays at *The Park Preschool* and needs a place to stay on the weekends. Last year many children had an opportunity to take Spotty home for the weekend or holiday. For anyone interested feel free to email [Amanda](mailto:Amanda@theparkpreschool.org) - [Amanda@theparkpreschool.org](mailto:Amanda@theparkpreschool.org)



## March Birthdays

### Room 1:

March 5<sup>th</sup>: Griffin

March 11<sup>th</sup>: Victor B. (AM Class)

March 12<sup>th</sup>: Victor B. (PM Class)

March 21<sup>st</sup>: Jake

March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Giles

### Room 2:

March 18<sup>th</sup>: Tessa

March 19<sup>th</sup>: Henry

March 24<sup>th</sup>: Alexander P.

March 25<sup>th</sup>: Marley

### Room 3:

March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Avani

March 14<sup>th</sup>: Jake