



From the Head of School

TRANSITIONS

Spring is here! The birds are singing. The flowers are popping up, coming out of hiding slowly, in surprising places. Buds are peeking out of the tree branches. The outside world is in transition.

Spring marks a time of transition inside as well. For Children's Garden staff, spring break is the point that signals the speedy approach of conferences, outside explorations, and end-of-year celebrations. Additionally, it is a time of planning for the following school year as we firm up enrollment, orient new families into our community, and discuss classroom plans for next year.

Positive or negative, transitions are difficult for people of all ages. They are also inevitable. Seasons change. Children grow up. Life rushes along like a raging river. As much as we would like to conquer each transition smoothly and bravely, we cannot help but feel some anxiety as we approach them. Transitions signify the unknown and the unknown is anxiety causing. Because children look to the adults in their life to learn how to navigate transitions, it is imperative that we manage our own fears with courage and maturity.

Before I left the comforts of all that I knew to travel across the world in the Peace Corps, I had many doubts and mixed emotions. I cried every day and worried about what the future might bring. One day, a friend expressed awe at my bravery. "I could never do that...travel across the world and live in a country all by myself." I quickly pointed out that I was not brave, I was terrified. He countered that bravery does not mean being free of fear, rather it means being afraid and doing something anyway.

As adults, we like to know what is coming next so that we can plan. We hope that if we can plan, we can remain in control and the transitions won't be as scary. Unfortunately,

APRIL 2015

Dates to Remember

- 4/6 NO SCHOOL
Teacher Work Day
- 4/7 Students Return
- 4/12 Unbirthday Party
11 am—1 pm
- 4/23 Studio Curitors Talk
5:30-7:00 pm
- 4/24 NO SCHOOL
Parent/Teacher
Conferences
- 4/27 NO SCHOOL
Parent/Teacher
Conferences



we cannot always know, nor can we plan as much as we would like. Instead, we need to take some deep breaths and practice patience. We live in a culture where everything is always happening so quickly, we feel like we will be left behind if we don't keep up. Sometimes it is helpful to remind ourselves that we are still in control and that we have time to make our own decisions, our hands need not always be forced.

The best way to prepare for the next transition, is to prepare ourselves. We can give ourselves the time to find out what is coming next, and we can share our anxieties with other adults, out of the earshot of children. As we process and question, the future will become clearer. Of course, many things will not be a reality until we find ourselves in the middle of or even on the other side of the transition. The best way to help our children to prepare is to avoid passing along undue worry. Time is all about perspective. For us, months speed along much faster than we would like. For them, months, weeks, days, even hours seem to stretch on and on. There is no need to talk about next year until summer. It is still very far away. As the time grows closer, we help children by empathizing with their trepidation as we encourage them to take the next step. We share our own experiences, times where we faced transitions and how we managed to navigate them successfully.

A Note About Next Year...

I know that many of you are interested in what staffing will look like next year. After many years of very little change, we seemed to be moving into a time of more change. While change is uncomfortable, it is also refreshing and assures that we all continue to grow and push ourselves in directions we might not have otherwise. I wish I could tell you all exactly what the staff situation next year will look like. Unfortunately, that is not yet completely decided for many reasons. I do want to assure you all that I take staffing very seriously and am working to support not only the individual needs of our fabulous teachers, but also the global needs of our families and children. This process will take time, and I thank you all for your patience as I figure it all out.

Mark Your Calendars

These fun family events take place in May: **5/2 Earth Day at Children's Garden**
5/7 Arts Festival
5/22 Parent Appreciation Day

More information about these events will be shared as the dates draw near. Details can be found in the Parent Handbook.

Unbirthday Party

Be sure to join us **Sunday, April 12th from 11am - 1pm** at Dardano's Gymnastics studio for the Annual Children's Garden Unbirthday Party. In addition to time in the gym, there will be entertainment, food, and cake! Donate a book for the school library. There is a Children's Garden "wish-list" on Amazon .com

Contracts for 2015-16 will be mailed at the end of April and need to be returned, along with the 2nd tuition deposit, by **May 15th**.

School Pictures

Tuesday, April 14th & Wednesday, April 15th

This year Bill Brown, a 440 and toddler pm dad, will be the photographer to capture images of your beautiful children. As in the past, most of the individual pictures will be taken on Tuesday (with the exception of the 3-day toddlers.) Class pictures may be done either day depending on attendance. Bill will also have open studio time after school for family photos. More information will be available soon.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences are **Friday, April 24th and Monday, April 27th**. If you know that you are unavailable on one of these days, please let Catherine know and she will try her best to accommodate your schedule. The schedule will be emailed mid-April. Please try to keep these days open so the teachers do not have to reschedule your conference during lunch or after school. Thanks so much.

Curators' Talk

As a studio teacher, I see your children in a different context than classroom teachers. The studio is an environment heavily inspired by the philosophies of Reggio Emilia and focused on collaboration, creative expression, inquiry and emergent study. As conferences approach, please mark your calendars for the annual curators' talk and studio conference on, **Thursday April 23rd from 5:30-7:00 pm**. This is an important "grown-ups" only event at which Amy and I will be presenting some of the backstory behind this year's art show and sharing some of the learning that has taken place in the studio this year. I look forward to seeing you there.

Angelina