

# BAC NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1; December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008

## **Letter from Jaime Nicklas, Educational Director:**

We have hired a new teacher in the “big kids” classroom. Sally Guidry comes to us from Louisiana. Having Sally on board will allow Meghan to come out of the schedule and provide more specialized attention to each student in the classroom. Meghan will be more available to solve problems and help move programs along faster. We feel very lucky to be able to provide this level of support to our students!

We have also hired a new administrative assistant – Laura Vert. Laura will be responsible for handling all the general office needs of our school and support the teaching staff’s efforts. Laura will handle all the phone calls, ordering of supplies, and will generally make sure BAC is run as efficiently as possible. We are so happy to have Laura on board! Please stop by and say hello to her if you haven’t already!

## **Special Programs:**

Our students participate in a variety of special activities every week. Read on for more information about each program.

### Monday – Art with John Wells

John Wells has been working at the BAC since September, and recently began teaching art lessons on Mondays. Students are learning a variety of fine art skills with a focus on exploration and creativity. Through the lessons, the students will be able to express their individuality while gaining a basic knowledge of painting, drawing and collage. John's goal is to maintain a fun, yet challenging environment for each student at the BAC.

### Wednesday – Children’s Museum of the Arts visit

Beginning on December 17<sup>th</sup>, BAC students will be taking bi-weekly visits to the Children’s Museum of the Arts in Tribeca. At the museum, the students will participate in hands-on art projects, interactive exhibits and video. These museum visits will provide an opportunity for students to be creative and generalize skills learned at BAC in a new environment.

### Thursday – Music with Jason Klauber

Jason Klauber began volunteering at BAC in the fall of 2007 and has been leading a weekly music program this year. Students have been building upon a repertoire of sing-along favorites such as “Head, shoulders, knees and toes,” “Mr. Sun,” and “The Wheels on the Bus.” They are now enjoying singing classic Beatles songs like “Hey Jude,” “Let it Be,” and “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.” Whenever possible, body movement and hand signing are incorporated to increase the interactive experience. Music time is a great time for everybody to come together, let loose, and have fun!

## Friday – Yoga with Sarah Burns

Sarah Burns has been volunteering at BAC since May, and began leading the yoga program this fall. She has been practicing yoga for eight years. The students at the BAC have been working on learning an ordered sequence of “oms, back stretches, seated side stretches, and a modified sun salutation,” and will begin learning the names of the poses soon! Yoga can help to improve balance, concentration, breathing, and flexibility. Along with another volunteer, Sarah has made a DVD of the yoga sequence for everyone to enjoy at home.

### **Why do we close early on Friday once a month?**

When the school has early dismissal one Friday a month, it allows the BAC staff time for educational training sessions. In order to provide the best education for our students, it is important for instructors to stay up-to-date and continue to hone their ABA skills. This month’s early dismissal will take place on December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 1pm.

### **Important Upcoming Events:**

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 7:30pm – Lecture “Expanding the Diet”

December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 12-1pm – Holiday Sing

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 7-9pm – BAC Comedy Fundraiser at Caroline’s on Broadway

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Family Dance Party

Brooklyn Autism Center Academy admits students of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs.