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BAC NEWSLETTER

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Letter from Jaime Nicklas, Educational Director:

The Brooklyn Autism Center is pleased to announce our participation in this year's ABA International Conference next month. Jaime Nicklas, Tara Cardenas, Meghan O'Reilly-Green, and BAC board member and consultant Ray Cepeda will be traveling to Phoenix, Arizona over Memorial Day weekend to present research on fluency-based teaching versus multiple exemplars. In June, the BAC will begin work on a new research project for presentation in 2010.

We have also begun to prepare for the upcoming school year at the BAC. All parents will soon be receiving a calendar for next year, along with a contract and other enrollment documents. A \$1,000 tuition deposit is due on May 1st. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your family next year!

Letter from Sydnee Jorgl, Founder and Board President:

Dear families - as we head into Spring Break, I hope you feel, as I do, proud of our students' achievements thus far. Every one of our learners has made progress and achieved goals that will help them in their future. Now that our kids are doing well, we need to make sure to take care of ourselves! As a parent, I know how easy it is to put our needs on the back burner until later. And as you probably know, later never comes! So my challenge to all of you is to carve out some time for yourself. Remember that without you advocating for your child, everything stops. You are the most important component of your child's success, and I suspect, the most neglected. We are planning a "gallery opening" parents' night in May to showcase some of the amazing art your children have created with our Shine Arts teachers. The opening will take place on May 14th at 6:30pm at BAC. (See below for more information.) We will also have available samples of some of the academic work your children have been focusing on and teachers will be on-hand to answer any questions you may have. This evening will give parents a chance to not only to see their children's wonderful progress but give you all a chance to visit with each other. I look forward to seeing you there! Happy Spring!

Shine Arts Open House

We are pleased to invite all BAC parents to an art show and reception on Thursday, May 14th, 2009 from 6:30 – 8:00pm. The art work that our students have created through the Shine Arts program

will be on display, and Melanie Adist from the Metropolitan Museum will be on hand to discuss what our students have been learning and doing in the art program over the past several months. This will also be a great time to meet and get to know the new staff members. Drinks and hors' d'ourves will be served. Please let us know if you can make it!

BAC Family Picnic

Please join us on Friday, May 1st, 2009 for the first ever BAC Family Picnic from 10am to 1pm! The Kassimir family has generously planned this event at the Sunnyside Gardens Park in Queens. They will be providing hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, deserts and everything else necessary for a wonderful picnic, but it would be appreciated if everyone could contribute a side dish, particularly if your child has special dietary needs. BAC students and staff will be traveling by school bus to the park. At the park, we will have special activities, crafts, and games for everyone to enjoy. We hope you will be able to join us for this special day! Please let us know if you will be able to attend.

BAC Bake Sale

Thanks to all of you who have already generously offered to donate your time and culinary talents to make the BAC Bake Sale a big success! On Saturday, May 2nd, 2009 the Brooklyn Autism Center will be holding a bake sale to raise money for the Saturday Morning Stripes Program at the Children's Museum of Art. Saturday Morning Stripes is a unique low-cost recreational program, held once a month, that combines music and art activities for children with autism and their entire families. This wonderful program is in danger due to loss of funding.

The Bake Sale will take place at 11:00am in the Pearl Street Triangle in DUMBO, Brooklyn (57 Pearl Street between Plymouth and Water Streets). Please stop by to purchase some treats and please spread the word to any friends in the area!

BAC on the JumboTron!

We are working with MultiVu, a PR Newswire company, a pr firm that has offered to send out a blast to all of their contacts with a message from the BAC. We are sending out information on our outreach services so that we can help more families that are dealing with autism. We are also going to have a short commercial on the JumboTron in Times Square! It will feature a picture of Lisa Elchayati, teacher extraordinaire, and Asaf! The short commercial will again feature our outreach services so that more families will be able to utilize our free lecture series and other supports.

Important Upcoming Dates:

April 9 -10th, 2009 – School closed for Holy Thursday and Good Friday

April 13 – 17th, 2009 – School Closed for Spring Break

April 22nd, 2009 7:30pm – Lecture “Developing Socialization Skills”

April 24th, 2009 1:00pm – Early dismissal for staff training

May 1st, 2009 – Tuition deposits due for '09-'10 school year

May 1st, 2009 10:00am-1:00pm – BAC Family Picnic

May 2nd, 2009 11:00am – BAC Bake Sale

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.