

Friends Corner *Express*

www.brixhammontessori.org



**BRIXHAM MONTESSORI
FRIENDS SCHOOL**

18 Brickyard Court, York, ME • 207-351-2700 • info@brixhammontessori.org

Fall/Winter 2011-2012 CALENDAR of EVENTS

November 18
Last Day for Thanksgiving Pie
Orders (pick up pies on 11/21)

November 23
Early Release at 12noon

November 24-25
Thanksgiving Break/No School

December 7
Open House for Prospective
Parents, 10-11am

December 12-16
Holiday Teas
Holiday Wreath Sale

December 21-31
Holiday Break/No School

January 11
Open House for Prospective
Parents, 10-11am

January 15
New Student Applications Due

January 25
Early Release at 12noon/
Curriculum Development

January 28
Interviews for Prospective
Students, 9am-1pm

February 1
Returning Student Registrations
Due

A Note From Alica

Fall greetings! I am writing from an observation chair in the Toddler Room watching children as young as 22 months serve themselves snack, choose work from the shelf and *returning it* when done, and talking with teachers about their newest accomplishment, such as “going pee in the potty at home” or knowing step by step what needs to happen to wash a baby doll. Toddler moments of triumph are as subtle as a smile such as finding a lost puzzle piece or as obvious as a shout of glee when the puzzle piece fits perfectly! We have a full house this year in all the classrooms with a wait list in the toddler program and an anticipated wait list in the 3-6 program for the fall of 2012. It’s been a great start to the school year... the children are happy, the teachers are happy and I am happy.

This year we welcomed back art studio specialist, Sarah Boys, to Brixham after a one year’s maternity leave. Bright, colorful, and fun pieces of art hang in the hallway or in the library reminding us how important it is for children to play each day, using their imaginations to create interesting and satisfying works of original art. The auction committee is thrilled that Sarah will join the committee this year to lend her ideas to creating fun pieces of children’s art for the benefit auction in May.

Other staff changes include Mary Testa and Nora Studley who are both working part-time in the elementary program. Mary brings her enthusiasm for art and practical life to the classroom with a variety of sewing, felting, and knitting projects. Nora brings her enthusiasm for Spanish and the fitness program, enjoying her afternoons in small group Spanish lessons and outside fitness experiences, such as the White Pine Programs or helping to create fun obstacle courses for children to master. Nora awaits news from Lesley College in Cambridge, MA to see if the time might right for her to begin a graduate program in elementary education this spring. We hope she finds a way to balance work and school in her personal and professional life, and enthusiastically support her in all her endeavors.

I hope you enjoy this winter edition of the Friends Corner Express. Please share it with family and friends, and let me know if you have any suggestions for future articles or news from our extended community.

Warmly,
Alica

“Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight”...BMFS WISH LIST:

- Child’s Safety Gate Craft Felt Assorted Buttons
- Children’s Snowshoes Sleds Children’s Snow Shovels
- Large Indoor/Outdoor Mud Mat Children’s Wagon (2)





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Fy 2012 Budget at a Glance

Each year the Board of Directors works hard to create a balanced budget that meets the needs of the students, the mission of the school, and the basic operating costs of running a safe, beautiful and rewarding learning environment. To help understand why the school must work so hard to fundraise, I thought it would be helpful to post an abbreviated budget. As you can see 15% of the school's income is raised not through tuition revenue and related fees, but through special fundraising events and the annual appeal. I hope this inspires you to consider making a gift to the school or support it by participating on a committee or volunteering in a classroom. Thank you.



Classroom News

The Elementary Class is sponsoring Akish, a 12 year old boy, from Haiti helping to pay for basic needs, such as clothes, food and school. Akish is one of twelve children whose parents died. Brixham elementary students are contributing one dollar a month to help sponsor him, earning their dollars by helping at home with every day household jobs and family chores, such as raking leaves, making mom and dad's bed, folding laundry, or setting the table.

The Extended Day (Kindergarten) Class is discovering science in everyday life with weekly activities to explore a variety of scientific concepts. Most recently, the extended day class is studying the three states of matter: liquids, solids and gases. Children are using the scientific process of inquiry to make hypotheses about the experiment, using their observation and reasoning skills.

The 3-6 Classes are learning about all kinds of things to include a study of Native Americans, the Earth and its layers, Australia and the Great Barrier Reef, volcanoes, different kinds of rocks and crystals, and "Life Long Ago." Children have been baking cornbread, cooking up pumpkin soup, and making their own butter as part of their cultural studies. The hallways always smell heavenly this time of year!

The Toddler Class explores new textures, smells, and taste each day with its food tasting activity. Some fun foods that have been explored include oranges, apples, pears, butternut squash, mangoes, carrots, and bananas.

Alumni News (send us your news- we love to hear from our Brixham and Orchard St. alumni!)

Danny Bottino (1997-2004) is a freshman at Tufts University this year. He enjoys living in the city and spending weekends exploring the many museums and cultural centers with friends and family.

Averill Daly (1997-1999) is a freshman at St. Andrews University in Scotland this year. Averill spent two weeks at Brixham last spring as part of her community service/senior project requirements at Berwick Academy.

Ben Grafe (1997-2004) is a senior at Westtown School near Philadelphia, PA. He is in the process of applying to college and looks forward to spending two weeks in Palestine and Israel as part of his community service/senior projects at Westtown this spring.

Special Alumni Feature: Gage and Grace Anderson

2011 Annual Fund received from July 1-November 15

Many thanks to the following individuals for their generous contributions to the 2011 Annual Fund:

Kasara and Jeremiah Gage

Marlane and Bob Bottino

Stephen Boyle

Alica and Richard Grafe

Cherie and Anthony Balakier

Kristin and Michael Bailey

Amy and Greg Schneider

Emily and Chris Connors

Brad and Jennifer Hunter

Wendy and Brian Matthews

Richard and Annie Noonan

Gary and Erin Latulippe

Terri Nelson and Barb Marois

Christine Gsottschneider and Manuel Romero



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Fy 2012 Budget at a Glance (Continued)

Fy12 Budget

Income

Program Tuition	\$658,764
Fundraising	\$82,500
Interest	\$600

Total Income \$741,864

Expense

Salaries/Benefits	\$525,443
Operating	
Advertising	\$515
Amortization	\$350
Cleaning	\$12,500
Depreciation	\$40,000
AMS Dues	\$2,000
Fundraising	\$22,000
Insurance	\$8,665
Licenses/Permits	\$1,850
Office/Postage	\$3,500
Professional	\$6,000
Copy/Printing	\$4,200
Maintenance	\$11,000
Supplies	\$11,000
Utilities	\$17,510
Special Programs	\$16,500
Technology	\$11,870
Interest	\$52,103
Miscellaneous	\$840
total	\$222,403

Total Expense \$747,846

Profit/Loss (\$5,982)

Efficiency Maine Awards \$4,863 to Brixham Montessori Friends School As Part of a Matching Grant



Brixham Montessori Friends School is pleased to announce that it has successfully completed energy efficiency measures proposed in its Efficiency Maine matching grant awarded in June 2010. This grant was made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and was contingent upon the school meeting its grant objectives and project milestones. Specifically, the grant enabled the school to reduce its energy consumption by replacing a propane fired hot water tank with an on-demand hot water heater, insulating existing hot water piping, air sealing exposed ductwork, installing an insulated cover for the attic hatch, spray foaming select areas to stop air flow and insulating cavities where insulation was either missing or disturbed. Together, these small energy saving measures reduced the school's consumption of electricity and propane, and helped Brixham reach its goal to become a "greener" school.

The school's match was made possible by the generosity of the Brixham community at its 7th Annual Benefit Auction and with the help of Mick Dunn and Shift Energy. Mick donated many hours to perform the required energy audit and assisted Alica with writing the grant. Thank you Efficiency Maine, Mick Dunn and Shift Energy and the Brixham Community for your support!



Small measures like foam spraying under the clapboards along the foundation adds up to big savings and a lot more comfort in the classrooms.

2011-2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Alica Johnson-Grafe, Executive Director • Kristin Bailey, Chair
Brad Lebo, Treasurer • Mike Spencer, Secretary
Kyle Swann • Charlie Gaudet**

Seeking new members to serve on the Board or to serve in an advisory capacity. Please see Alica or e-mail her at allicabmfs@maine.rr.com for more information.