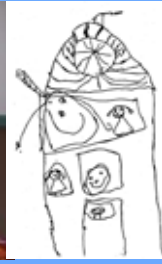


# The Calvin Hilltop



Calvin Hill Day Care and Kitty Lustman-Findling Kindergarten

Winter 2008

## **EXTRA! EXTRA!** **Don't miss the Sing-A-Long**

On Friday, December 19, we will gather in classrooms to listen to some of the best singers in town. Please check with your classroom teachers for details on the food and festivity times. The sing-a-long is traditionally over fairly quickly. If it is not possible for a parent to be there, teachers are there to provide a lap and support. Though some families choose to leave after the sing-a-long, Calvin Hill is open until 5pm that day.

## **A Cup of This, A Tablespoon of That, and a Dash of Music**

The Calvin Hill Potluck was an overwhelming success. On Sunday, November 16, Calvin Hill families filled the building. (Well, really the middle floor until directions were given to proceed to various classrooms; a teacher's job is never done!) The tables were overflowing with homemade chicken tikka, pilaf, tortellini



soup, chicken chili, vegetarian meatballs, spicy macaroni and cheese, grilled panini, feta-butternut-squash-and-lamb wraps, and other international and family specialties.

With full bellies the children joined Jeff McQuillan



of Drum Tales in the kindergarten studio for a program of African storytelling, drumming, and FUN! Jeff McQuillan is Connecticut's 1998 State Troubadour (<http://www.drumtales.com>). The kids loved learning, listening, and leaping multiple steps in one jump in the mad dash to

the dessert table.



A special thanks to Candace Walton for her leadership and

planning, as well as, as all of the parents who helped with set-up and clean-up at the potluck.

## The Kids on the Bookmobile, Go Read...Read... Read!



On Friday, December 5, Calvin Hill had an exciting visit from the New Haven Public Library Bookmobile. The Bookmobile is sponsored by the New Haven Early Childhood Council. Children not only read, read, read on the bookmobile, they heard stories, sang songs, and checked out books for their classrooms.

books with children, and they loved it! Children love books. They love being read to. The roots of reading are found in the interactions children have with literacy experiences from their earliest days. Anything that can enhance the close, strong, emotionally and intellectually satisfying experience they have with their parents and



The bookmobile was an extension and an enhancement of the many ways Calvin Hill teachers share stories and



teachers with books is worthwhile.

Having the library come to Calvin Hill was really exciting! In fact, Calvin Hill may become a monthly stop for the bookmobile. If you are a New Haven resident, your child can have a library card made on the bookmobile by the librarian. The fact-checkers on the newsletter team asked the New Haven Free Library and non-New Haven residents can use their town's library card as well.

The Newsletter team includes parents from each floor who generously collect stories and pictures from the teachers and students. They are Laura Eakin Erlacher, Merav Givoni-Hrushovski, Cathy Pamelard, Kate Ott, and Brian Hill. Layout and design by Dan Cogan-Drew.





# THREES ROOM UPDATE



Locavores grow, shop, and eat local. The Threes class is generating its own locavore culture with a twist of imagination.

Grow! The Threes have been busy planting bulbs outside and inside. Dylan Friedman's family donated hyacinth bulbs and the paper whites are from Kai Johnsen's family. The resident scientists monitor them daily.

Shop! No plastic bags are available at the local Three's supermarket. The products are packed into "green shopping bags" as children take turns checking out. Plastic is of course accepted as the cash register takes ATM and credit cards. The resident managers keep the lines moving and the shelves stacked.

Eat! Even the cooking is done in class as the children measure, observe, and share their creations. Pumpkin-apple bread went home with every family over the Thanksgiving break. Just the other day, Pepe's and Sally's gained a new rival as the Threes served homemade pizza to their classmates. The resident chefs serve up satisfied classmates.



This community prides itself on sustainability. The Threes believe that a box is Not a Box (book by Antoinette Portis used during class). In fact, a box may be a ladder, house, train, or art sculpture. Recycling isn't the only sustainable component to the Three's activities. Sharing is always part of the growing, shopping, eating, and building. The children have shared what they bake with each other and their families; they are co-workers in the grocery store and building projects; and they nurture the plants together with their imaginations!



# PRE-SCHOOL UPDATE

With only a trace of snow, the Preschoolers are enjoying a flurry of indoor activities focusing on fresh fruits and vegetables. Around the classroom are different vegetables under observation including garlic bulbs and onions in one area and a variety of beans in another. They aren't just bean-counters, but have used them to create Playdough and bean sculptures. Some small green stalks are sprouting as well as curiosity about the large sweet potato David Hrushovsky brought from home and placed in water. There are green leaves and roots sprouting out of both ends of the sweet potato. Where it will lead nobody knows, but there are some solid hypotheses!



The Pre-school isn't just growing food, they are cooking up delicious treats too. Each family received a loaf of delicious apple-pumpkin bread with ingredients measured, stirred and baked to perfection. The Preschoolers also got an early start on the Thanksgiving holiday with their own luncheon. Each table group prepared a part of the meal that included kosher chickens and freshly mashed potatoes – and the familiar staple, soy butter sandwiches. As they gave thanks for their delicious meal, they shared with one another what they were thankful for this holiday season.



Like all good cooks, the Pre-schoolers saved the chicken remnants to make stock. They washed, peeled, chopped and sliced vegetables of choice. Yes, broccoli, cauliflower, celery, corn, garlic, red and yellow peppers, carrots, peas, potatoes and tomatoes – who said kids don't eat vegetables! The following day the Preschoolers enjoyed a bowl of warm, homemade soup, a perfect meal for a cool winter day.



The Pre-school is also working on food for the soul – music! They enjoy listening to Stephanie's guitar and Colleen's drum. This has sparked projects such as the creation of their own drums and

shakers utilizing everyday food containers such as cardboard oatmeal boxes and plastic yogurt containers. The sounds are different, but the key to learning seems to be the same!





# KINDERGARTEN UPDATE

The building continues in the Kitty-Lustman Fundling Kindergarten; most every day parents arrive at the end of the day to find vast, complex structures in the block area. Usually, these oeuvres are the work of several children working cooperatively. In addition to blocks, myriad other supplies have been used to create beautiful, original structures. This interest in building can be seen in paintings, collage, printing, a sight word list of architecture words, clay and book-making about buildings throughout the kindergarten.



Another topic has joined building and architecture to capture the curiosity of these young children: crystals. Several stones with crystalline forms were found on the playground. Thus began the collecting, observing, matching, discussing and growing of crystals. A lovely collection currently adorns the science table.

The salt water experiment dovetailed nicely with this unit. Originally, the class planned to observe and document the evaporation of water. One child thought it might be interesting, however, to find out what would happen if salt were added to the mix before evaporation. Now they know: crystals happen! These experiments have led to other, equally interesting tests: what happens to collected sea water also placed in the freezer, for example. Wondering? Ask a kindergartener.

Speaking of freezers, the class may soon pull a fast one on their resident cocooning caterpillar. This invertebrate has proven decidedly reluctant to leave his cocoon. Research by telephone suggests that he may respond to an artificial winter chill. After the break, the class will place him in the refrigerator, then the freezer, then back to the refrigerator, hoping he will find these "seasons" an inducement to spread his wings. Stay tuned- our next issue may star one long-awaited butterfly!



## Make a List and Check it Twice

Holiday gifts from Calvin Hill are a perfect way to give a gift that keeps on giving. Calendars bring smiles all year long with the creative genius of our illustrators. And for those kids (or grown-ups) missing Calvin Hill a T-shirt, sweatshirt, tote bag, or baseball caps could be just the memory boost they need! Add a Calvin Hill holiday card to your gift to give it that extra touch!

Calendars have been given out to all families (5 each for \$10 each or 10 if two children). More are available. The calendar is in its twenty-ninth year, and is our most successful and well respected fund raising event. In previous years the calendar has raised about \$9,000, which goes directly to support the sliding tuition scale. We have made sure that each and every child is represented with a drawing or handprint and each child's photograph is also featured. Thanks to John Kennedy, parent of Emma in the Kindergarten, as the graphic designer, for putting the calendars together!



When shopping for other gifts, remember the special arrangement Calvin Hill has with Evan's Toy Shoppe (1647 Whitney Avenue, Hamden) and Jesse's Toys (185 Boston Post Road, Orange). If you identify yourself as a Calvin Hill parent (uncle, aunt, friend, grandparent . . . you get the idea), a portion of your purchase price will be donated to Calvin Hill Day Care Center. This special arrangement does not affect the purchase price in any way.



## Reminders

### It's a "home-day"!

Remember December break as a child, always wanting it to last as long as summer break? It is seventeen home-days including weekends! But most of the children don't want break to last longer, they cannot wait for school



to start again. Take this opportunity to see the growth that has happened in your child(ren) during the short four months of school. Winter break starts the evening of Friday, December 19 and the children return to school on Tuesday, January 6, 2009.

### Can we fix it? Yes, we can!

Don't forget to put your scheduled work day on your calendar – next date February 1, 2009!



### Winter weather is here . . . and gone . . . and back again

Please remember to have hats, scarves, mittens, boots, snowpants, and definitely warm coats for your child each day.



### Signing-up to serve

Remember to sign up for a sub-committee of the Parent Committee. What opportunities are you missing out on . . . plant sale, holiday gifts for the teachers, community gatherings . . . and the list goes on. Contact Candace Walton if you haven't yet signed-up to serve!

### Snip . . . snip . . .

Remember to keep your box tops coming, every little bit helps.

