



Border Star News

Newsletter issue 6, February 2010

What's Cooking Border Star?



Thanks to Atticus's mom, Jamie Starley, Children's House students in Ms. Johnson's room had the opportunity to make and enjoy enchiladas from scratch.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY, MARCH 1 -
PRINCIPAL COFFEE

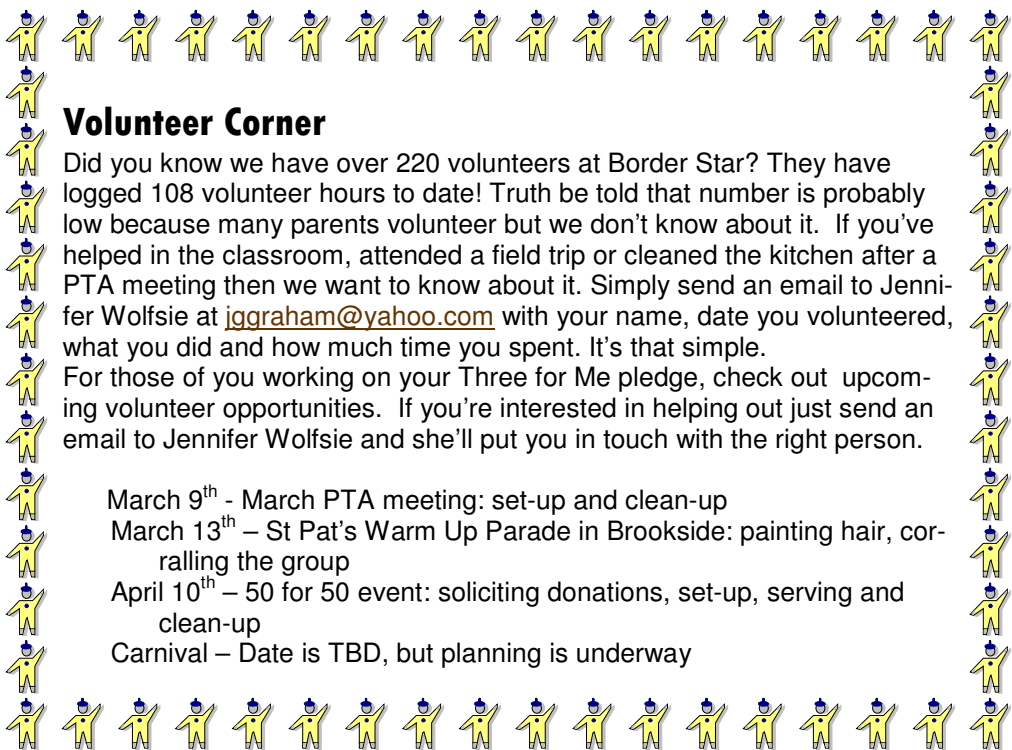
TUESDAY, MARCH 9 -
PARENT ED NIGHT

SATURDAY, MARCH 13
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
PARADE, 2 P.M.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

THURSDAY, MARCH 18
SAC MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 29 - FRIDAY,
APRIL 2
SPRING BREAK



Volunteer Corner

Did you know we have over 220 volunteers at Border Star? They have logged 108 volunteer hours to date! Truth be told that number is probably low because many parents volunteer but we don't know about it. If you've helped in the classroom, attended a field trip or cleaned the kitchen after a PTA meeting then we want to know about it. Simply send an email to Jennifer Wolfsie at jggraham@yahoo.com with your name, date you volunteered, what you did and how much time you spent. It's that simple. For those of you working on your Three for Me pledge, check out upcoming volunteer opportunities. If you're interested in helping out just send an email to Jennifer Wolfsie and she'll put you in touch with the right person.

- March 9th - March PTA meeting: set-up and clean-up
- March 13th - St Pat's Warm Up Parade in Brookside: painting hair, corraling the group
- April 10th - 50 for 50 event: soliciting donations, set-up, serving and clean-up
- Carnival - Date is TBD, but planning is underway

Montessori Moment

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- ★ PTA OFFICERS ★
- ★ Jan, Powell, President ★
- ★ jankp@earthlink.net ★
- ★ Mary Silwance, Vice- ★
- ★ President ★
- ★ silwance@sbcglobal.net ★
- ★ Abby Mueller, Treasurer ★
- ★ abbymueller@earthlink.net ★
- ★ Mary Anne Penrose, ★
- ★ Secretary ★
- ★ mapensrose@hotmail.com ★
- ★ Paula Busser, SAC Chair ★
- ★ paulabusser@yahoo.com ★
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

From birth to six is what Montessori called the formative period of the Absorbent Mind. It is the period in the child's development that forms the foundation for later intellectual and psychological development.

The Absorbent mind is an unconscious, creative and non-selective process by which the brain takes in everything from the environment, forming neural pathways and connections. The brain in the post-natal period is purposely not neurologically fixed so that each child can adapt to the needs of his environment. This allows for variation in behavior and also for change and creativity. Infants are born into different environments, different cul-

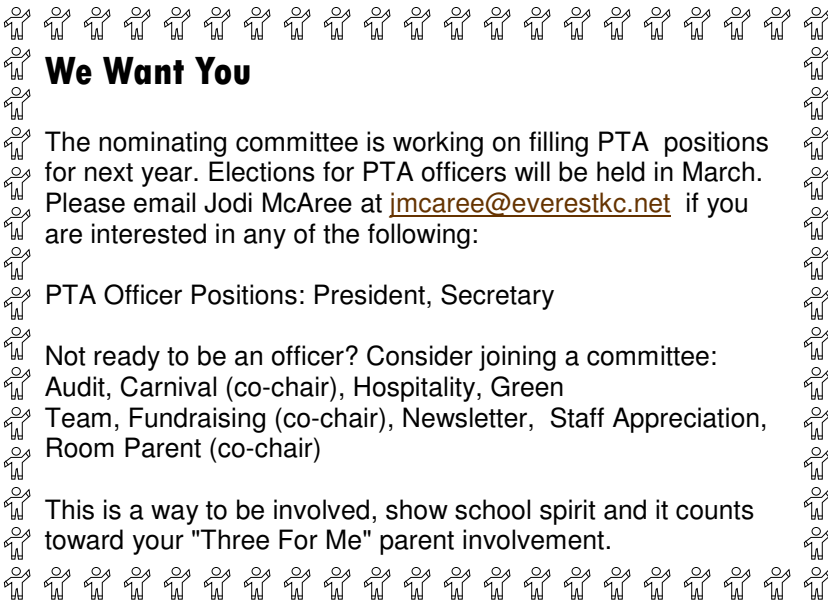
tures all over the world and the Absorbent Mind allows them to adapt to their "time, place and group". It is a process from which the child grows and the culture that the child is born into is perpetuated. It is a mechanism for survival.

The period of the Absorbent Mind is broken down into two: the unconscious from birth to 3 and the conscious from 3 – 6. In the period from 0-3 years the child is unconsciously absorbing what is around him and is more reactive than purposeful in his actions. From 3-6 the child begins to explore the outer environment through more purposeful movement. This period is when the brain begins to order and classify experiences, bringing order

to the sensations coming into the brain. The child also begins to refine these experiences and to utilize them in a more purposeful way. The period from 3-6 is still an absorbent time. Sensations are still being registered, but the child is now beginning to act more consciously towards the world around him.

The Montessori primary classroom is precisely designed to fully take advantage of this formative period of the Absorbent Mind. The environment is rich, reflects the child's dominant culture and is stimulating to all the major senses. Materials are designed to help the child classify and order information and grow cognitively, socially and emotionally.

Excerpted from
www.mchsf.com,
Montessori 101



We Want You

The nominating committee is working on filling PTA positions for next year. Elections for PTA officers will be held in March. Please email Jodi McAree at jmcaree@everestkc.net if you are interested in any of the following:

PTA Officer Positions: President, Secretary

Not ready to be an officer? Consider joining a committee:
Audit, Carnival (co-chair), Hospitality, Green Team, Fundraising (co-chair), Newsletter, Staff Appreciation, Room Parent (co-chair)

This is a way to be involved, show school spirit and it counts toward your "Three For Me" parent involvement.

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|---|---|
| PTA Business Members | PTA Teacher Members |
| LileStyle Productions angie@lilestyle.com | Elmer Binford Wendy Comens (& Gary) Beth Garrett |
| Renew Therapeutic Massage arbrenew@sbcglobal.net | Elaine Hansen Shirlene Hayes Carol Johnson Elaine Kniepfel |
| Price Chopper in Brookside | Kathleen Lacey |

Border Star will have an entry in the 30th Annual Brookside St. Patrick's Warm-Up Parade! It will be held Saturday March 13 at 2:00 PM. Everyone should wear their Border Star spirit wear with 80's-inspired accessories. Feel free to join the fun and decorate your strollers and wagons! We will be accepting donations of bags of candy and green beads to throw out during the parade. If you can help, please contact Robynn at robynns@gmail.com. Look for more information to come in Wednesday folders. We'll let you know when and where to meet before the parade.



Parent Involvement Night: Potluck, March 9

Come join us for an informative conversation about school related topics. We will have SAC and committee updates, vote on officers for next year and discuss upcoming events.

Please bring your family's favorite dish to share and remember to bring your own dinner ware (plates, cups, forks and cloth napkins).

Dinner starts at 6 p.m., childcare and meeting to follow at 6:30.

Did you know that since we began recycling glass at Border Star, we have come in 6th place in the whole city for recycling? That's right! We've recycled 32.5 TONS of glass!! If we were weighing elephants instead of glass, we would have recycled a little over 4 full grown African Elephants!



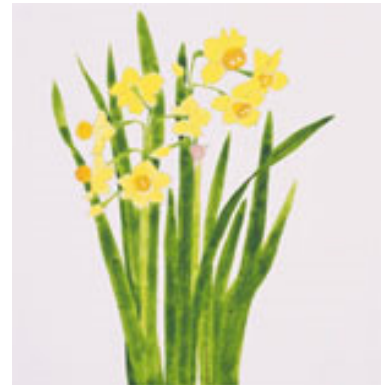
Once You Were My Valentine

**Once you were my Valentine
My love for you was real
You dressed our streets
With soft white flakes
And colored our trees in white.
You gave us dreams at Christmas Time
And laughter to our sleigh rides.**

**But now your heart is cold as ice
Your snow is unforgiving
Our streets are full of slippery slopes
And our galoshes are exhausted.**

**So fare thee well Ole Winter Time
Your day has come and gone
My dreams are now of daffodils
And all the joys of Springtime.**

e.c.binford "Mr.B" Feb '10



Staying Connected at Border Star

These cold winter months tempt us to hide out in our homes and hope for warmer days. Do not despair, spring is right around the corner and along with it are more opportunities to join in at Border Star.

Come and cast your vote for next year's PTA Officers at the next Parent Involvement Night on March 9th. Our Nominating Committee has been hard at work finding dedicated parents who'd like to lead our PTA next year as either an officer or committee chair. Perhaps you'd be interested in being a part of the PTA action at Border Star. We still have committee openings, so email Jodi McAree (jmcaree@everestkc.net) and ask her how to join in!

Coming up on March 13th, is the Brookside St. Patrick's Day Warm Up Parade. We'll be wearing our Spirit Wear with an 80's twist and marching around Brookside to show our support for Border Star. This would be a wonderful way to get started on that pesky exercise resolution you made for the New Year! Email Robynn Nevins (robynns@gmail.com) and ask her how to join in!

As your own gardens slowly, begin to show signs of life, remember that our Garden Team will be needing help getting the Border Star garden beds ready for the Spring. Watch for upcoming green thumb opportunities or email Celeste Marble (celestemarle@kc.rr.com) and ask her how to join in!

Rest up over Spring Break so you can come back refreshed to join in the fun at Border Star Indoor & Outdoor workdays. There is still a bit more painting, cleaning and general upkeep that needs to be done around the building. Keep your eye out for upcoming information or email Jennifer Wolfsie (jggraham@yahoo.com) and ask her how to join in!

The first weekend in May we'll be selling parking spaces from our school lot during the Brookside Art Annual. It's a great way to be outside enjoying the fresh air after such a long winter! Email Pattie Mansur (pmansur@kc.rr.com) and ask her how to join in!

That very first week in May is when we show our teachers and staff how much we appreciate them! If you'd like to be a part of that effort, email Connie Boyson (conniebo@everestkc.net) and ask her how to join in!

Although it's a few months away, planning and preparation for the School Carnival will soon begin. Email Don Baldwin (georgieporgies@sbcglobal.net) and ask him how to join in!

As always, feel free to email me (jankp@earthlink.net) if you're not sure how to get started or have a great idea or a way to improve something at Border Star and I'd be happy to help you join in!

-Jan Powell
PTA President



*We love Border Star, how
'bout you!*