

January 2012

Athena Montessori

The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind. -Maria Montessori

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Wishing a happy and healthy year ahead to our January birthdays: **Eleanor** (1st, P4), **Osby** (1st, P1), **Vivian Lewis-Gray** (2nd, P4), **Carlisle Lewis-Gray** (2nd, P4), **Ms. Brittany** (10th, P2), **Ariana** (13th, P4), **Jacob Diaz** (13th, P3), **Sam Bralower** (14th, PP2), **Dakota** (17th, P2), **Vincent** (19th, P4), **Maeve** (23rd, PP1), **Zaviyar** (25th, P3), **Vivian Weiss** (27th, P3), **Liam Bruner** (28th, P2), and **Quinten** (31st, PP2). *Happy Birthday!*

CREATIVE DAY OPEN HOUSE!

Wednesday January 11th we will host a creative day open house in the Primary 4 classroom. Parents are invited to come to the yellow house anytime between 3:15 and 4:00, Visit with the teachers: Susanne, Morgan, and Jeremy and see some of the art the children are working on during creative day. We look forward to seeing everyone and answering all of your questions about all of the fun we are having in creative day. Please RSVP to the office if you are interested in keeping your child in aftercare that day.

HEALTHY TREE PROGRAM

As you have probably noticed, we have removed several trees on the Athena campus. We are working on a healthy tree program as part of our long-term vision for the landscape of the Athena campus. Trees that have been removed include invasive, non-native species, trees at the end of their natural lives, and hackberries that have compromised or negatively impacted the root zone and canopy of the Live Oak trees because of their size and proximity. The removed trees will be replaced with native tree species that will be carefully chosen native Central Texas trees to shade and beautify the campus and play areas for the children. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we experience changes to our campus!



SPECIAL GUEST: NEAL KASSANOFF

The teachers and children loved our special musical guest, Neal Kassanoff, during our special holiday Sing Songs! Neal Kassanoff's [Groundwork Music Project](#) has provided developmentally appropriate musical activities to Austin-area classrooms since 2006. The children are enjoying Groundwork's first recorded album in their classrooms. We look forward to inviting Neal back again this spring!



Mia (P2) reading aloud to Ms. Meaghan.

TUITION

Feel free to mail your tuition check over the holiday break or bring it with you when school resumes in January. Please include the spring materials fee of \$75. *Late fees will not be assessed until after January 6th.*

INTENTION LETTERS

Re-enrollment Intention letters are coming soon!

Be thinking about enrollment for next year - our current families and siblings have priority over the waiting list; this will be your chance to secure your spot. 2012-2013 enrollment fees will be due with intention letters.

PARENT WORKSHOPS-MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Boys and the Brain - Michael Zumpano

Jan. 28th, 10am - Noon

In the Athena gym

\$20 - \$40 Requested Donation

Do biological differences matter for boys' thoughts and actions? Maybe. Maybe not. We know that all of us tend to communicate in the style that we ourselves most prefer. So for mothers, what different communication styles may reach many boys? For fathers, when and how do we step up...and when do we step back? What brain development differences may impact how boys learn? What needs could we meet by making a few adjustments in our parenting?

Join Michael for a hands-on workshop. Bring a yoga mat or cushion and wear comfortable clothes. Don't worry--no crazy bendy stuff, but we are going to move!

Michael is the co-founder of Minds in Motion Experiential Learning. More about him at www.mimel.net.

Liking the Body She Has - Barbara Steinberg

Jan. 21, 9:30-11:00am

At The Griffin School

5001 Evans Ave. 78751

Cost: \$35/person

From Barbie dolls to the box office, the media is doing a powerful job of telling our girls how they should look – through extreme dieting, airbrushing and plastic surgery. Together we will change this.

This workshop is geared mostly for parents of older girls, but the information is still useful for our community.

Barb Steinberg is a licensed, masters level, clinical social worker. She has worked with adolescents and the adults in their lives for over 20 years. For more information, visit <http://barbsteinberg.com/> and to enroll, follow this [link](#).

CHECK OUT THIS GREAT TED TALK!

"Do Schools Kill Creativity?"

by Sir Ken Robinson

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iG9CE55wbtY>

A BIG thank you to our Athena Garden Elf! We love our broccoli, spinach, chard, and flowers!

THE 3RD ANNUAL
ATHENA OWL
COOKBOOK
IS HERE

Get yours before they run out! They are for sale in the office for \$20 cash or check made out to Athena. Thank you Kristin Holloway for design and Kerry Gray Photography!

Parenting Together: Building Strong Parenting Partnerships - Bethany Prescott

Feb. 26th, 3 - 5pm

In the Athena Gym

Gift to Athena families

Save the date for Bethany Prescott's final workshop with us this school year! Being a team in parenting is critical and can be really challenging when you have different perspectives and childhood experiences to draw from. This workshop helps couples take a look at what communication strategies work best during the trickiest parenting moments and how they can best support each other as partners through connection, honesty, and practice!

Bethany Prescott is a trained therapist, wife and mother of three and was previously a Montessori toddler teacher for 8 years.

For questions or more information, please contact: (512) 775-5160 and bethany@bethanyprescott.com or visit her website: <http://www.bethanyprescott.com/>.

IMPORTANT DATES

JAN. 4 - TEACHER PLANNING/STUDENT HOLIDAY

JAN. 5 - CLASSES RESUME FOR STUDENTS/TUITION&FEE DUE

JAN. 11 - CREATIVE DAY OPEN HOUSE

JAN. 13 - 9AM PARENT VOLUNTEER MEETING FOR PLANNING

"CASINO ROYOWL" SPRING FUNDRAISER

JAN. 21 - "LIKING THE BODY SHE HAS" WORKSHOP

JAN. 28 - "BOYS AND THE BRAIN" WORKSHOP

FEB. 26 - "PARENTING TOGETHER" WORKSHOP

MAR. 24 - SPRING AUCTION FUNDRAISER "CASINO ROYOWL"

Emma, Sunny, Henna, and Gabby (P2) on the playground.



CONSTRUCTION

For updates, visit our construction blog:
<http://athenaconstruction.blogspot.com/>.

OLIVER'S LABELS

Here's a way for you to support Athena while also making sure your child's things don't end up in the lost and found! Follow the link below to purchase durable, waterproof labels, and a portion of the proceeds will be sent right back to the school!
www.oliverslabels.com/athenaowls

JUMP: NEW TIME AVAILABLE!

Jump! Gymnastics is opening a new class at Athena with Coach Natalie on Tuesdays at 2:15. Classes focus on teaching REAL gymnastics skills, developing strength, coordination, agility, flexibility and confidence.
[Find out More and Enroll Today!](#)

YOGA: NEW TIME AVAILABLE!

In the spring semester, Liz will be teaching yoga classes on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:15 - 3:00 pm. To secure your spot, email Liz at AustinLoveYourYoga@gmail.com.

UPDATED BABYSITTING LIST

(Athena teachers)

Meaghan Sanders: megmsanders@gmail.com
Maia Radbil: 414-520-9909
Holly Earnest: 407-760-9046 (texts are best)
Brittany Smith: bsmith.montessori@gmail.com
Kimberly Gonzalez: 210-385-1147
Carla Ketter: 203-7234
Rachel Olsson: rachel.olsson@gmail.com

(Friends of Athena)

Marley Ketter: 501-9882
Sadie Wolfe: 983-3386
Meghan Feffer: 771-6764 or meghanfeffer58@gmail.com
Liz Hudson: 785-4897

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM STAFF UPDATE

Congratulations to Sara DeShaw (After School Guide) for her new full-time job starting in the new year! Her twin sister, Jenny, who has subbed regularly at Athena will be taking her place in the After School Program.

Jacob (above) and Milo and Mom (right) at the P3 Holiday Party!



"LIKE" ATHENA'S NEW PAGE ON FACEBOOK!