



# JBS NEWS

## FROM THE DESK OF JULIA BROWN

Parents are understandably wanting to enrich the life of their children in any way possible. One way is by enrolling a child in a preschool like JBS that has an academic component – one that focuses on reading, writing, and math skills. And at home, "academic" puzzles are bought, organized play dates set up, a child is read to every night, and music lessons are arranged along with educational activities like visiting museums. The hope is that this will help prepare the child for a successful future.

However, regrettably one area of focus that receives little attention is the maturation of a child's social and sensory development. This has in fact begun to show the signs of a growing epidemic. Studies and anecdotal evidence over the last forty years have shown major changes in the social and physical development of children in the past few generations.

Children today appear to be different in fundamental ways. They are more easily frustrated, frequently crying in an attempt to deal with their frustration. I have even observed children falling out of their seats, running into each other and even into walls. Actions you rarely saw in the past.

It is thought that the pressure to limit free play in order to meet

## CALENDAR

### February

2/2 - Re-Registration packets sent home to current students

2/5 - First day to return Re-Enrollment forms

2/15 - Junior/K In-House Field Trip for Olney and Silver Spring

2/16– Junior/K In-House Field Trip for Laurel and Columbia

**2/19 - CLOSED**

### March

3/1 - Conferences begin

3/6 - 5pm - LA- Share Your Class Night

3/7 - 5pm - SS- Share Your Class Night

3/13 - 5pm - CO- Share Your Class Night

3/14 - 5pm - OL- Share Your Class Night

3/23 - Spring Celebration

3/26-3/29– SS and OL SPRING BREAK (in accordance with Montgomery County)

3/30–CLOSED

### April

4/2– CLOSED

4/4/6–CO and LA SPRING BREAK (in accordance with Howard County)

#### KEY:

LA=Laurel      CO=Columbia

SS=Silver Spring    OL=Olney

*(Continued from page 1)*

the growing demands for academic readiness has exacerbated this problem.

Research continues to point out that young children learn best through meaningful play experiences, yet many preschools are transitioning from play-based learning to becoming solely academic in nature. The result being that preschoolers are being academically "pushed" at a very young age.

As parents and teachers strive to provide increasingly organized experiences for children, the opportunities for free play, especially outdoors, is becoming less a priority. Ironically it is through active free play outdoors that children start to build many of the foundational life skills they need in order to be successful for years to come.

In fact, it is before the age of 7 years — ages traditionally known as “pre-academic” — when children desperately need to have a multitude of whole-body sensory experiences on a daily basis in order to develop strong bodies and minds. This is best done outside where the senses are fully ignited and young bodies are challenged by the uneven and unpredictable, ever-changing terrain.

Preschool years are not only optimal for children to learn through play, but also a critical developmental period. If children are not given enough

natural movement and play experiences, they start their academic careers with a disadvantage.

They are more likely to be clumsy, have difficulty paying attention, trouble controlling their emotions, utilize poor problem-solving methods, and demonstrate difficulties with social interactions. We are consistently seeing sensory, motor, and cognitive issues pop up more and more in later childhood, partly because of inadequate opportunities to move and play at an early age.

If children were given ample opportunities to play outdoors every day with peers, there may be no need for specialized exercises or meditation techniques for the youngest of our society. They would simply develop these skills through play. Children just need the time, the space, and the permission to be children.

While there is a place for adult-directed learning experiences. Preschool children need the opportunity just to play. If children were given ample opportunities to play outdoors every day with peers, there may be no need for specialized exercises or meditation techniques for the youngest of our society. They would simply develop these skills through play. Children just need the time, the space, and the permission to be children.

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## REMINDERS

**RE-REGISTRATION** – The time is here again! Re-registration packets for the 2018-2019 school year were sent home in early February. Please review your forms and make sure that all of your information is correct.

If you are a prospective Kindergarten or First Grade parent and would like to observe the current Kindergarten or Junior Program, please contact your Administrator to schedule a time.

If you have any questions about Re-registration please do not hesitate to contact your Administrator.

**ILLNESS**- As the cold and flu season is well underway we ask that you please follow our guidelines for children who may be ill.

When bringing your child to school on any particular day, you are certifying that, to the best of your knowledge your child is in reasonably good health, is not presently ill and can function in a school setting, including recess.

For the welfare of our student body, we request that you keep sick children at home. Children who have had a fever may return to school 24 hours AFTER their fever subsides. Children must remain at home under certain medical conditions such as vomiting, loose stools or diarrhea, red draining eyes, etc.

Please refer to the parent handbook if you have any questions about this policy.

Thank you for making every effort to keep our children healthy!

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Russo has been with JBS since 2008. In just a few months she will be celebrating her 10 year Anniversary!

Ms. Russo is an Assistant at our school in Olney. She has her bachelor degree from the University of Maryland and holds her 90 hour certifications for Infants and Toddlers, Pre-School and School Age.

She enjoys leading the children in song and working on projects with the students.

Ms. Russo has a very sweet and calm presence in the classroom.

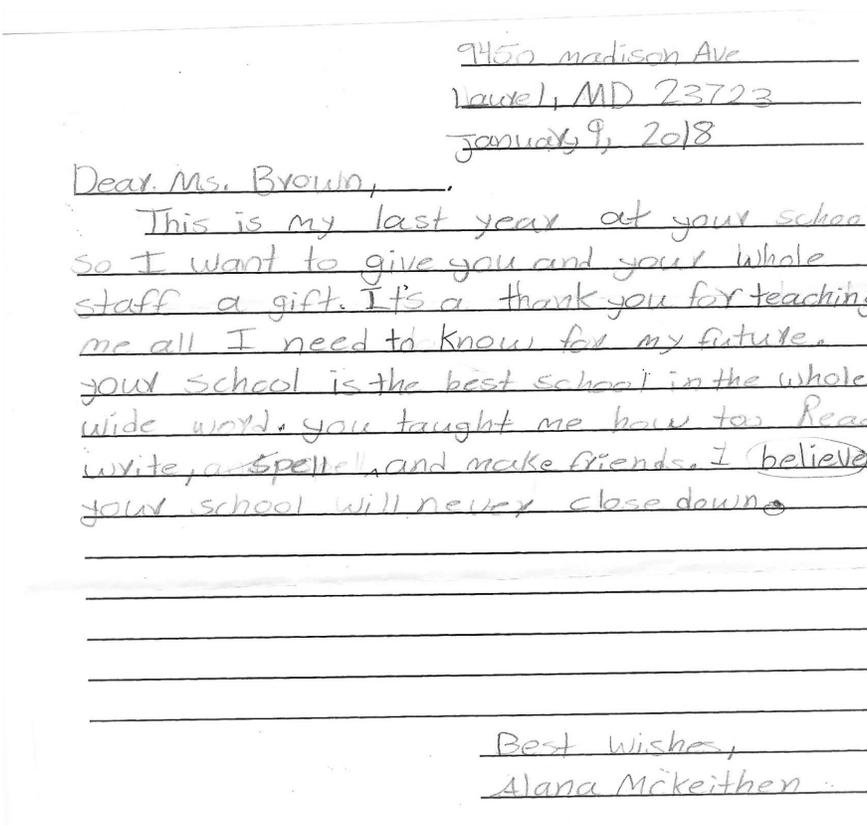
Please join us in wishing Ms. Russo a Happy Anniversary!

*“So, from the age of three till six, being able to now to tackle his environment deliberately and consciously, he begins a period of real constructiveness.”*

*Dr. Maria Montessori (The Absorbent Mind, p. 152)*

## FROM OUR LAUREL JUNIOR CLASS

The following was written to Ms. Brown by one of our Third Graders:



## SPELLING TEST DATES

2/2 - Lesson 15
2/9 - Lesson 16
2/16 - Lesson 17
2/23 - Lesson 18
3/2 - Lesson 19
3/9 - Lesson 20
3/16 - Lesson 21
3/23 - Lesson 22
4/13 - Lesson 23
4/20 - Lesson 24
4/27 - Lesson 25
5/4 - Lesson 26
5/11 - Lesson 27
5/18 - Lesson 28
5/25 - Lesson 29
6/1 - Lesson 30
6/8 - Lesson 31*
6/15 - Lesson 32*

## IN-HOUSE FIELD TRIP - FEBRUARY 2018

**Chunky and Friends** is a book series that advocates healthy eating and active play while instilling self-confidence through the characters. It teaches children that while we all in different shapes and sizes, physical appearance does not reflect the status of our health. The ultimate goal is to ensure we all grow up healthy and strong. Students will participate in an interactive reading of Chunky and the O-Beast, as well as participate in healthy habit discussions and activities. During the presentation students will discuss:

- Proper Food Portion Sizes
- Importance of limiting excessive consumption of unhealthy foods
- Importance of Active Play
- The value of self-confidence as a child
- Importance of family and friends working together to live healthier

See Calendar of Events for your child's in-house field trip date.