



# Muddy Brook News

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER 31, 2014



Dear Families,

We have many celebrations to share!

Over 95% of families participated in parent/teacher conferences. Conversations included teachers sharing recent achievement data, parents sharing aspirations, and goal setting between parents and teachers. Thank you for working with us to support your child's growth and success. If you missed conferences, it is never too late to check in with your child's teacher to have a conversation.

This week fourth graders, their families, and our instructional team transformed the cafeteria into a lively Mexican Fiesta. Thoughtful student work including writing, masks, and artwork lined the walls. Students danced the Mexican Hat dance for a large crowd, and everyone ate well. Thanks to all who participated and made this a truly joyful time together.

Also this week we've been talking in every classroom about character traits. What traits do we admire? What traits concern us? What are our aspirations for ourselves? Today, in celebration of Halloween, students and staff are dressed as characters from books. Second grade took it further and is decorating pumpkins to look like favorite characters. Thanks to all who helped with this and especially Taft Farms for donating pumpkins.

Story Kitchen is taking off! At this point many first and second graders have heard stories told in their classrooms. Students are practicing their own stories including mixing in sparkly details, engaging the senses, and building suspense. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help with this wonderful school-wide project.

Tuesday, November 4, there is no school. Teachers and staff will be engaged in a storytelling workshop and thinking about ways to give students feedback that encourages creativity and voice.

November 10 we will host our wonderful Veteran's Day breakfast. All veterans are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Cathy Finkle at [cathy.finkle@bhrsd.org](mailto:cathy.finkle@bhrsd.org). We also encourage you to decorate a star for a veteran you know and return it to school. These went home last week. We will transform the gymnasium in honor of our veterans. Also this year we are inviting veteran's to share stories. A handful of students will have Ipads on hand to interview veterans and then add these interviews to our collection of community stories. If you would like to be interviewed please let Cathy Finkle know so we can plan ahead.

Thank you for your support and care,

Mary

**Tuesday, Nov 4**

**No School  
Prof. Dev. Day**

**Friday, Nov 7**

**Picture  
Make-Up Day**

**Monday, Nov 10**

**Veterans Breakfast  
& Assembly  
8am**

**Tuesday, Nov 11**

**No School  
Veterans Day**

**Thursday, Nov 27**

**Friday, Nov 28  
Thanksgiving Break**







**Berkshire**museum



# WeeMuse Pajama Night

Sponsored by:



Greylock  
Federal  
Credit Union

Member Owned • Value Driven™



**Friday, November 7, 2014, 5:30-7:30**

**Free and open to the public**

- ▶ Wear your favorite pajamas for a cozy night of storytelling and reading at the Museum!
- ▶ Each gallery features different stories and storytellers
- ▶ Special surprise guest readers
- ▶ Join artists drawing special night-time murals
- ▶ Cookies and milk
- ▶ Free books and giveaway totes

**▶ Enjoy the PJ DJ Dance Party  
with DJ BFG and special guest DJ Dulci!**



Additional support provided by:

*Blue Q*



**39 South St Pittsfield 413.443.7171 [www.berkshiremuseum.org](http://www.berkshiremuseum.org)**





## An Important Message to Massachusetts Families with Children under Age 9 Diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Autism Division of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) runs a Autism Waiver Program that provides one-to-one interventions to help children with autism who exhibit severe behavior, social and communication problems through a service called **Expanded Habilitation, Education** (intensive in-home services and supports, such as Applied Behavioral Analysis, Floor Time and Communication models). This service occurs in the child's home or other natural settings under the supervision of trained clinical staff and is available for a total of three years. The waiver also provides related support services such as community integration activities and respite. At the conclusion of the three years of the intensive in-home services, a child may access ongoing supplemental services (respite and goods and services, etc.) that meet the child's needs and help with the transition out of the intensive Autism Waiver Program—until the child's 9<sup>th</sup> birthday.

At this time the program serves approximately 300 children a year. While the program is near capacity, there is a high rate of turnover in the program every year; therefore, we run a waiting list of applicants to fill any open slots.

The Autism Program also maintains reserved capacity for children who are age 3 and transitioning out of Early Intervention. This means that the Autism Division reserves 20 statewide slots for children who are age 3. These children will still need to meet all relevant financial and clinical eligibility standards required for entry into the Program.

The Autism Waiver serves children up until their 9<sup>th</sup> birthday, with an autism spectrum disorder who meet the eligibility criteria for the Waiver Program. All waiver services require that the child continues to meet the financial and clinical eligibility requirements for the Waiver Program.

**Eligibility:** the following requirements are necessary for participation in this program:

1. The child must have a **confirmed diagnosis** of an Autism Spectrum Disorder, subject to verification by the Department of Developmental Services.
2. The child has not yet reached his/her 9th birthday. Children birth through age 8 may participate.
3. The child is a resident of Massachusetts.
4. The child meets the level of care required for services in an Intermediate Care Facility for persons with an Intellectual Disability (ICF/ID) as assessed by DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.
5. The family chooses to have the child receive services in the home and community.
6. The child must be able to be safely served in the community.
7. The child must have a legally responsible representative able to direct the services and supports of the Waiver.
8. The child must be found by the MassHealth agency to be eligible for MassHealth Standard coverage, based on family income. For families who have not yet applied for MassHealth, this must be done at the time of the filing of the Waiver Program Eligibility Request Form.

9. Below is the maximum Income Guidelines for MassHealth Standard at 150% of Federal Poverty Level. In order to participate in the Autism Program, your family income must fall below the levels on the list\*:

Family Size	Monthly	Yearly
2	\$1,976	\$23,604
3	\$2,474	\$29,688
4	\$2,982	\$35,784
5	\$3,489	\$41,868
6	\$3,997	\$47,964

\*If your child is under age one or has a specialized medical condition such as blindness, deafness or a debilitating chronic medical illness the standards are different from those listed above; please contact the Autism Division for clarification in these cases.

#### **Additional Information:**

The Autism Division of DDS has the family related Waiver Program Application Forms available in multiple languages. Please go to the DDS website or call one of the seven DDS funded Autism Support Centers for a copy in *Arabic, French, Haitian-Creole, Khmer, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Somali, Thai and Vietnamese*. This notice and other waiver information is available on the DDS web-site at [www.mass.gov/DDS](http://www.mass.gov/DDS) under 'Autism Spectrum Services' and at the DDS funded Autism Support Centers. For additional information about the Autism Waiver Program or if you have questions, please call **888-367-4435** or email [AutismDivision@state.ma.us](mailto:AutismDivision@state.ma.us)

#### **How to Participate in the Eligibility Process:**

***ONLY ONE APPLICATION PER CHILD***—Multiple Forms Will Be Discarded

#### **Submit the Application Form: By Mail**

- All Applications must have a Postmark/Date Stamp between November 7, 2014- November 21, 2014
- Please complete the form in Pen and Print Clearly
- Please Mail Form To: *(The Autism Division is not able to accept hand delivered forms)*

**AUTISM DIVISION of DDS, Att. Autism Waiver Program Open Enrollment  
500 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118**

#### **Submit the Application Form: By Email**

- All Applications must be emailed to [AutismDivision@state.ma.us](mailto:AutismDivision@state.ma.us)
- All Applications must be emailed between November 7, 2014- November 21, 2014
- All Application must be sent directly from the Parent/Guardian Only
- Form can be completed electronically or printed, filled out clearly in pen and scanned into an email
- Attached Forms may be sent in the following formats: PDF (preferred), JPG if clearly visible
  - If completing on a smart phone/tablet-download a free scanner app and send via a PDF file

#### **Listing of the Autism Support Centers:**

**HMEA: Autism Resource Center:**

**ACL: Community Resources for People with Autism (CRPA)**

**Community Autism Resources (CAR):**

**TILL, Inc.: Autism Support Center:**

**Arc of South Norfolk: Family Autism Center:**

**NEARC: The Autism Support Center:**

**Advocates: Autism Alliance of Metro West (AAMW):**

**#508-835-4278: Serving Central MA**

**#413-529-2428: Serving Western MA**

**#508-379-0371: Serving Southeastern MA**

**#781-302-4600: Serving Greater Boston**

**#781-762-4001: Serving Norfolk County Area**

**#978-777-9135: Serving Northeastern MA**

**#508-652-9900: Serving Metro West of Boston**



**Autism Waiver Program 2 Week Open Enrollment Announced!**  
**Important Message to Massachusetts Families**  
**With Children under Age 9**  
**Diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder**

**What is the Autism Waiver Program?**

It is a program that provides intensive home and community based services to children with autism. Each child selected for the program will receive up to **\$25,000 a year** of services and supports. The Program ends on the child's 9<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Who Should Apply?**

Parents who:

- Have children on the autism spectrum 0-8 years old
- Think intensive services are needed to support their child with autism spectrum disorder in the home and community (applied behavioral analysis, floor-time, communication and social skills development)
- Are on MassHealth Standard or think they might be eligible for MassHealth Standard (Those on CommonHealth are not in an eligible category of assistance for this program)
- **Even if you applied during the previous Open Enrollment in October 2013 *You must re-apply again during this open enrollment period***

**Key Information for Application Process:**

- Applications and information will be posted on the DDS Autism Division and Community Resources Websites in multiple languages
- Applications must be postmarked or emailed:

**No earlier than November 7, 2014 and no later than November 21, 2014**

**Applications outside of this two week time frame will be discarded.**

Community Resources will be hosting a Waiver Open House in the Berkshires to answer any questions or to assist with the application process.

Date: **November 10<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm-6:30pm**

Location: **Berkshire County Arc**

**395 South St, Pittsfield, MA 01201**

The Support Brokers for the Autism Waiver Program are Carla, Nikki, and Kate. They will be available at Community Resources in Easthampton during the enrollment period, Monday through Friday between 10AM and 2PM. They will be in their office to answer questions and assist with applications, both over the phone and in-person.



THE LENOX LIBRARY  
*Your town library.*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Scrabble FUNdraiser

Sunday, November 9, 2014 2:00 - 5:30 pm  
(check-in begins at 1:30)

The Lenox Library, 18 Main Street, Lenox

### Registration:

\$20 per Player

**"Gawk, Graze & Gaze"**

Be a Spectator!

\$5/person, \$10/family

Sponsored by

Kimble Farms Retirement  
Community, The Red Lion Inn,  
Toole Insurance and  
Wellesley Financial Group



### Details:

- Open to players ages 12 years and up.
- Teams of 1 – 4 players.  
We can match you with other players to form a team.
- Beginner/Intermediate or Advanced/Expert Divisions.
- (3) 30-minute games.
- Great for families, friends, or team-building!
- Refreshments will be served.



**PLAY!** It's your word against theirs in this afternoon of word games. The main event will be a 3-round tournament, playing the SCRABBLE<sup>®</sup> Brand Crossword Game.

**CHEAT!** Buy a peek at the word list, get help from an expert, or buy a blank tile. Only a \$5 donation and all for a good cause!

**WIN!** Prizes can be won by earning the most points in your division, collecting the most sponsorship money or the most creative "courthouse-related" word and more!

**A fun time to be had by all!**

This event is a fundraiser for the Lenox Library Association, a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization public library which earns more than half of its operating costs through its fundraising efforts.

For game rules and more information, go online to [www.lenoxlib.org](http://www.lenoxlib.org). To register contact Jennifer Knopf, Fundraising Events Coordinator at [jknopf@lenoxlib.org](mailto:jknopf@lenoxlib.org) or 413-637-2630 x121.

Registrations due October 27, 2014.



# AMERICAN RED CROSS BABYSITTER COURSES



## Standard Babysitting

**Tuesday, Nov 4 • 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.**

Ages 11 – 15. Do you love children? Do you want to learn more about caring for children and infants? This is the class for you! You'll also learn about leadership skills, age appropriate activities for children, conflict resolution, decision making, writing resumes, interviewing for jobs, diaper changing, meal times and bed times. Please bring a packed lunch.

*Members \$45 Guests \$55*

*(Plus \$25 materials and certification fee)*

## CPR & First Aid for the Babysitter

**Tuesday, Nov 4 • 2:45-5 p.m.**

Add this course to Standard Babysitting and receive certification in Standard First Aid and Infant and Child CPR. From bumps and bruises to saving lives, participants will learn what to do if the unexpected happens. Not a stand-alone course; this program may be taken only as part of the Standard Babysitting course.

*Cost for **both** Babysitters Training and First Aid/CPR:*

*\$60 Members \$80 Guests (Plus \$44 materials and certification fee)*



**BERKSHIRE SOUTH**  
REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER

15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230  
www.berkshiresouth.org • 413.528.2810





*Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School - Lunch Menu - November 2014*

**ALTERNATE LUNCH CHOICES INCLUDE: Salad Entrée,**

**Fresh Deli Sandwich, Fruit & Yogurt Parfait or**

**Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich**

**All lunches include an 8 oz 1% Low Fat or Fat Free Chocolate Milk**



**LUNCH \$2.25 - REDUCED LUNCH \$0.40**

**\*\*Tuesday & Thursday\*\* - ALTERNATE LUNCH CHOICE - Pasta Entrée - Barilla Whole Grain**

Mon. Nov. 3rd	Tues. Nov. 4th	Wed. Nov. 5th	Thurs. Nov. 6th	Fri. Nov. 7th
Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich	No School	Cheese Pizza	Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan	Sloppy Joe Sandwich
Chick Pea Salad	Full Day Inservice	Mesclun Greens	Pasta	Carrots
Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice		Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice	Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice	Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice
Fresh Raw Veggies		Fresh Raw Veggies	Fresh Raw Veggies	Fresh Raw Veggies
<b>Mon. Nov. 10th</b>	<b>Tues. Nov. 11th</b>	<b>Wed. Nov. 12th</b>	<b>Thurs. Nov. 13th</b>	<b>Fri. Nov. 14th</b>
Chicken Nuggets	Veteran's Day Holiday	Beef Tacos	Fish Sticks	Baked Ziti
Sweet Potato Fries	No School	Rice	Smiley Fries	Broccoli
Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice		Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice	Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice	Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice
Fresh Raw Veggies		Fresh Raw Veggies	Fresh Raw Veggies	Fresh Raw Veggies
<b>Mon. Nov. 17th</b>	<b>Tues. Nov. 18th</b>	<b>Wed. Nov. 19th</b>	<b>Thurs. Nov. 20th</b>	<b>Fri. Nov. 21st</b>
Upside Down Day	Meatball Grinder	Marinated Breast of Chicken	Ham & Cheese Grinder	Chicken Patty Sandwich
Cereal & Yogurt	Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice	Long Grain & Wild Rice	Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice	Sweet Potato Fries
Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice	Fresh Raw Veggies	Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice	Fresh Raw Veggies	Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice
Fresh Raw Veggies		Fresh Raw Veggies		Fresh Raw Veggies
<b>Mon. Nov. 24th</b>	<b>Tues. Nov. 25th</b>	<b>Wed. Nov. 26th</b>	<b>Thurs. Nov. 27th</b>	<b>Fri. Nov. 28th</b>
Al Beef Hot Dog	Stuffed Crust Pizza			
Tater Tots	Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice	Thanksgiving Break	Thanksgiving Break	Thanksgiving Break
Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice	Fresh Raw Veggies	No School	No School	No School
Fresh Raw Veggies				

**FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CHOICES VARY DAILY**

**FRESH FRUITS INCLUDE: Apples, Strawberries, Oranges, Bananas, Pineapple, Cantaloupe, Watermelon, Pears**

**FRESH RAW VEGGIES INCLUDE: Broccoli, Cauliflower, Carrots, Celery, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Peppers, Chickpeas**

**ALL PASTAS, BREADS & ROLLS ARE WHOLE GRAIN or WHOLE WHEAT**