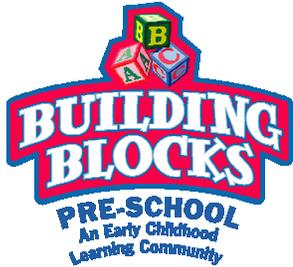


# Building Blocks Chronicle

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 12

JULY 2010

**BUILDING BLOCKS PRESCHOOL—AN EARLY  
CHILDHOOD LEARNING COMMUNITY**



“You can discover more in an hour of play than you can in a lifetime of conversation.”  
- Unknown

## Director's Notes



It's official summer is here! After the busy end of the traditional school year we've finally gotten into full swing with our summer programs!

Summer adventures in camp like settings similar to our summer programs here at Building Blocks for both our school-age and preschool children helps develop children's independence and a love of the outdoors. Most of us remember our summers and children included plenty of playmates, new things to do every day, and a place to cool off when the summer sun got too hot. All of which was spent in the great outdoors! Today children spend less and less time outdoors. It is our

goal to provide as much time in the outdoor natural environment this summer so children can establish a life long connection with the outdoors, much like most of us had as a child. We view the playground as an extension of the indoor classroom environment. Often in the summer time teachers will take small group learning activities outdoors. Nature walks also serve as endless learning opportunities for the children and have become a staple in our programs.

Take the time to enjoy this summer outdoors with your family!

*Emily Senese*

Emily Senese  
Director

## FISHING POLES NEEDED

We're looking for donations of used or new fishing poles. Both our School Age and Preschool children have expressed an interest in fishing at the pond we pass on the way to our nature walks at Highland State Recreation Area. Please see Ms. Emily if you have any questions. Thank you in advance!



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## Vote for Building Blocks Preschool



Great news! Building Blocks Preschool is in the running for a 2010 Nickelodeon's Parents' Picks Award for "Best Preschool" in the Metro Detroit area by Nickelodeon Parents Connect. Last year we were in the top 7 for our Summer Camp in Metro Detroit.

Voting began on July 7 and will end on August 31 with the

winner being revealed on September 15.

Help us take home the crown for Best Preschool! You can vote for us once a day, every day, from now until August 31 at [www.parentsconnect.com/parents-picks](http://www.parentsconnect.com/parents-picks).

Thanks for your support!

## Program Information

### Our Staff

*Ms. Suzanne - Owner / Executive Director*

*Ms. Emily - Director*

*Ms. Jen - Lead Full-Day Preschool Teacher*

*Ms. Jennifer - Full-Day Preschool Teacher*

*Ms. Linda - Assistant Full-Day Preschool Teacher*

*Ms. Leah - Infant/Toddler and Summer Camp Teacher*

*Ms. Wendy - Infant and Young Toddler Teacher*

*Ms. Janet - Older Toddler Teacher*

*Ms. Andrea - School Age Summer Camp Teacher*

**Snack** menu's are posted and it is your responsibility to provide snack for your child's class on your assigned day. If snack is not provided during the month a \$10.00 snack fee will be charged to your account.

Please **label** your child's bathing suit, towel, and water

shoes with their name or initials.

Check out the table on the porch to see if any of the items belong to your child. Our **Lost and Found** collection has grown and will become Building Blocks extras or be donated in the upcoming weeks if not claimed.

Please provide in writing or through email when taking a vacation and if you want to use **vacation time**. Full-time families receive 1-week vacation per calendar year from September-September each year. Please notify us of any schedule changes as it effects teaching staff schedules.

## Upcoming Dates

### 2010-2011 Traditional Preschool Registration

Going to school for the first time is one of the most important milestones in a child's life. We will do all we can to help make this experience a very positive one for both you and your child. In an atmosphere of acceptance and respect, your child is encouraged to grow emotionally, physically, socially and intellectually. Enrollment is now open for the 2010-2011 Morning Traditional Preschool Program. We will be having two Open Houses on Wed., Aug 4 and Aug 18. Please spread the word about this pro-

gram to your family, friends, and neighbors!

**Ice Cream Bus Dates** - Tuesday's at 3:15 p.m. on 7/20, 8/3, 8/17, and 8/31. Please provide your child with \$1.00 - \$3.00 if you would like them to enjoy a treat.

### Great Parents, Great Start Parent Café on Wednesday, August 18th at 6:00 p.m.-

Building Blocks will host an event for parents in the community to get together and discuss the needs of young children in our community. Dinner and child care will be provided by Oakland County's

Great Parents Great Start. Look for more information. **Art Show and Open House on Wednesday, September 1st at 5:00 p.m.** - Mark your calendars for our special Art Show to showcase the artwork of the 2010 Creative Arts and Outdoor Adventure Summer Camp program. There will also be an Open House and Ice Cream Social for all families.



## SAVE THE DATE - 2nd Annual Family Camp-Out 8/28

On Saturday, August 28 join other Building Blocks Families and Staff as we enjoy the outdoors together and celebrate the end of the summer and another start to a school year!

The plan is to enjoy canoeing, swimming, a picnic and a hay-ride together during the day

then camping out for the night on Saturday all at Highland State Recreation Area. More details are to follow. This was a great time had by all last year and we're looking forward to another great experience this year!



## Banana Brothers Fresh Produce Delivery

In late January of this year Building Blocks began using a produce delivery service called Banana Brothers Fresh Produce.

Gelardi Produce has been serving Metro Detroit for over 75 years supplying restaurants and markets with the finest quality produce. Banana Brothers was created to start a home and office delivery route. They hand pick the produce daily at the Detroit Produce Terminal and Eastern Market and deliver it the same day to ensure the freshest product possible.

The Detroit Produce Terminal is a co-op of produce wholesalers. The wholesalers sell cases of product to local retailers throughout the region to sell in restaurants, markets, or direct to you - our customer.

Eastern Market has a variety of farm fresh fruits and

vegetables, meat products (beef, pork, lamb, poultry, geese, ducks and rabbits) herbs and spices, nuts, candies and a variety of condiments that are all supplied by retailers and wholesalers spread over a 43-acre area.

Banana Brothers prices are very competitive with local grocery stores and markets. There are weekly specials, everyday sales items, and if you spend over \$25.00 per order you receive a free item added to your order.

This service is also available to the families of our school!!!! You too can order fresh produce from Banana Brothers and have it delivered to the school and pick it up Tuesday's and Thursday without having to make an extra trip to the grocery store to enjoy fresh fruits and veggies this summer!

Simply visit the website [www.bananabrotherspr](http://www.bananabrotherspr)

[duce.com](http://www.bananabrotherspr) set up an account and place your order. You can order as often as twice per week or as needed.

You can also order your monthly snacks through Banana Brothers :)

Delivery days are on Tuesday's and Thursday's. You can place your order at any time even days in advance but before 9:00 p.m. the day before delivery.

As an incentive our school will receive 10% back on every order placed toward our Fundraising efforts.

Sneak a peek at an order on Tuesday or Thursday to see for yourself just how fresh, affordable, and convenient this service is.

If you have any questions please speak with Ms. Emily or Ms. Suzanne.



**HOME/OFFICE DELIVERY**

**810-623-2507**

[www.bananabrothersproduce.com](http://www.bananabrothersproduce.com)



340 Harvey Lake Road  
Highland, MI 48356  
Phone: 248-889-2727

[www.BuildingBlocksSchool.com](http://www.BuildingBlocksSchool.com)



**Become a Fan**

Building Blocks Preschool- An Early  
Childhood Learning Community

happy birthday

Jaden P. - July 4

Megan - July 6

Quinn - July 13

## Reggio Emilia Reflections

Making a Connection with Reggio Emilia Inspired Author, Julianne P. Wurm

At the beginning of July we received a voicemail message from Julianne Wurm, a Reggio Emilia inspired author of the book, "Working in the Reggio Way". In the message she stated that she had heard, "wonderful things about our school" and was looking to set up her fall workshop calendar and would like to host a workshop in Highland, Michigan.

Ms. Wurm book was a pivotal inspiration in our school's professional development over 5 years ago. This resource presented us with the key tools that allowed our school to transform in the following areas; our environment, observation and questioning, documentation of children's work, and organization of time and space.

We're very excited to say that we're working together the details of a two-day workshop based around Ms. Wurm's book and the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education.

Julianne Wurm based her best-selling book on three years of living in Italy and original research she conducted in the famous schools of Reggio Emilia, Italy. She is currently at work on her

next 2 books, exploring a more complex set of questions involved in working in Reggio-inspired ways and focusing attention on the 0-3 component of the Reggio approach, the Nido. As well, Ms. Wurm is documenting her own work with a number of schools as their process unfolds and the teachers and families engage in teaching and learning using Reggio-inspired ways. Ms. Wurm's career started as a member of Teach for America teaching in inner-city Houston, East Los Angeles and the Bronx, New York. She taught for 10 years, served as a teacher coach as well as a school administrator in the San Francisco Bay Area. Ms. Wurm holds a bachelors degree in Political Science from California State University, Chico and both a Masters of Arts and a Masters of Education in Curriculum and Teaching from Columbia University, Teachers College. Ms. Wurm is currently attending the Teachers College at Columbia University working on her EdD in Early Childhood Education.

We'll keep you updated on the progress of the workshop details!

[www.juliannewurm.com](http://www.juliannewurm.com)

