

Otsego^{WL}

Thanks to our PTA's Arts in Education Program, Otsego students enjoyed a special presentation by the *Grand Falloons*. The program focused on the importance of recycling!



Week of March 7, 2011

A Message from the Principal Stacey Bernstein

This past week was Dr. Seuss' birthday. The popular cartoonist and children's author was born on March 2, 1904 and lived until he was 87 years old. During his life, he published 44 children's books, including *The Cat in the Hat*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, and *How the*

Grinch Stole Christmas.

In honor of Dr. Seuss' many achievements, his birthday has been adopted as *National Read Across America Day* – a day to encourage parents, teachers, and children to read together. Many of our classes participated in

activities related to this event.

In one of his many books, Dr. Seuss said "*The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.*" I encourage you to keep reading with your children and continue to enjoy the wonders of books!

This Week's Agenda

Monday, 3/7 - Board of Education Meeting at Otsego, 8:00pm

Friday, 3/11 - PTA Adults' Night Out, 8pm at 300 in Melville

Future Otsego
Happenings

2011

Thursday, 3/17 –

- PTA Founder's Day Dinner

Week of 3/28 –

- Literary Festival Week

THANK YOU

THANK YOU to Patricia Freda, Cathy Sullivan, and the parent volunteers who supported this year's PTA Cookie Dough Fundraiser!



Musical Inspiration

Let your child's ears lead the way to
visual creativity.

By Robin Smith

• **What you need:**

- crayons
- drawing paper
- variety of music CDs

What to do:

1. Begin by playing a variety of music — classical, jazz, rock, hip-hop — anything for your child simply to listen to for a few minutes.
2. Explain that composers often tell stories using music, and they are going to have the opportunity to draw a picture that they think of when the music is playing. Remind them that there is no right or wrong way to interpret the music. It is how it makes them feel and what they think about when they listen to the music.
3. Play each type of music for one minute, and encourage them to draw the way the music sounds. You'll be surprised how the drawings change.

Moving to the Music

Through music and movement, your child discovers new ways to express her thoughts, ideas, and feelings.

By Ellen Booth Church

Have you ever felt so good that you felt like bursting into song? Children do all the time, and often they don't even know that they are singing! If you've ever attended a musical performance with your child, you've seen the magical effect that music has on children — the sounds and rhythms are irresistible to little ones, who can't help moving their bodies or singing along. Music invites us to listen and respond, and it often leads us to create. All of the performing arts — including music, movement, and drama — provide an important means for your child to spontaneously express her rich and deep inner life. That's because music is a universal.

Long before speech develops, babies instinctively rock to music, clap their hands, bounce to the beat, and "sing" along. Numerous studies have shown that music has a positive effect on children's reading, math, and science learning, as well as their teamwork skills and mastery of spatial relationships.

There are many ways to build music into your child's life in a way that he'll enjoy. Some require planning, while others occur naturally — as long as you are on the lookout!

Literary Festival - Multicultural Exhibit **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

This year, our Literary Festival theme is "Read around the World" and we will be highlighting many countries. We are asking for family volunteers to share their heritage with our children. Otsego's students would love to hear stories and/or see cultural artifacts you may have.

Our Multicultural Day will be on Thursday, March 31st. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mrs. Aulet at Otsego by phone (592-3600) or email maulet@bhh.k12.ny.us.

Thanks for your support!

Moving to the Music

Please click the link below to access the complete article from Scholastic.

[Moving to the Music](#)