



# APRIL ISSUE



**Bonnie Academy**

534 W. Glenoaks Blvd.  
Glendale, CA

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## Bonnie Academy Newsletter

### Letter from the Director

The school year is quickly coming to an end. We would like to thank you for allowing us to be an important part of your child's early education. Our Summer Camp Program will begin on July 1, 2013 and end on August 30, 2013. Our theme-based program enables the children to explore a variety of topics. Field trips to various interesting destinations planned for the Pre-Kindergarteners and Kindergarteners enhance our program.

Summer is a great time to have fun and review lessons from throughout the academic school year. Our goal at Bonnie Academy is to equip each child with a strong academic foundation, encourage good character and values, and strengthen socialization skills.

We continue to help the children develop social and emotional skills and introduce more cognitive and academic activities in these classes. Dividing the summer into weekly themes, the teachers plan art & craft projects, music, literature, science, cooking and baking, and field trips to support each theme.

Arts and crafts are an important part of the program. We firmly believe that through this the children enhance their fine motor skills, begin the process of learning to write, and use their imaginations in creative ways.

Our sand-covered playground is an important part of our learning environment. Weather permitting; the children use the playground every day. To stimulate gross motor development, we have a variety of climbing, riding and sports equipment on the playground. Through these activities, the children also learn to take turns and play cooperatively.

At the same time, we stress cognitive and readiness skills. Through developmentally-appropriate small group work, individual instruction, and circle time (teacher-directed instruction), the children develop early literacy and mathematics skills including letter recognition, phonemic awareness, writing, speaking and arithmetic. We teach the alphabet and numbers systematically, using a variety of approaches to accommodate each child's individual learning style. As summer approaches parents will be given detailed information about the daily activities.

We look forward to having a fun filled summer with your child(ren)!

### Helping Families Belong

*Children are the best audience: they are curious, enthusiastic, impulsive, generous, and pleased by simple joys. They laugh easily at the ridiculous and are willing to believe the absurd. Children are not ironic, disillusioned, or indifferent, but hopeful, open-minded, and open-hearted, with a voracious hunger for pictures and stories.*

*-Eric Rohmann, children's book author including MY RABBIT FRIEND, a Caldecott Award Winner:*

"Whenever and however you first meet the children and families who will become your children and families, you have the opportunity to help them feel welcome," notes Donna King in her article "Helping Children and Families Develop a Sense of Belonging," in the new **Beginnings Professional Development Workshop**, "Senses." She asks...

Do you have a system for matching incoming families with 'buddy families' for play dates before school begins?

At program open houses, are there plenty of teachers and parents with smiles, handshakes, and greetings?

When you host visitors, is their presence announced on your morning message board?

Do you let current families know who is coming, so they will be prepared to introduce themselves?

"When you orient new families, do you focus on things you want them to do: finish the paperwork, send extra clothes, sign in and out? Or do you use this opportunity to launch the profound work of seeing that child and family with clarity and appreciation?

"This is the time to ask families about their hopes and dreams, their challenges and vulnerabilities, their fierce beliefs and their deep questions. You are setting the tone for a new relationship of meaningful collaboration."

## Safety Tips: Tips for Preventing Choking

If you are the parent or care giver of an infant or child under 4 years old, follow these tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Red Cross, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reduce the chance of choking.

### At Mealtime:

- Insist that your children eat at the table, or at least sitting down. Watch young children while they eat. Encourage them to eat slowly and chew their food well.
- Cut up foods that are firm and round and can get stuck in your child's airway, such as:
  - ◆ hotdogs - always cut hotdogs length-wise and then into small pieces
  - ◆ grapes - cut them into quarters
  - ◆ raw vegetables - cut them into small strips or pieces that are not round
- Other foods that can pose a choking hazard include:
  - hard or sticky candy, like whole peppermints or caramels
  - nuts and seeds (don't give peanuts to children under age 7)
  - popcorn
  - spoonful's of peanut butter

### During Playtime:

- Follow the age recommendations on toy packages. Any toy that is small enough to fit a 1.25 inch circle or is smaller than 2.25 inches long is unsafe for children under 4 years old.
- Don't allow young children to play with toys designed for older children. Teach older children to put their toys away as soon as they finish playing so young siblings can't get them.
- Frequently check under furniture and between cushions for dangerous items young children find, including:
  - coins
  - marbles
  - watch batteries (the ones that look like buttons)
  - pen or marker caps
  - cars with small rubber wheels that come off
  - small balls that can be compressed to a size small enough to fit in a child's mouth
- Never let your child play with or chew on non-inflated or broken latex balloons. Many young children have died from swallowing or inhaling them.
- Don't let your small child play on bean bag chairs made with small foam pellets. If the bag opens or rips, the child could inhale these tiny pieces.

If you are a parent, grandparent, or a care giver, learn how to help a choking child and how to prevent choking from happening.

## Pizza Scones

Scones aren't just for breakfast or afternoon tea. Our savory recipe features sun-dried tomatoes and mozzarella. And this portable dish, complete with do-ahead and packing tips, makes a great addition to your picnic menu.

### What you'll need

- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup fine cornmeal
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon basil
- 1/2 teaspoon oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) cold butter, cut into small pieces
- 1/2 cup diced sun-dried tomatoes
- 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded mozzarella
- 1/3 cup finely chopped pepperoni (optional)
- 2 large eggs
- 3/4 cup buttermilk

### Helpful Tip:

**To-Go Tip:** Take smaller scones to a gathering. Use a 3-inch-round biscuit cutter to make 12 smaller scones, and reduce the baking time to 10 to 15 minutes. The scones should be cooled before packing.

### How to make it

1. Heat the oven to 375 degrees. Coat a baking sheet with cooking spray or line it with parchment paper. In a large bowl, mix the flour, cornmeal, baking powder, basil, oregano, and salt. Cut in the butter with a pastry blender or two knives, until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.
2. Place the diced sun-dried tomatoes in a medium-size bowl and cover them with boiling water. Let them stand for 30 seconds, then drain the water and stir in the cheese and pepperoni (if using).
3. In a small bowl, whisk together the eggs and the buttermilk, then add them and the tomato mixture to the dry ingredients. Stir until the mixture forms a sticky dough.
4. Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured surface. Gently knead the dough until it holds together, about five times. Divide the dough in half and pat each half into a 1-inch-thick disk. Slice each disk into four wedges.
5. Place the wedges on a lightly greased baking sheet about 1 inch apart. Bake them until golden brown, about 15 to 20 minutes. Serve the scones warm or at room temperature. Makes 8 scones.

## Books

- [Little Bunny](#) by Lisa McCue (1992)
- [Farmyard Beat](#) by Lindsey Craig, illus. Marc Brown (2012)
- [Ma! There's Nothing to Here!](#) by Barbara Park, illus. Viviana Garofoli (2013)
- [Not That Tutu!](#) by Michelle Sinclair Colman, illus. Hiroe Nakata (2013)
- [Where's Ellie?](#) by Salina Yoon (2012)
- [Princess Baby](#) by Karen Katz (2008)
- [Peas on Earth](#) by Todd H. Doodler (2012)
- [My Mom Is the Best Circus](#) by Luciana Navarro Powell (2013)
- [Falcon](#) by Tim Jessell (2012)
- [Green Eyes](#) by Abe Birnbaum (2011)
- [Dog Loves Drawing](#) by Louise Yates (2011)
- [Dona Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman With a Great Big Heart](#) by Pat Mora, illus. Raul Colon (2005)

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Monthly lunch menus are posted on the web page with the Newsletter.