



Arlington Family Connection

supporting children six and under and those who care for them

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www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Public Schools Forum Planned

By Carrie Finison

For many AFC parents, knowledge of the Arlington Public Schools may be limited to knowing what school district you live in. Our thoughts of 'school' don't extend very far beyond preschool. But before long those little ones will be heading off to kindergarten, and beyond.

Later this winter, the Arlington chapter of Stand for Children is planning a forum to educate Arlington families with young children about the public school system. The Arlington chapter is part of the statewide Stand for Children organization with chapters in more than 80 communities across Massachusetts. Its mission is to advocate for quality in public schools and make sure that education is a top priority at the state level.

Forum on Public Schools

The upcoming forum will bring together veteran school advocates with new Arlington families—those with young children not yet in school, and those who have recently moved here or entered the school system. The forum will provide parents with an introduction to how schools work and what parents can do to help ensure that their children get the best education possible. Topics will include school funding, decision-making at the school, local, and state levels, where to get to get your questions answered, and more. Watch your email for more information later in February.

Suggest Forum Topics

Stand for Children members are reaching out to parents of preschool and elementary-aged children to set the forum's agenda. They welcome your input on questions about Arlington schools that you would like to have answered. For more information or to share your thoughts, please contact Ren Johns at ren@stand.org

Find out more about Stand for Children at www.stand.org/NETCOMMUNITY/Page.aspx?pid=239&srcid=235&chid=16

Save the Date!

Saturday, March 8, 2008
10am-1pm

AFC's Second Annual Winter Beach Party

AFC's sizzling Winter Beach Party is in the works for Saturday, March 8.

The party will be held at the Gibbs Gym in East Arlington from 10am-1pm. More than 400 people attended last year's party, and this year promises to include even more sand, sun, and fun. Admission (\$5 per person; \$15/family maximum) includes Chilly Cow ice cream, pizza, and coffee, plus beachy crafts and games for the kids.

Support AFC's Arlington Recreation Scholarship Fund

A portion of proceeds from the beach party will go to AFC's Arlington Recreation Scholarship Fund. This summer, AFC will be sponsoring full-day camp sessions for Arlington families who need financial assistance to pay for camp.

The party is open to AFC members and non-members alike, so bring the kids and some friends for a day of "summer" fun to help support this great cause.

Seeking Party Volunteers

It takes many volunteers to make the beach party a success. We're currently seeking volunteers to help with several beach party tasks, including food; crafts; games/activities; decorations. If you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact Jessie Keating at events@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



Having a ball at last year's beach party.

AFC Volunteers

AFC welcomes and thanks the following volunteers who have recently joined AFC or taken on new volunteer roles.

Jessie Keating will be taking over as newsletter co-editor from **Annette Donnelly**. Many thanks to Annette for her hard work and diligence in writing, editing, and laying out the newsletter for the past year. Prior to taking on her role as editor, Jessie volunteered as events coordinator for AFC and organized many fabulous AFC events including last year's winter beach party, pizza party, Town Day, and the popular Baby Buggy Brigade. Jessie lives in Arlington with her husband and son, Eamon.

Glendalys Gandhi is volunteering as a host for AFC Playtime. Glendalys moved to Arlington in August with her husband Pritesh and her kids, Alisha (2.5 years) and Rohan (16 months). Glendalys is originally from San Juan, Puerto Rico. She graduated from Boston University with a master degree in International Commerce. Before deciding to stay home with her kids, Glendalys worked as a sales manager.

AFC Directory

General Information - Amy Speare, 781-646-5417
info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Playtime - Sarah Albers
playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Book Group - Wendy Paramore
bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Community Service - Lauren Boyle
community@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Membership - Leah Nelson and Molly Sanford
membership@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Newsletter Editors - Carrie Finison and Jessie Keating
newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Newsletter Calendar - Aimee Linker and Louise Friel
calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Options in Childcare & Preschool booklet - Kristen Strechay
options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Outings - Amy Speare, Eileen Coleman, and Martina Vanha
outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Treasurers - Catherine Hoffman and Mimi Wan
treasurer@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Web Site - Seth Maislin
webmaster@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Working Moms - Su Joun and Mimi Wan
workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Editorial policy: The Arlington Family Connection (AFC) newsletter is published monthly and is free with membership. Published articles reflect the views of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent the views of AFC. Childcare, healthcare and legal information is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended as a substitute for medical or professional advice. Always consult your own healthcare provider for any decisions relating to your child's well being. Copyright remains with the individual author for bylined articles. All other materials are copyright Arlington Family Connection, 2008. Permission is granted to reproduce articles for which copyright is held by AFC provided appropriate credit is given and no fee is charged. The AFC newsletter accepts submissions from AFC members on issues relevant to families with children six and under. The editorial board reserves the right to refuse submissions for any reason. Send editorial submissions to:
newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org; calendar listings to
calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

New volunteers are always welcome. If you'd like to volunteer with AFC, please contact Amy Speare at aspeare@verizon.net.

Let's Go Sledding!

By Amy Speare

We're finally having a good, old-fashioned New England winter with lots of snow! I know many of you prefer shoveling beach sand to shoveling the cold, white fluffy stuff. But I like to look on the bright side—I can't do anything outside with the kids when it is 35 degrees and rainy, but when it snows we can go sledding! I enjoy it just as much as my 2 and 4 year-olds do.

You don't need a very big hill to have fun. Here's a list of local sledding hills with no obstacles and long runouts onto open fields:



- Bishop School (Columbia Ave.)
- Boys & Girls Club Field (Pond Lane)
- McLennen Park (Summer St.)
- Menotomy Rocks Park (Jason St.; watch for obstacles in the woods near the playground)
- Robbins Farm Park (Eastern Ave.)
- Thompson School (Union Ave.)
- Waldo Playground (Waldo St.)
- Winchester Country Club (Hutchinson Rd.)
- Ridge St., Winchester (near St. Eulalia Church)

Amy Speare is an AFC volunteer. She welcomes your thoughts at aspeare@verizon.net

AFC Playtime!

Join us Monday mornings for a playgroup with coffee, fun with toys and friends, and closing circle time.

Mondays, 10-11:30am

Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2nd Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave., Arlington. \$3/family. Info: Sarah 781-316-8181,
playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



Wednesday, February 13
10-11:30am

AFC Outing: Acton Discovery Museum

Join us for a morning of fun at this exciting, interactive museum for children under 6 with hands-on activities inviting exploration (www.discoverymuseums.org). Special AFC rate, \$5/person (under 1 is free). **RSVP** to Eileen, 617-620-1772,
outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC in Action

January Highlights

Together in Motion Outing



AFC Craft Time



February AFC Events

AFC Playtime! Mon., Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25

10-11:30am. Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2nd Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave. (across from Jimmy's). Drop-in anytime at our weekly playgroup! Toys, coffee, closing circle time. Ages 0-4 yrs. \$3/family. Sarah 781-316-8181, playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Outing: Perpetual Motion Tuesday, Feb. 5

10am-12pm. Perpetual Motion, 345 Chelmsford St., Lowell. Let the kids burn energy and run free at this spacious indoor playspace. AFC discount: \$5.75/child (\$2 savings). RSVP to Amy, 781-646-5417, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Drop-in Playgroup Tuesday, Feb. 5

3:30-5pm. Fox Library Comm. Rm., Arl. First Tues. of month. Drop-in anytime. Perfect for non-mobile babies! A great place for caregivers to get to know each other without having to chase their kids around! Ages 0-4. Free. Sandra 781-859-5050, playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



AFC Steering Committee Mtg. Tuesday, Feb. 5

7:30pm. Open to all members. Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2nd Fl. 1100 Mass. Ave. Amy, 781-646-5417, info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Outing: Acton Discovery Museum Wednesday, Feb. 13

10-11:30am. Acton Discovery Museum, 177 Main St., Acton. Join us for a morning of fun at this exciting, interactive museum for children under 6 with hands-on activities inviting exploration and discovery (www.discoverymuseums.org). Special AFC rate, \$5/person (under 1 is free). RSVP to Eileen, 617-620-1772, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Craft Time Tuesday, Feb. 19

4-5pm. Fox Library. Drop-in anytime to make a fun craft. \$2/child to cover supplies. 18 mo. & up. Maf 781-777-1994, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Sing-along Wednesday, Feb. 20

4:30-5pm. Rocky DiRico's, 32 Mill St. (next to Brighams). Come join professional musician and Music Together teacher Paula Jordan for a fun and interactive sing-along—with guitar & mandolin! \$1/person. Margit, 781-641-4260, johnandmargit@rcn.com



Working Moms Group Wednesday, Feb. 20

7:30pm. Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2 Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave. Whether you work full-time, part-time, telecommute, or run own your business, come meet other working moms to connect, share solutions, and gain a sense of community. RSVP to workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC at Together in Motion Friday, Feb. 22

9:30-11am. Together in Motion, 1 Broadway, Arl. Join us for an AFC exclusive visit! AFC discount price \$5/family. Eileen, 617-620-1772, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Book Group Monday, Feb. 25

7:30pm. Starbucks (327 Broadway, Arl Ctr.). Join AFC's new book group! This month's book is *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, by Kim Edwards. Come even if you don't have the chance to read the book. Wendy, 781-777-2706, bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Playground Fun TBA

Note: We'll set the date based on weather —watch your email! Come meet other AFC families in this ongoing series of monthly playground fun. Martina, 781-316-8433, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



Local Events & Activities – February

For even more resources refer to www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Arlington Venues

Arlington Boys and Girls Club, 60 Pond Lane, (Pleasant St. to Wellington St.). 781-648-1617. www.abgclub.org

Arlington Rec. Center & Veterans Memorial Rink, 422 Summer St. (Rt. 2A). 781-316-3880.
www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/index

Fidelity House, 25 Medford St. 781-648-2005.
www.fidelityhouse.org

Fox branch library, 175 Mass. Ave. (East Arlington, at Cleveland St.). 781-316-3198. www.robbinslibrary.org/html/fox.htm

Gibbs Gym, 41 Foster St. (also accessible from Tufts St., between Mass. Ave. and Broadway). 781-316-3880.

Isis Maternity, 397 Mass. Ave., at Broadway. 781-429-1598. www.isismaternity.com

Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St. 781-646-4849.
www.regenttheatre.com

Robbins Library, 700 Mass. Ave. (near Pleasant St./Rt. 60). 781-316-3234. www.robbinslibrary.org

Special Events for Families

Snowman Contest

Ongoing. Whenever it snows this winter make a snowman or snow sculpture with your family & friends. Take a picture of you with your creation and send it to the Arl. Rec. Dept. The winner will be on the cover of the 2009 Winter Recreation Brochure. All other pictures will be displayed in the office. Arlington residents only. Submit as many pictures as you want. Deadline is March 31. Send to: Arl. Rec. Snowman Contest, c/o Dan McGrath, 422 Summer St. Info: 781-316-3880 or RecOffice@town.arlington.ma.us

Playtime Theatre

Sat. Feb. 2, **Beauty and the Beast**

Sat. Feb. 16, **Tortoise and the Hare**

Both shows at 10:30am, Harvey Wheeler Community Center, 1276 Main St. W. Concord, This classic fairy tale is given a twist when the audience is strongly encouraged to participate. All ages, \$5/person, no advance ticket sales. www.concordyouththeatre.org

Margot Fox Family Concert & CD Release

Sat. Feb. 2, 10:30am, Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St. Come dance, jump, hop, and wave to folk/rock family tunes. \$8/adults, \$6 kids & seniors, Info: www.regenttheatre.com

SteveSongs in Concert

Sat. Feb. 2, 10:30am, Parker Damon Bldg. 11 Charter Rd. Acton, \$8/advance, \$10/door, Info: 978-263-8229

Sat. Feb. 24, 10am & 1pm, Eliot-Pearson Children's School Cohen Auditorium, Talbot St. Medford, \$8/advance, \$10/door, Info: 617-627-3434

Introduction to the Orchestra

Sun. Feb. 3, 2 & 4pm, Longy School of Music, One Follen St. Cambridge, Enjoy this all ages concert. All instruments will be introduced and discussed. \$10/adult, \$5/child, under 2 yrs/free Info: 617-876-0956 ex. 621 or www.longy.edu

Arlington Boys & Girls Club Activities

**Tot Valentine's Day Party*- Fri. Feb. 8, 10:30am, Sing-a-long & age-appropriate crafts

**Daddy/Daughter Swim & Pizza Party*- Thurs. Feb. 7, 5:15-6:15pm (swim), 6:15-7pm (pizza)
**Mother/Son Swim & Pizza Party*- Fri. Feb. 8, 5:30-6:15pm (swim) 6:15-7pm (pizza), \$6 admits two people, \$1 each additional family member, 60 Pond Lane, www.abgclub.org

Saturday Stories with Joey Talbert

Feb. 9, 10:30am, 358 Baker Ave. W. Concord, Enjoy heart-warming stories of the season while introducing your children to the magic of live storytelling. Ages: 3yrs.+ , \$6/advance, \$8/at the door, www.concordyouththeatre.org

Ma Goose Family Concert

Sun. Feb. 10, 3pm, Tsai Performance Center at Boston University, 685 Comm. Ave. All ages, Info: www.bmv.org

Warm Words Storytelling Festival

Feb.16-18, Sat. 11-4pm, Sun. 1-4pm, Mon. 11-4pm, Concord Museum, 200 Lexington Rd. Concord, Hear "Stories that Made America" – Native-American traditions, European Immigration, African-American experience, tall tales & more. Performance times vary. All ages, reservations required, \$15/adult-child pair, \$7/additional adult or child, member price is \$10/adult-child pair and \$5/additional adult or child. All Warm Words fees include same day museum admission. Info: 978-369-9763 or www.concordmuseum.org

National Heritage Museum Activities

**Ntrak Train Show*- Sat. Feb. 16, all day, members- \$5/family, nonmember- \$7/family
**Colonial Kids*- Tues. Feb.19, 1-2pm, Creative activities & fun stories, explore what life was like for kids in the 18th century, members \$3/child, nonmembers \$5/child
**Game Day*- Fri. Feb. 22, 12-4pm, Challenge family & friends to a board game and see other toys and games throughout the museum, FREE 33 Marrett Rd. Lex. Info: 781-861-6559 or www.monh.org

The Day It Snowed Tortillas

Mon. Feb. 18, 11am & 1pm, Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St. Newton Center, \$8/member or \$9 general

admission, Info: 617-558-6522 or

www.lsjcc.org/home/cultural_magic.html

Multi Sports/Craft Club for 4-7 Year Olds

Tues.-Fri. Feb. 19-22, 9am-noon, Gibbs Gym, 41 Foster St. (sponsored by the Arl. Rec. Dept.) Play various sports, make a fun mess while doing arts & crafts, listen to stories, sing songs etc. \$125/child, Registration required, no extended day option available, Info: 781-316-3880 or www.arlingtonma.gov/recreation

Once Upon a Time with Kidstock

140 Clarendon St. Boston, Feb. 23 & 24, 11am, **Rumplestiltskin** All ages, \$8/person, children under 3yrs. Free , 617-585-5678 or www.lyricstage.com.

Journey Through the West

Sun. Feb. 24, 3-4pm, Town Hall, Free family concert by the Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra, Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org

BosTix Junior

Bring your child to the theater to see family friendly plays and musical productions. Info: www.BosTix.org

Baby Loves Disco

Last Sunday of each month, 2-5pm, Revolution Rock Bar, 200 High St. Boston, \$12 (non-walkers, free) Childproof disco/dance party with "real" music by the legendary DJ kon, healthy snacks by Wild Oats, bar available for mom and dad. Info: www.babylovesdisco.com

Sing-alongs & Music

Monday

5pm. **Finagle a Bagel**, 91 Middlesex Tpke, Burl. Ed Morgan performs fun original and classic children's songs. Free 781-273-6500, www.finagleabagel.com

11am. **Stellabella Toys**, 1967 Mass. Ave., Camb., Porter Sq. Sing-along, play games Free For more information call 617-864-6290

Wednesday

Bear Rock Café

10am, 350 Cambridge St. Woburn (near Whole Foods), Info: 781-938-6100 or www.bearrockcafe.com.

1st and 3rd Friday of the month

10am, Calvary Church, 300 Mass. Ave. Join Diane Taraz for a fun sing-a-long, \$1/person, Info: www.dianetaraz.com

Saturday

11am. **Stellabella Toys**, 1360 Cambridge St. Inman Sq.. Camb. Sing songs, play games Free 617-491- 6290

Storytimes and Library Programs

Groundhog Day Craft

Sat. Feb. 2, 2-4pm, Robbins Library, All ages, Drop-in, Info: 781-316-3234

Chinese New Year Craft

Fri. Feb. 8, 2-4pm, Robbins Library, All ages, Drop-in, Info: 781-316-3234

Spanish Story Time

Sat. Feb. 9, 9:15am, Robbins Library, Sing songs, listen to stories, learn new words & make new friends. Join Mike Beck for songs & stories in Spanish with translation. Drop-in, Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Percussion Band- Make & Play Instruments

Sat. Feb. 9, 3-4pm, Robbins Library, First work in groups to make either drums, jingles, shakers, or rhythm sticks. Then follow the music & play together. Please sign up. Ages 3-6yrs. Info: 781-316-3234

Chinese New Year Party

Thurs. Feb. 7, 3-4:45pm, Fox Library, Celebrate the Chinese New Year. Crafts, traditional decorations, puppet play and snacks will be offered. All ages, drop-in, **Children ages 7-10yrs. will have the opportunity to make a traditional lantern. Please sign up.** Info: 781-316-3198 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Drop-in Storytime at Robbins

Toddlers (18 months-2.5 yrs.) Mondays, 10:30am, Feb. 4, 11, & 25 Stories, rhymes, fingerplays and a simple craft
Preschoolers (2.5 yrs. and up) Mondays, 11am, Feb. 4, 11, & 25 Longer stories followed by a craft

3-5 Year Olds

Wednesdays, 10:30am, Feb. 6, 13, & 27 Stories, rhymes, games, fingerplays, & a craft 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Sing-a-long at Robbins

Tuesdays, 10am, Feb. 5 & 12 Ages: 0-36 months, Space is limited so numbers are given out the day of the program beginning at 9am. Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org

1st Thursday of the Month Singalong at Fox

Bonus This Month! Feb. 7 & 21, 10am, Fox Library, Join Sulinha for singing, dancing, and fun! Info: 781-316-3198

Drop-In Storytime at Fox

Tuesdays, Feb. 5 & 12

Ages 2-3yr. 10am

Ages 4-5yrs. 10:30am

Stories and fingerplays followed by a craft Info: 781-316-3198 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Tuesday

Barnes & Noble

98 Middlesex Tpke., Burlington Preschoolers, 10:30am, Free, 781-273-3871

Harvard Coop

11am, 1400 Mass. Ave. Camb. Preschool story hour with snack and craft, Free, Info: 617-499-2000 or <http://harvardbkstore.com>.

Pottery Barn Kids

10am, Burlington Mall, Free, 781-221-5833

Wednesday

Porter Square Books

11am, Porter Sq. Shopping Ctr. Camb. Free 617-491-2220, www.portersquarebooks.com

Starbucks, Arlington Center

10am, 327 Broadway, Free, 781-641-2893

Thursday

Mornings at the Museum

Feb. 21, 10:30am, National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Rd. Lex. Come listen to “A Chair for My Mother” and make your own chair. \$3/child (members) \$5/child (nonmembers) Info: 781-861-6559 or www.monh.org

Henry Bear’s Park

11am, 685 Mass. Ave. Arl. 781-646-9400 and 361 Huron Ave, Camb. 617-547-8424, Ages: 3-6yrs. Free, Info: www.henrybear.com.

Friday

Barefoot Books

10:30am, 1771 Mass. Ave. Camb. A fun hour of age- appropriate stories, coloring and refreshments, Free, Ages 1yr.+ Info: 617-349-1610 or www.barefootbooks.com.

Barnes & Noble

98 Middlesex Tpke. Burlington, Pajamarama: 7pm, Free. 781-273-3871

Concord Museum Story Hour

Feb. 8, 1pm, 200 Lexington Rd., Concord. For ages 3-5 years; adult/child program, \$5/pair, members, \$8/pair, nonmembers. This month’s story: “I Love Tools” by Philemon Sturges. Activity and snack registration required Info: 978-369-9763. www.concordmuseum.org.

Saturday

Barefoot Books

10:30am. 1771 Mass. Ave. Camb. A fun hour of age- appropriate stories, coloring and refreshments, Free, Ages 1yr.+ Info: 617-349-1610, www.barefootbooks.com.

Harvard Coop

11am, 1400 Mass. Ave. Camb. Preschool story hour with snack and craft, Free, 617-499-2000 or <http://harvardbkstore.com>.

Other Arlington Fun Stuff

Adoptive Family Gym Mixer

Mon, 9:30-11am. Together in Motion, 1 Broadway, Arl. \$5/child. For families with children 0-6.years. Call 781-643-1377. www.togetherinmotion.com

Arlington Boys and Girls Club

Offers many fun, winter classes for children and a **Parent and Child Drop-in Swim** (Dec. 4- March 4) Tuesdays, 10:30- 11:15am, \$4/child, Info: www.abgclub.org

Arlington Center for the Arts

Offers many fun, winter classes for children Info: 781-648-6220 or www.acarts.org.

Arlington Recreation Dept.

Offers many fun, winter classes for children. Info: 781-316-3880 or www.arlingtonma.gov.

Artbeat Weekend Workshops

Saturdays, 3-6pm, 212A Mass. Ave, Arl. Free instruction, pay for materials, Ages 4yrs+
Feb. 2, **Chinese New Year Lanterns**
Feb. 9, **Sweetheart Pillow or Box**
Feb.16(10-6pm)**Paint Your Own Piggy Bank**
Feb. 18-22, **Glass & Ceramic Painting**
Feb.23, **Stained Glass Suncatcher**
Info: 781-646-2200, www.artbeatonline.com.

Capitol Theater Movies for Caregivers with Babies

Mondays. 204 Mass. Ave. Arl. Begin between 1-2pm. New movies chosen weekly. \$5/adult Nursing, bottle feeding, fussing, changing diapers are never frowned upon. Info: 781-648-6022, www.somervilletheatreonline.com.

Family Fun Saturdays

10:30am, Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St. Arl. **Feb. 2**, Margot Fox Family Concert & CD Release Celebration, \$8/adults or \$6 kids & seniors, **Feb. 9**, Hugh Hanley- Sing a Long Concert, **Feb. 23**, Paint Box Theatre presents Jack and the Beanstock, \$10/adult or \$8 kids & seniors, Info: 781-646-4849 or www.regenttheatre.com.

Fidelity House

25 Medford St. Arl. Offers classes for preschoolers that also have a drop-in option **Tot Time**, Fridays, 9:30am or 10:30am, 1 hr. structured activity time designed to develop fine/gross motor and social skills, parent remains w/child, \$5 drop-in fee (space permitting), or \$20 for 5 wks. **No meeting during Feb. vacation week-17th-23rd** Info: 781-648-2005 or www.FidelityHouse.org.

Isis Maternity

Programs & products for expecting & new parents. *AFC member discount-1st month free*, **Drop-in Playgroups:** Non-mobile babies Thurs. 1:45pm, Mobile babies Fri. 3:30 pm, Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Info: www.isismaternity.com.

Music Together

Explore what music sounds like, looks like, and feels like. Call 781-648-4084 or visit www.musictogetherofarlington.com

Parent and Tot Connection

Fridays, 9:30-11am, Arl. Boys & Girls Club, Drop-in playgroup for toddlers and preschoolers with caregiver, Play, crafts, stories, music, Free, Info: www.abgclub.org.

Puddlestompers Playgroup

Wednesdays, 10am-11:30am, local playgrounds (free) or the Fox Library Community Room (\$1), This drop-in playgroup is for toddlers, preschoolers, siblings and their caregivers. Come make friends and have fun! Meeting locations are emailed on Tues. nights. To be added to the group email list contact Sarah at 781-648-3342 or siendo@verizon.net.

Toddlers and Twos

Every Weds. & Fri. 9:30-11am, Gibbs Gym, Foster St. Indoor play program for tots (15-36 months) and parents, structured for the development of gross and fine motor skills, \$45/10 visit pass or \$5 drop-in/child, **No meeting during Feb. vacation week-17th-23rd** Info: 781-316-3880 or www.arlingtonma.gov.

Veteran's Memorial Skating Rink

422 Summer St. \$3/children under 16, \$6/adult Public Skating: **Mon.** 12-1:50pm, **Thurs.** 9-11am, **Fri.** 11-1pm, 2:30-4:30pm, & 7-9pm, **Sat.** 4-5:50pm, **Sun.** 9:30-11:30am, & 2-4pm, Info: 781-316-3880 or www.arlingtonma.gov.

Indoor Playspaces

Bedford Family Connection Playroom

Mon.-Fri. 9:30-11:30am, First Parish Church 75 The Great Rd. Bedford (use Elm St. entrance) Info: contact Amy Pearson at alm.pearson@verizon.net or www.kidsplaybedford.com.

Belmont Kidspace

Payson Park Church (lower level) 365 Belmont St. Belmont, This indoor playspace is a parent run co-op where families with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers can have lots of fun. Hours: **Mon. & Thurs.** 1-5:30pm, **Fri.** 5-8pm, **Sat.** 9am-12, **2nd & 4th Sun.** 2-5, **3rd Sun. of the month** 2-5pm for special children, See website for admission info. www.belmontkidspace.org

LPPTA Drop-In Center

Fridays, 9:30-11:30am, Kennedy Hall in St. Brigid's School at St. Brigid's Church in Lex. (use Worthen Rd. entrance) This indoor playspace is for 0-5yr olds and their parents/caregivers to play, relax, and socialize. \$1/child, **No meeting during Feb. vacation week- 17th-23rd** Info: www.lppta.org

Winchester Recreation Playtime

Thurs. 9:30-11 am, 263 Main St. Winchester, Drop-in, \$5/family, Ages: 9 months-4yrs. Info: 781-721-7125

Winterfun

Weds. Dec. 12, 9:30-11am, Bowman Elementary School Cafeteria (enter front door, turn left) 9 Philip Rd. Lex. This drop-in arts & crafts program for toddlers & preschoolers meets every other Weds. during the school year. \$2/child, **No meeting during Feb. vacation week- 17th-23rd** Contact Jackie Lupone 781-538-5648 or Susan Morin 781-676-2041 or www.lppta.org

Winter Park

Fridays, 1-2:30pm, Waldorf School, 739 Mass. Ave. Lex. (check in at the office for new room location) Drop-in, indoor playspace for toddlers and preschoolers, Requested donation of \$5. or \$10/family, **No meeting during Feb. vacation week- 17th-23rd** Info: 781-863-1062 or www.thewaldorfschool.org

Gymnastics Academy of Boston

Open gym Mon.-Fri. 11:30am-1pm. Drop-in and explore. \$5/members, \$10/non-members Info: 617-441-9700 or www.gymnasticacademy.com.

Together in Motion

1 Broadway, E. Arl. Drop-in play space with 3 areas for: crawlers, open play; organized games. Ages 0-6. Mon-Fri 1:30-5pm; Mon, 11am-12:30pm; Wed, 9:30am-12:30pm; Sat&Sun, 9-11am. \$7/ages 1-6; \$5, 6-12 mos; under 6 mos, free with playing sibling. Fall classes include: **Itsy, Bitsy Yoga, Matial Arts Sampler, Creative Movement, Creative Art Class (2-3yrs. & 3-5yrs.) and Movin' & Groovin'**, Info: 781-643-1377 or www.togetherinmotion.com

TumbleKids Open Gym

38 River St., Winchester- **Thurs. 10:30am-12 & Fri. 12:30-2pm.** (781-721-1144) or 201 Arl. St., Watertown- **Fri. 12:30-2pm,** (617-926-2640) \$10/child. Classes offered for an additional fee. Info: www.tumblekidsusa.com.

Kids Playground

15 Normac Rd., Woburn Indoor playground with playspace, tubes and tunnels, mini golf. Info: 781-935-2300, www.kidsplayground.com.

Perpetual Motion

345 Chelmsford St., Lowell (off Rt. 3) Indoor playground for kids 0-6yrs. **New separate play area for 5yrs+** Info: 978-452-0777 www.perpetualmotioninc.com.

MyGym

1065 Comm. Ave. (behind Shaw's) Boston, New indoor playspace for babies and toddlers. Open gym: Mondays at 4pm and Thursdays at 2:15pm, Info: 617-789-3669

Beyond Arlington

Puppet Showplace Theatre

Sat. & Sun. 1 & 3pm shows, Weds. & Thurs. 10:30am show. 32 Station St., Brookline. Ages 3 and up. Age appropriateness varies per show. \$7.50/members, \$9.50/non-members. Info: 617-731-6400, www.puppetshowplace.org.

Home Depot Kid's Workshop

1st Sat. of the month, 10am-noon, 10 1st Ave., Waltham. Drop-in build-it-yourself project, Ages 2+ with an adult. Call 781-672-0900

Play Academy

25 Riverside Ave. Medford. Offers classes for infants-age 5yrs; Drop-off program. Info: 781-738-PLAY, www.play-academy.com.

Pre-school Movies

Tues. 10:30am. Cary Mem. Library 1874 Mass. Ave., Lex. Drop-in movies for ages 2-6. Free. Info: 781-862-6288, www.caryllibrary.org

Local Attractions

Boston Children's Museum

300 Congress St., Boston. Open daily, 10am-5pm, Fri until 9pm. Hands-on approach to history, science, etc.; toddler PlaySpace. New, expanded space and exhibits, including 3-story climbing structure. Info: www.bostonkids.org.

Children's Discovery Museum

177 Main St., Acton. Open daily, 9am-4:30pm. Victorian house with transformed into 10 hands-on exhibit areas. Ages 6 & under. Check website for special programs. \$8, free under 1. Info: 978-264-4200 or www.discoverymuseums.org.

Concord Museum

200 Lexington Rd, Concord. Open daily, **Winter hours (until March31)** Mon-Sat 11-4pm, Sun 1-4pm, Historical, literary, artistic treasures of the area. Monthly storytime and children's programs, \$8/adults, children under 6 free., Info: 978- 369-9763 or www.concordmuseum.org.

Ecotarium

222 Harrington Way, Worcester. Open Tues-Sat 1am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm. Monthly family preschool programs. Members free, \$8/Non-member adult, \$6/Non-member ages 3-18. Explorer Express Train ride, \$2.50/person. Info: 508-929-2700 or www.ecotarium.org.

Frog Pond, Boston Common

The Frog pond offers concessions, skate rentals, rest rooms, and a warming area. Info: 617-635-2120 or www.bostoncommonfrogpond.org.

Habitat Wildlife Sanctuary

10 Juniper Rd, Belmont. Trails wind through forests, across meadows, around 2 ponds, wetlands. Programs for kids. Members free, \$4/non-memb. adult, \$3/non-memb. child. Info: 617-489-5050 or www.massaudubon.org.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St, Cambridge. Open daily 9am-5pm. Wide array of stuffed animals in the mammal exhibit. 40ft dinosaur replica. \$7.50/adult, \$5/ages 3-18. Free every Sun. 9am-noon. Info: 617-495-3045 or www.hmnh.harvard.edu.

Institute of Contemporary Art

100 Northern Ave., Boston. Open Tues-Sun 10am-5pm, Thurs & Fri until 9pm. Free Family Fun Playdates, last Saturday of every month, 10 am-4 pm. to adults accompanied by child 12 and under. \$12 general admission. Info: 617-478-3234 or www.icaboston.org.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. Family Place, for families with children 4 and up, interactive art activities. Wed-Fri, 3-4:45 pm; Sat-Sun, 11am-4pm.. Info: 617-267-9300 or www.mfa.org.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston. Open daily 9am-7pm, Fri until 9pm. Hands-on Discovery Zone, with children's gallery for those 5 and under. Info: 617-723-2500 or www.mos.org.

National Heritage Museum

33 Marrett Rd., Rt. 2A, Lexington. Open daily 10am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm. Great monthly programs including storytimes with crafts. Free admission. Info: 781-861-6559 or www.monh.org.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf, Boston. Open daily 9am-6pm, Fri-Sun until 7pm. \$17.95/adult, \$9.95/children ages 3-11, free for children under 3. Info: 617-973-5200 or www.neaq.org.

Stone Zoo

149 Pond St. Stoneham. Open daily 10am-4pm, Small zoo, with a petting barnyard, playground and many animal exhibits. \$8/Adult, \$5/Ages 2-12, under 2yrs. free, Info: 781-438-5100 or www.zoonewengland.com.

Take a Walk at Gore Place

52 Gore St., Waltham, Mon-Fri, 9am- 3pm; Sat & Sun. 12-3pm. Visit llama, sheep, goats, chickens, rabbits. Rent an "activity pack" with activities appropriate for children ages 4-9. Backpack rental, \$5. Info: 781-894-2798 or www.goreplace.org.

Seminars and Open Houses

Children and the Internet: Maximizing the Positives, Minimizing the Risk

Parent Education Series at Lesley Ellis School. Feb 7, 7-8:30pm, 41 Foster St., Arl. Free, register by calling 781-641-1346 or email Tricia Moran at tmoran@sfcinc.org. Info: www.lesleyellis.org

Effective Parenting

Groups forming now. Workshop designed for parents of children 0-3yrs. Explore different parenting topics each week. \$140/person, \$180/couple. For info contact Melissa Lucius 781-641-4284, parenting@rcn.com or www.effective-parenting.org.

Lesley Ellis Summer Program

Registration has begun for Young Adventurers (ages 2.5-9). First session begins June 16. Visit www.lesleyellis.org to download the brochure and registration form or call 781-641-5987 for more info.

The Power of Positive Discipline

by Dr. Debbie Weinstock-Savoy
Feb 4, 7-8:30pm at WarmLines, 225 Nevada Street, Newtonville. Learn how to set limits with young children (up to five years). Discuss alternative approaches to discipline, negotiating techniques, and the use of time-

out. WarmLines mem free, \$20 to general public. Register online at www.warmlines.org or call 617-244-INFO.

Benefits

PTO Thrift Shop

Benefits Arlington Public Schools
Basement of the Fox Library,
Hours: Weds. 4-8pm, Thurs. 9:30am- 1pm, 2nd Sat. of the month 12:30—5pm, Gently-used clothing for all ages, toys, books, housewares, and more, Info: 781-483-3433 or www.ptothriftshop.com.

Groups

40-something Mom's Group

Suzan Wolpaw, a licensed therapist with a specialty in women's issues and an older mom herself, has started a new group. This monthly discussion & support group for moms of babies &/or young children meets on Mondays from 9:30-11am in North Cambridge \$25/meeting. Info: 617-441-0758 or www.yourclearvoice@msn.com

Arlington Area Adoption Moms

Contact Rachel Silverman for date and location info. 781-641-2947 or rachelannathome@yahoo.com

Belmont Food Allergy & Asthma Support Group

Parents group meets monthly to discuss and advocate for children living with food allergies and asthma. For info contact Theresa Normile 617-489-6668 or Tnormile@foodallergyfacts.com.

Breastfeeding Drop-in Group

Thurs. 3pm, Isis Maternity,
For nursing moms and babies, Free,
Staffed by certified lactation consultants, Info: www.isismaternity.com.

Grandparents' Support Group

Second Tues. of the month, 12-1:30pm. For grandparents who are primary caretakers of their grandchildren. Free. Info: 781-316-3410.

International Adoptions

Free 8 week support and education group for parents accompanied by their children. Begins Sept 25. Meets Tues 10-11:30am at 1430 Main St, Waltham. Info: 781-693-5677 or eberne@jfcsboston.org.

La Leche League

Dedicated to providing education, information, and support to breastfeeding women . Meetings in the basement of Fox Library on the 3rd Tues. of each month at 7:30pm, or 2nd Thurs. of the month at 10am in Cambridge (175 Harvey St.). Free For info contact Heather 781-648-2988 or <http://home.comcast.net/~jrsladkey/lll/index.html>.

Learn & Play Adoption Group

For parents and adopted children ages 0-5yrs. Facilitated by First Connections. Community Agencies bldg., Emerson Hospital, 111 Old

Rd. to 9-Acre Corner, Concord. Registration required \$30. Info: 978-287-0221 or www.jri.org/cfys/.

New Babies/New Mom's Group

First time mothers bring infants up to 6 months old to meet with other mothers and a leader for support and discussion. Session begins Sept 18. Info: www.warmlines.org.

New Mothers' Drop-in Group

For mothers with children under 1yr. Fri. 10-11:30am. Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass. Ave. Arl. Free, non-sectarian, facilitated group. Sponsored by Jewish Family & Children's Svcs. Info: 617-558-1278.

New Mother's Group

Tues. 11:30am-1pm, Temple Isiah, 55 Lincoln St, Lexington, Sponsored by the Parent Connection of BIDMC. Free 8 week sessions, Registration required. Info: 617-667-2229.

Older First -Time Moms

3rd Weds. of each month , 7pm Fox Library. Social and support group for first-time moms in their late 30's and 40's, Free, Suggested \$1 donation. Info: 781-674-2029.

Postpartum Adjustment Support Group

Fridays 1-2:30 in West Newton, Drop-in, Contact Haven Fyfe-Kiernan, MSW, LICSW to register (617-739-1022) or to discuss private therapy specializing in postpartum adjustment and parenting issues. Sponsored by Jewish Family & Children's Svcs.

Spanish Playgroup

Formed by an Arlington-based group of parents, the age range is 1-8 yrs old. Spanish skill ranges from beginner to bilingual. Most of the families have one parent who speaks some Spanish. For info contact Deb Savage at debsavage@juno.com.

We Are Family

3rd Thurs. of the month, 7-9pm Community Agencies bldg., Emerson Hospital , 111 Old Rd. to 9-Acre Corner, Concord , Support group for parents of older (3yrs.+) internationally adopted children or children previously in DSS custody. Info: 978-287-0221 or www.jri.org/cfys/.

Working Mom's Group

Feb 20, 7:30pm at Arlington Enrichment Collaborative (1100 Mass Ave, Arl, across from Jimmy's). Info: workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Arlington Family Connection
P.O. Box 150
Arlington, MA 02476

February, 2007

AFC Membership/Renewal Form

New member **Renewal** Date: _____

Gift membership from: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address(es): _____

All AFC correspondence (announcements and newsletters) are sent out via email by default.

Please check below if you would rather:

Printed newsletter mailed to me, in addition to email.

Printed newsletter only, not the email version.

I prefer not to receive any email from AFC. (Printed newsletter will be mailed to you.)

Please list your child(ren): (if applicable)

Name Gender Date of Birth (mo/year)

School District: (circle one for geographic location)

Bishop Brackett Dallin Hardy

Peirce Stratton Thompson Out-of-Town

Would you like to be contacted about volunteering?

Yes No

Volunteer Interests

(check all that apply)

Events/Parties New Parent Outreach

Newsletter Outings with Kids Playgroups

Outings without Kids Seminars Web Site

Email Bulletin Childcare & Preschool Options

Publicity Membership Working Moms

Community Service Kindergarten Connections

Treasurer/Clerk Other _____

Membership Fees: All memberships renew in August, 2008, and begin September 1st for a flat \$20/yr.

Sponsor Member (\$25). Enjoy the usual benefits of membership plus make a \$5 donation to help support new AFC programs.

Standard Member. Circle the month you are joining:

\$20 (August/September/October)

\$15 (November/December/January)

\$10 (February/March/April)

\$5 (May/June/July)

Please mail membership form and check to:

Arlington Family Connection

P.O. Box 150

Arlington, MA 02476