



## ABC-Stewart School

Founded 1969

Mission: We seek to educate and prepare each child to make life's journey as an independent responsible citizen of the world.

# MONTESSORI MESSENGER

## ABC-Stewart School History - Part 3

This month's newsletter continues the history of ABC-Stewart School, and gives insight about how the school expanded from pre-school to elementary school. If you are currently making the decision on which elementary school to choose, this month's newsletter will feature the history behind the current elementary school, as well as a feature of ABC-Stewart's first-year program. We'd love to have you continue your child's education with us at ABC-Stewart!

### Expanding into Elementary

Pre School Youngsters Are Taught Advanced Math, Reading And Science



Merry Carmichael, founder of ABC Learning Centre, sits out maps.

four digit numbers, know the 50 states and can identify the planets, stars and constellations

Parents began to beg us to start an elementary school. We had some parents in the school who were willing to help in major ways. So, in 1977 we finally found a building for our school. It was the officers club which was a compilation of 4 barrix buildings complete with a fireplace. The fire marshal grandfathered us into the building as it had previously been a truck driving school. She said, "it was a 'school', you are in."

People such as Art and Bobbi Kroot helped with the financing. Dr. Michael Free made the shelves, most of which are still in use. Interior designer Mona Wirth laid color coded carpet squares for wall to wall carpeting throughout the building. This began our subject color scheme. Contractor Gary Wirth painted the outside of the building.

Tom Carmichael along with several high school cedar workers, installed fire resistant walls around the furnaces, child sized rest rooms, painted the entire interior with parent help and rebuilt some walls. They also installed several new windows. We purchased thousands of dollars of materials. My older children mimeographed, cut and colored to help prepare learning materials. We now had formed a board, an Executive Committee and an Advisory Group. Dr. Ed Probst was our first board president.



## ABC-Stewart School History Part 3 - Continued



Suzie Carmichael banishes the bugaboo of English grammar with a new gr

The elementary school opened with 55 students in grade levels 1 through 6, many of whom had previously attended the pre-school. We hired three new elementary teachers that summer and all was good. The school was truly non-graded as we had three, four large rooms for the elementary school and children could freely travel from learning area to learning area. We called ourselves, ABC Alternative School. Then when my Mom passed away, the board decided to name the elementary school Stewart School after my Mom. Later it became ABC-Stewart School.

I asked parent Linda Becker, a classroom volunteer, if she would organize the spring picnic. She did such a terrific job that I asked her to be our Administrator. She and her daughter Kathryn then worked here for 40 and 30 years.

John Johnson, recent coach Kevin Johnson's Dad, started our first basketball team. The children ran across the field at lunch time to practice. We held our programs in the IUPUC auditorium and also held movie night fund raisers there. We started trips. Our older students started paging at the state house the in 1977. That year we also started taking the children to a three or four day science opportunity at a summer camp each year, finally settling on camp Bradford Woods. We took our students to Washington DC for the first time in 1984, then added the Space Camp trip.



## Welcome to First Year!



Miss Tonnie Lane

Our first year classroom provides a compassionate, thoughtful, and unique environment during the tender years a child transitions from kindergarten to elementary. The self contained classroom is taught by team teachers for the last 22 years: Miss Lynn, an Indiana University graduate, and Miss Lane, a University of Southern Indiana graduate. Both of whom have completed graduate courses at Butler University. The first year teachers do a wonderful job welcoming the students lovingly into their classroom and guiding them through personalized growth.



Miss Lori Lynn

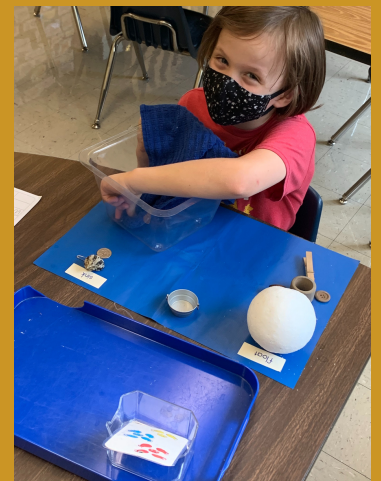
# Welcome to First Year- Continued



The individualized environment has been prepared with a diverse set of Montessori based materials. Each child is assessed weekly and given work based on their needs and abilities. Weekly homework assignments include a math packet, a reading book with writing activities, and spelling words. Two book reports are given during the year.

The structured day starts out with group exposure to new concepts in the morning followed by Independent Study in the afternoon.

During Independent study, students choose works between science, math, reading, and culture based on their ability level to appropriately challenge them. The teachers are facilitators during this time observing and aiding children when needed. They also record each students' growth on a log sheet. The students take responsibility from their learning and achievements by plotting their weekly achievements on a graph.



A child's experience in the first-year room is a special one. The teachers do an outstanding job preparing children for the rest of their educational path at Stewart. Students are given the tools to become confident, independent, and enthusiastic learners while building the foundation for their future academic endeavors.

We know it's the time of year where you make decisions on where to send your child for the upcoming school year. If you would like additional information on ABC-Stewart elementary, please reach out to the school office. You will not be disappointed!



# Alumni Spotlight

## Josh DeArmitt



I began my education at ABC Stewart starting in pre-school when the school was located on Grissom Street in one of the buildings at the old Bakalar Air Base. I have vivid memories of my time there from pre-school through 1st Grade and can still remember exactly how the building was laid out.

The school moved from Bakalar to the old Kent School, where it is still located, when I was in 2nd Grade, and I stayed at ABC Stewart through 5th Grade. When we moved to the new building, we couldn't believe how much room there was and that we had our own gym! Attending ABC Stewart was a family affair for me, as my brother Mike, who is four years older, also attended school there, and my mom taught there. Needless to say, I spent a LOT of time there before school, after school, and in the summers.

Some of my fondest memories at ABC Stewart include the snow sculptures, a haunted house in one of the storage rooms off the gym, getting bottles of Coke out of the machine in Mrs. Carmichael's office, portraying Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer (complete with light-up red nose) in the holiday program, representing the school in the Bartholomew County and Indiana Spelling Bees, playing on the basketball team, and attending the Valentine's Day Tea, which I see still lives on!

Academically, ABC Stewart gave me a love for learning, which I am grateful I still have. One of my favorite times during the school day was independent study time because I could choose which subjects I wanted to pursue on a given day. I also liked that ABC Stewart introduced me to diversity at a very young age—everyone was treated the same there.

I graduated from Columbus North High School in 1994 and from Franklin College in 1998. Nowadays I am a financial advisor and have my own business, DeArmitt Financial Group, in Franklin, where my family and I reside. Many of the life lessons I learned at a young age at ABC Stewart are still with me today.



**This picture is the 1986 basketball team. Josh is in the 3rd row, second from the left. Check out Mr. Powell on the top row, right side.**

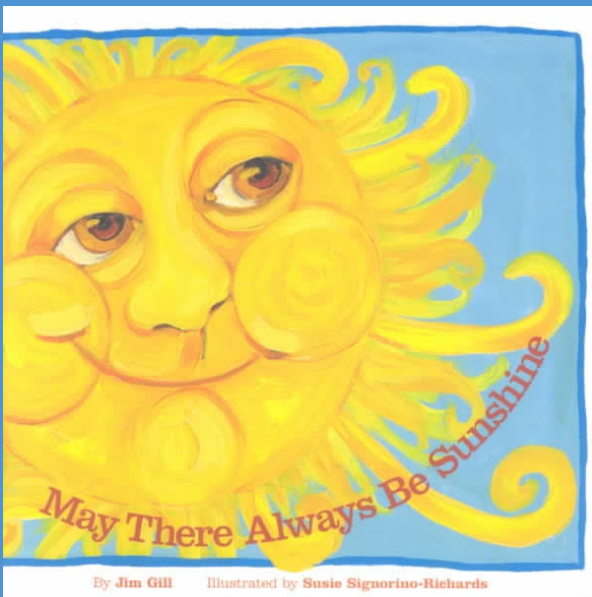
# Teacher Feature: Susie Signorino

## "May There Always Be Sunshine" Illustrator

Miss Signorino has been educating young minds at ABC Stewart School since 2004. She started in the Two's program when her daughter, Georgia, now 18, was just two years old. She taught in the Two's class for eight years before moving over to the ABC classroom. Miss Signorino is currently the art teacher in ABC. She earned a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, specializing in painting and drawing, from the School of the Art Institute in Chicago. Miss Signorino is a talented, inspirational, and caring teacher. This truly shines through when you observe her in the classroom with her students. The children love to spend time in her room creating, sculpting, and exploring their senses through art education.



Before moving to Columbus, Miss Signorino was living in Chicago. She was presented the opportunity to help illustrate a children's book, "May There Always Be Sunshine". Recently the book has surfaced back into the spotlight when the Chicago Symphony Orchestra musicals featured it in a performance as a part of its CSO for Kids video series. The project encourages children to imagine and express their own wishes, following the example of wishes collected from children nationwide. Miss Signorino was happy to hear the news of her illustrations coming back to life. "It's so exciting and so unexpected, because the book was done a long time ago," she said. "I've not illustrated another kids' book, or any book for that matter."



"May There Always Be Sunshine" has been re-printed. If you would like a copy for your family, you may order one through Miss Signorino. Copies are \$16 each. The deadline for ordering is April 2nd. An email was sent home earlier in the month with an order form. You may fill that out and return it to the drop box right outside of the ABC/Splendid door.

If you would like to watch The Chicago Symphony Orchestra's performance of "May There Always Be Sunshine", it can be viewed for free at <https://cso.org/tv>, or on the CSO's Facebook and YouTube pages. Enjoy!

# Recipe Corner

## Freezer Bean Burritos

Recipe adapted from [livesimply.me](http://livesimply.me)



As the weather warms and our schedules become busier, it is nice to have a healthy lunch prepared and waiting in the freezer. Using different add-ons makes each one slightly different, so kids do not get tired of the same thing.

### Ingredients:

#### Pinto Beans:

- 2 cups dry pinto beans
- 5-6 cups water
- 2 bay leaves
- 3 garlic cloves
- 1 pinch of salt

#### Burritos:

- 3 cups cooked pinto beans
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- 12 tortillas
- 1-2 cups shredded cheese
- Optional Add-ons: Leftover steamed/ roasted vegetables, frozen vegetables (corn, peas, etc), cooked quinoa/ brown rice

### Instructions:

1. Soak beans overnight in plain water. Drain beans. In large pot, add beans, water, bay leaves, garlic, and salt. Bring to a boil. Reduce and simmer until soft about 1-2 hours.
2. Drain beans saving ½ cup water and return to large pot. Use immersion blender to puree beans adding reserved water as needed. Mix in cumin, chili powder, salt, and garlic powder.
3. Assemble burritos: Add cheese, additional add-ins, and 2 TBS bean filling to each burritos. Roll burritos. Wrap individually in wax paper taping ends down. Wrap in aluminum foil. Freeze.
4. Pack frozen burrito directly into with lunch with instruction to remove both wrappers and microwave for 1 minute.

# Music Club



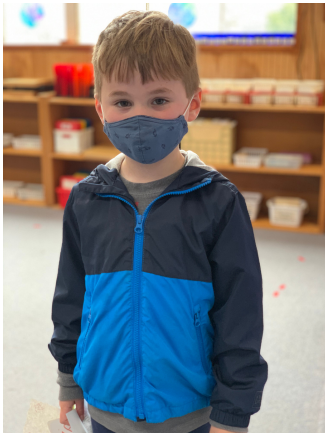
Music Club facilitated by Cheryl Byers provides a fun opportunity for students to dive deeper into the creative collaboration that is music. During club sessions, students sing songs, play instruments, make rhythm, take turns leading, write lyrics, learn to build songs, and more. Making music together is a powerful way for students to connect and learn about themselves in the process. Learning, connecting, and bring joy through music is the beautiful product of this exciting club.



# Kids Corner

The sun is shining and our ABC-Stewart family kicked off the spring season with Spring Break from March 8 - March 19th. Students were asked:

"What was your favorite part of Spring Break?"



"Going to Disney World on my birthday!" - Josiah (Children's Garden)

"Going on an airplane and playing my ipad on the airplane." - Liam (Horizons)



"My favorite part was water hiking. We wore suits that protected us from water getting in, but if you went deep you puffed up into a ball like a puffer fish." - Raghav (2nd year)

"We played outside with our dog Jelly Bean and we went fishing." - Kiera (ABC)



"My favorite part was Niagara Falls. It was deep. When I threw a stick, it just went away!" - Dario (1st year)



"We went to Florida and I liked bodyboarding." Pauline (4th year)



"Playing outside with my new puppy." - Shiloh (3rd year)

"Going to Defy Indy. It's a trampoline park." - Warren (5th year)

# School Clubs & Upcoming Events

## School Clubs:

### **Elementary:**

Drama Club: Wednesday 4:15 - 5:15 pm.

Art Club: (1-3rd grade) Tuesday 4:15- 5:00 pm

Math Bowl: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 3:30- 5 pm

Music Club: Tuesdays 3:30- 4:15pm



### **Preschool:**

Art Club: (Preschool) Wednesday or Thursday 3:30-5 starting 4/7

## School Events

April 2nd - Good Friday - no school, splendid, extended

April - Parent Teacher Conferences - watch your email for more details

May 14th - Walk-a-thon - more details to come

## Important Updates

-School program is cancelled this year

-Annual end of year picnic is pending as the school monitors CDC guidelines

-Application fee for next year is reduced until April 10th. Be sure to get your application in for the 2021-22 school year!

# Happy Spring!



**Newsletter Editors:**

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