



Winter/Spring 2012

A newsletter from **The Learning House** thelearninghouse.org
Northern Colorado's only Science and Math Early Childhood School

January openings for 3s

Spots are available in our preschool program for 3 year olds beginning in the January session! All 3's welcome. Call the school or visit our website for enrollment paperwork or to schedule a visit.

Enrollment for 2012-2013

Pre-registration

for families currently attending our school
January 28th 9am - 11

Open Enrollment

for families new to The Learning House
February 2nd 8:30am

Enrollment packets are available January 17, 2012 at the school or on our website. Registration continues until all spots are filled. Schedule a visit to see our classrooms in action and meet our staff!



The 1000 Give 100™ fundraising Campaign is underway. Thanks to all the families and businesses who have already contributed!!

Please donate today. We need your help to repair our building and fund important projects. Check with your employer for donation matching opportunities.

Donations may be made on our website using PayPal or by mailing a check.

As another part of our fundraising efforts, our school collects printer cartridges, cell phones, and GPS devices for recycling, Morning Fresh Dairy milk caps, GM boxtops, and Campbell's Soup Labels. These fundraising programs really add up! Please drop your contributions off at school or organize a collection for us.

Happy Birthday to Us!

On February 4th, 2002, The Learning House opened its doors on a snowy, cold day. Over the last 10 years, hundreds of children and families have come to our school to learn, laugh, and flourish.

Thanks to ALL of you who have been a part of our first 10 years!! We are grateful to know each and every one of you and your children.

You're Invited to our Birthday Party!

Saturday February 4th, 2012 1-3 pm
at The Learning House
3533 Riva Ridge Drive



1:30 -- Music with Ernie 2:00 -- Cake Cutting 2:30 -- Story time

Thanks to **Once Again Thrift** for sponsoring a child in our Kindergarten!



970-484-6628

2108 S. College Ave.

Supporting Area Youth (Donations Appreciated)

Bring in this card for 20% off of your next purchase.



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My View from the classroom by Ernie Batson, M.A.

On February 4 The Learning House will be celebrating its 10th birthday and I thought I'd take time to reflect on where we've been and where we want to be in the next 10 years. We opened our doors with a belief that young children needed to do Science and Math so they can learn about their world while practicing thinking and problem solving skills. We had our work cut out for us because our school was extremely unique in that we didn't provide any type of childcare; simply a school for young children. Now, 10 years later the message is getting out and The Learning House continues to get stronger.

Our school actually started 16 years ago when Mary and I left the public schools and began teaching Science classes for 3-8 years old and playgroups for 2 year olds through the Parks and Recreation Divisions of Fort Collins, Loveland, and Berthoud. At that time we were the only ones doing Science with such young children and it turns out we were on the right path. Eventually, the downsizing of city programs forced us to move on to bigger and better things and The Learning House was born. Now, we're sitting on the threshold of celebrating 10 years of successes; and there are so many!

Since opening our doors, more than 1,000 children and adults have walked through our doors and into our classrooms. We have provided advocacy for many families of children with special needs so Mom and Dad will better understand their rights and help their child learn side-by-side in a classroom of their peers. We purchased our building and added a Kindergarten room to our school. And, we have received over \$170,000 in grants and \$100,000 in cash and in-kind donations. While we are very proud of these accomplishments, we are even more proud of the successes and memories we've had with children and adults at our school ; and there are many!

For example, there was a 2 year old who looked around the corner of the playroom door and asked, "Is there a Starbucks out there?" Or the 3 year old who, after being told she needed to shake our hands and say "Good Morning! I'm glad you're here.", responded with "I'm too young to say that!" We wish you folks could be flies on the wall during a class so you too can hear and see all the wonderful things children do when given the opportunity.

In the next 10 years we have two more goals to reach. First, we see The Learning House as a research center that focuses on how young children learn and the role that Science and Math play in this process. We want to be the place that CNN and others come to when they have questions about early childhood education. To get there we need to conduct research studies proving that a combination of our curriculum, teaching methods, and

fully inclusive classrooms is exactly what young children need to be successful learners. This we will do!

Our second goal is to raise \$6 million to build a new school. The new school will combine all our existing programs with First and Second Grade so we can cover the entire early childhood range, which is birth to age 8. In addition to being a school for children, we will be a "teaching" school for early childhood professionals and educators. We'll use a hands-on approach that mixes learning about theory and practice with working with children as an equal partner during the Science experiments. From this we believe professionals will gain a greater understanding of how children learn and see the value of a solid Science and Math education. For every teacher we teach many more children will use Science and Math to explore and learn how to use thinking and problem solving skills.

We have much to do to achieve these goals and we believe, just like we did 10 years ago, that this is all possible. We have grants to write, fundraisers to coordinate, and thousands more children to educate. To make this all happen, we will need your continued support, encouraging words, volunteering, and financial backing through tuition and donations. We rely on grants and donations to keep our programs affordable and, unfortunately, the granting sources are becoming fewer and fewer. We ask that you include The Learning House in your giving plans for the coming years so we can keep the school looking great and tuition affordable so children from all walks of life can get a great early childhood education.

Finally, to celebrate all our successes we're going to have a birthday party "Ernie and Mary style"! On February 4 from 1-3 PM at the school we will have a birthday cake, music with Ernie, and a story or two; nothing fancy and yet a whole lot of fun. Please mark your calendars and join us for a wonderful celebration. Please invite the families of graduates who no longer get our newsletter about the party so we can connect and share a hug or two, laughs and many great memories. This is the time to honor our past and make plans for the future. We want you folks to be a part of this and hope to see you all there! From the bottom of our hearts we say

THANK YOU!



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GSI generously donates dumpster and recycling to our school, as well as trash and potty service at the carnival. THANKS!

Playgroups

Winter/Spring 2012

Fun for 1s Playgroups

For children 12-24 months. Adults stay and play.

Session 1 Jan. 20-March 9, 9-10 AM class code OPW12-11 \$40

Session 2 March 23-May11, 9-10 AM class code OPW12-21 \$35
(no playgroup 4/20)

We offer Science and Math based Preschool through Kindergarten programs for children ages 3 years and up. Please visit our website for enrollment information.

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy as to Students

The Learning House Foundation for Early Childhood Development school admits students of any ability, race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of ability, race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship, and school administered programs.

Time for 2s Playgroups

For children 24-36 months. Adults stay and play.

Session 1 M/W 1/23, 1/25, 1/30, 2/1, 9-10 am
class code TTW12-11, \$25

T/TH 1/24, 1/26, 1/31 2/2, 9-10 am
class code TTW12-12, \$25

Session 2 M/W 2/27, 2/29, 3/5, 3/7, 9-10 am
class code TTF12-21, \$25

T/TH 2/28, 3/1, 3/6, 3/8, 9-10 am
class code TTW12-22, \$25

Session 3 M/W 3/26, 3/28, 4/2, 4/4, 9-10 am
class code TTW12-31, \$25

T/TH 3/27, 3/29, 4/3, 4/5, 9-10 am
class code TTW12-32, \$25

Session 4 M/W 4/16, 4/18, 4/23, 4/25, 9-10 am
class code TTW12-41, \$25

T/TH 4/17, 4/19, 4/24, 4/26, 9-10 am
class code TTW12-42, \$25

Session 5 M/W 5/7, 5/9, 5/14, 5/16, 9-10 am
class code TTW12-51, \$25

T/TH 5/8, 5/10, 5/15, 5/17, 9-10 am
class code TTW12-52, \$25



Enrichment Registration Form

Adult's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (cell) _____

The Learning House

3533 Riva Ridge Drive
Fort Collins, CO 80526

phone:

970.266.0844

website:

thelearninghouse.org

email:

learninghouse@frii.com

Mail in registration may be paid by check or credit card.

A \$3 fee will be added to all credit card payments.

Participant's Name	Class Name	Class Code	Tuition
Credit card payments (please write clearly):			Credit card add \$3
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>			Tuition Total

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code (from back of card): _____

Signature: _____

- Please put me on the wait list if classes are full.
- Please send a refund if classes are full.

**Thanks to our sponsors and contributors
who helped make our 2011 carnival a great success!**



Big Grins Ruth & Wayne Griffith Dr. Connie Griffith

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Avogadro's Number | Beavers Market | Bounce |
| Buttercream Cupcakery | Chocolate Café | Clothes Pony |
| Coopersmiths | Denver Zoo | Gelazzi |
| GK Gymnastics | Great Harvest Bread | Ingredient |
| Gulley Greenhouse | Hu Hot | Kids Town |
| Kilwin's | King Soopers | Melting Pot |
| Loveland Heights Cottages | Once Upon a Party | Pringles |
| Paragon Martial Arts | Sunflower Market | Sri Thai |
| Top To Bottom Cleaning | Dola Sawyer | Safeway |
| Tortilla Marissas | Walrus Ice cream | Nicole Harry |
| Randy Pfeuffer | CSU bookstore | Target |
| Pump It Up | 2BeadorKnot.com | Julie Brocious |



Special **Thanks** to the school's Board of Directors who put the event together!
See you next year!

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

a hands on Science activity from Ernie and Mary

You will need: 2 empty pop cans, a ruler, string, scissors, 2 chairs, and a yardstick

Cut two pieces of string that are 12 inches (or 30 cm) and tie one end of the string to the tab on the pop can. Do this on the other pop can.

Tie the other end of the strings to the ruler or yardstick. The cans need to be about 3 inches apart.

Place the chairs back to back and far enough apart to support the yardstick (or ruler). The pop cans should be hanging freely.

Kneel down so the cans are about 3 inches from your face and blow air between them.

What's happening? The cans were pushed together! Daniel Bernoulli learned long ago that fast moving air has lower pressure than air moving slowly or not at all. The air between the cans was moving faster and had lower air pressure (weaker) than the air around the outside of the cans. The higher pressure (stronger) around the outside pushed the cans together.

Use styrofoam balls, balloons, or apples instead of cans.

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www.thelearninghouse.org

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The Learning House

