



# WATERTOWN FAMILY NETWORK



Helping people be the best parents they can be

WINTER 2006

## Early Childhood Information Fair Helps Parents with their Search for Childcare Solutions

Within Watertown alone, there are more than a dozen center-based early childhood programs and multiple family-based programs for children of preschool age and under. Finding the right child-care/preschool solution is a very personal decision. It can also be very time consuming and stressful. That is why the Watertown Early Childhood Services Council, comprised of Community Partnerships for Children, EvenStart, Parent Child Home Program, Watertown Public Schools and the Watertown Family Network, will host the annual Early Childhood Information Fair on Saturday, March 24th from 9:30 to 11:30 AM at the Watertown Middle School, 68 Waverly Ave.

Faculty and staff from more than a dozen preschools and childcare centers in Watertown, Belmont and Waltham, along with early intervention agencies, the Watertown Free Public Library, WIC, Watertown Recreation Department and other organizations catering to young children, will staff booths aimed at informing parents of the services and options they have available to them. The Fair creates the perfect low-key atmosphere where parents can stroll around gathering information on the many, but sometimes hidden, educational and recreational opportunities for preschool children in Watertown and the surrounding communities. There will be face painting, crafts and planting activities to keep the youngsters busy during the Fair, and at 11:30 there will be a concert by well-known children's entertainers, Ben Rudnick and Friends.

The best thing that we can do for parents who are for the first time making a decision on their children's education, is to provide them with general information on existing preschools and daycares, and to make them aware of the questions that they should ask when they visit these facilities. The Early Childhood Information Fair gives parents a head start in their search for the right early education and care for their children.



## Network Loses A Staunch Supporter

Fred Pugliese, Town Council Member and member of the Watertown Family Network, unexpectedly passed away at a young age. Fred was a loyal supporter of the family activities sponsored by the Watertown Family Network and an advocate of the support that is offered to young families through the Network. Fred's son, Fredrick, attended many WFN playgroups and events, so he knew firsthand how this feeling of warm support translates into a strong sense of community. Fred's passing represents a great loss to the town, to the Watertown Family Network, and to us personally. We will be working with his family to think of a fitting permanent tribute to Fred Pugliese here at the Network. He will be missed.

## March Brings Read Across America and Many Dr. Seuss Events

March 2<sup>nd</sup> is Dr. Seuss' birthday. We celebrate this great author's life by promoting reading to your children. At Watertown Family Network we have

several events planned for tiny tots and their parents/caregivers. On Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, WFN and the Library will be hosting a "Green Eggs and Ham" breakfast at Old Country Buffet at 9:30 am. Come and have breakfast, see the "Cat in the Hat" and hear a story. On Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be working with Ms. Cole's Third Grade Class and Brigham House to offer a "Cat in the Hat" morning at 11:00 at Brigham House, 341 Mt. Auburn Street. This event will be for the Preschool Playgroup and any child who is 2 1/2 or older. There will be face painting, crafts, music and stories. What fun!!! If your child is 2 1/2 or older, do plan on stopping by.

### Saturday Programming

Due to the generosity of the Weil Foundation we will be offering Saturday morning themed programs on February 24<sup>th</sup> ("Head to Toe"), March 10<sup>th</sup> ("All About Animals" with a special visit from the 4H Club) and March 31<sup>st</sup> ("Busy Builders"), from 9:30 -11:00. These mornings include stories, games, activities and crafts. So when the weather is less than appealing, consider spending the morning at the Network.

### WFN Receives a \$500.00 Grant from Watertown Cultural Council

Watertown Family Network received a grant from the Cultural Council to support Tiny Tot Tune Time on Fridays during the summer. We appreciate this support as it lets us continue to offer music to young families during the long hot summer months. Thank you Cultural Council for this cool treat!

### Twins Playgroup is Back!

Thanks to the generosity of the Shusmanian and Weil Foundations, Watertown Family Network and Thom Charles River Early Intervention will once again be offering a playgroup for parents of multiples. This group is a wonderful support network

for parents who are dealing with two or more children of the same age. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, give the Network a call at 617-926-1661.

### Special Thanks

Cheryl and Arlene would like to thank everyone who remembered the Watertown Family Network over the holiday period. We appreciated your kindness and generosity. Your holiday cards brightened the Network. We loved all the photos of the children. We wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Special thanks to Kristen Sopko who was instrumental in getting a computer donated to us to ease checking out books from the Parent Resource Library. Kristen has entered all of the books into a program on the computer. It is now much easier to find a book on a topic of your choice and check it out. So, next time you are at the Network, come and see how easy it is to borrow a book thanks to Kristen's effort.

Thanks also to all of those families who voted for Watertown Family Network in the Customer Choice Awards of the Watertown Savings Bank. We will be receiving a check for \$1,100 and will be using this money to bring you workshops and children's programming.

