



WATERTOWN FAMILY NETWORK

Helping people be the best parents they can be



FALL 2006

Watertown Family Network Partners with Target for Sponsorship of Reading Readiness through Music Series

The Watertown Family Network today announced a partnership with Target for sponsorship of its "Reading Readiness through Music Series for Young Children".

This series will offer families with very young children a free musical presentation every Friday at 9:30 am at the Family Network Center, 460 Main Street, Watertown.

Music and early literacy go hand in hand. Many studies have shown that children who are exposed to music at a young age perform more effectively on reading tests than those who are not. This series will be ongoing and therefore will expose children to a variety of musical experiences and performers.

"Because of Target's generosity, we will be able to spread the joy of music to ALL local families. These families, regardless of income, will be able to introduce their children to music and all that it offers through live performances on a regular basis", remarked Watertown Family Coordinator, Arlene Smith. "These performances not only offer a hands on musical experience to children, but also connect families to each other and to the whole community of Watertown", Smith continued.

This sponsorship is part of the ongoing support Target provides to local communities throughout the country. Every week Target gives more than \$2 million to strengthen families and communities across the nation, with a focus on education, the arts,

social services and other vital community partnerships.

"At Target, we are making a real difference every day through our sponsorship program," said Laysha Ward, vice president, community relations, Target. "We're proud to partner with the Watertown Family Network as part of our ongoing commitment to give back to the communities where our guests and team members live and work."

Mayrig and Me: Armenian Toddler Music & Movement Program Launched at St. Stephen's Armenian Preschool

On Wednesday, October 18th, 26 Armenian toddlers and their Mothers strolled into St. Stephen's Armenian Preschool in Watertown, Massachusetts for the inaugural "Mayrig & Me" program. This is the first ever Armenian Toddler Music & Movement program of its kind. The program is being sponsored by St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School and the Watertown Family Network. The Watertown Family Network is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, which is run through the Watertown Public Schools.

Each Wednesday morning, the children enjoy a special Armenian program which helps them develop their listening and Armenian language skills, as well as, their creativity and physical coordination through an engaging musical experience. Adults enjoy the companionship, support and joy of interacting with their child in a relaxed atmosphere.

Mayrig & Me instructor Maro Arakelian presents Armenian songs, instrumental music, puppets, instruments and movement materials for the children to enjoy during the 40 minute program. Maro interacts with each child involving them and engaging them with the music, playing instruments with them, while the children also interact with their mothers. During the second class all the students brought in their favorite animal or doll to share their musical experience with.

The St. Stephen's Armenian Preschool is fortunate to have Mrs. Arakelian once a week for Music & Movement with our preschool students, in addition to their bi-weekly Music class.

The Fall program currently offers two classes, 9:30am & 10:30am. Currently both classes are full for the Fall session. Registration for the Winter program will begin in late November. If you are interested in the Mayrig & Me program, please call Assistant Principal, Heather Krafian at 617 932-1965 to register.

WFN Major Fundraiser Is a Success !

Saturday morning November 4th offered local families an opportunity to come together and enjoy a great musical concert by Parent Award Winner, Fran Friedman as well as raise money for the Watertown Family Network. Fundraising is crucial to the Network's survival. Through the profits raised from this concert, a Silent Auction, bake sale and caricatures of the children, the Network was able to raise over twenty-five hundred dollars. Many thanks to all who participated. We are grateful for your interest and enthusiasm.

Please Consider Watertown Family Network in the upcoming Customer Choice Awards of the Watertown Savings Bank

Once again the Watertown Savings Bank will be distributing money to local non-profits through their Customer Choice Awards. If you have a Watertown

Savings Bank's account you can cast a vote for your favorite non-profit. Ballots are provided at all branches and come with your monthly statement. The non-profits with the most votes get the most money. We would appreciate your vote. Watertown Family Network relies very heavily on fundraising to provide programming and to pay for utilities and rent. Please consider a vote for the Watertown Family Network. Thanks so much !

December brings Holiday Celebrations

We like to celebrate the winter season with events that reflect the warmth of friendship and family. We will begin our celebrations with the Winter Funfest which will be held at the Greek Church on December 1st Stop by for children's crafts, music and refreshments. On December 5th and 6th we will be decorating cookies with the Seniors of the community. On the 5th we will be at Woodland Towers - 55 Waverly Ave and on the 6th we will be at the Brigham House, 341 Mt. Auburn Street. Come by and frost a tasty treat and perhaps share a recipe or two. On December 12th we are invited to The Tea Leaf on 487 Moody Street Waltham for a Holiday Tea. The cost is \$8.95 per child payable to The Tea Leaf. Perhaps this will be a new holiday tradition for your family. Again this year we will offer Holiday Photos at the Network on Saturday, December 9th. Be sure to call the Network to reserve your spot for any or all of these upcoming events.