

# BKS' Monthly Newsletter

# Lesson Plans



August 2021

Dear friends,

Our STEAM Summer Camp is in full swing at BKS. We are being intentional in our incorporation of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) into our overall curriculum, but summer gives us the opportunity to dive head first into exploration.

As August comes to a close, we are actively preparing for the start of a new school year. That preparation is rooted in our three strategic priorities: 1) High Quality Outcomes for all children; 2) Foster strong relationships with parents and our community; and, 3) Cultivating an adult culture of learning and inquiry. Specifically #3 as our staff are entering a week of professional development designed to encourage our staff to continue to learn and explore and challenge themselves professionally.

We can really only be a learning-centered organization if everyone is passionate about learning for themselves. BKS is proud to be a learning-centered organization that prepares all students for kindergarten and beyond; that engages and supports families; and, a culture where the norm is to learn allowing BKS to continue to adapt and grow and meet the needs of our students.

I continue to be grateful for your commitment to BKS and our work.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melisha Jackman".

Melisha Jackman  
Executive Director

"Children are not things to be moulded, but people to be unfolded."

- Jess Lair



### STEAM Summer Camp is here!

BKS utilizes a creative curriculum that has been infused with Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). Our summer school programming is focused on STEAM learning. One example of this is the integration of reading into hands on experiences. Our teaching staff read a book about volcanoes to our students, which inspired the students to want to delve further into understanding volcanoes. Our teachers in classroom 3 at the Edwards L. Cleaveland Children's Center wanted to share these photos of the volcanos their class made.

Below: Photos from Cleaveland Children's Center classroom 3.



BROOKLYN  
KINDERGARTEN  
SOCIETY  
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
SINCE 1891

*101st Annual*  
***Yuletide Ball***

**SAVE THE DATE**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021



Yuletide Ball Chairs; Carter Hamontree, Shwetha Ringel, and Barbara Wilding

Are you interested in hosting a dinner this year?  
Sponsoring the Yuletide Ball?  
Volunteering?

We are hosting a reception at Barbara Wilding's home on the evening of Monday, Sept. 20th for potential supporters and volunteers. For more information, please contact Joann Griffin at [jgriffin@bksny.org](mailto:jgriffin@bksny.org).

[Click here for more information about the Yuletide Ball.](#)

---

**Thank you to the New York City Council for funding BKS' Sensory Gym!**



BKS' Sensory Gym at our Weeksville Gardens Children's Center!  
The first of its kind in NYCHA Housing.

The Brooklyn Kindergarten Society is pleased to announce a new discretionary grant from the New York City Council to fund the operation of our Sensory Gym. The Sensory Gym was constructed at our Weeksville Gardens Children's Center in 2019 with funding from the Altman Foundation. Support from the City Council will allow BKS to realize the full potential of our Sensory Gym.

BKS would like to extend a special thanks to New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson for his leadership in supporting innovative programs like the Sensory Gym that help children with developmental delays have access to life changing occupational therapy. Thank you to our local Council members, Robert Cornegy, Alicka Ampry-Samuels, and Laurie Cumbo for championing this program.

The Sensory Gym will support the full emotional and social development of our students, including the assessment of developmental delays, including autism spectrum disorders, as well as the occupational and physical therapy needs of our students. This is the first facility of its kind in NYCHA housing, and will serve BKS' 400 students. The Sensory Gym will help our students with developmental delays that would otherwise end up with Individualized Education Plans to catch up and stay in the mainstream.



**POWERING UP  
WITH POWER OF TWO**

Learn More

**Early Childhood Education During the  
Pandemic and Beyond**

**LIVE Q&A  
WITH:**



**Erasma Beras-Monticciolo**  
Power of Two

**Melisha Jackman**  
Brooklyn Kindergarten Society

POWER OF TWO

Swipe left to reveal comments and reactions

Click on the image above to watch our Executive Director, Melisha Jackman's conversation with Power of Two Executive Director Erasma Beras-Monticciolo as they discuss the unique challenges and opportunities that the pandemic has provided the early childhood education community. [You can also click here to watch the conversation.](#)



**This month in BKS History.....**

Below is a photo of the class of 1901 at the BKS Kindergarten that was sponsored and supported by donors from the Women's Club of Brooklyn. The Women's Club Kindergarten was BKS' first kindergarten and was founded in 1891, 130 years ago.



**SUPPORT BKS TODAY!** |

---

# Support Brooklyn Kindergarten Society.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile

If you are an Amazon shopper, your every click and purchase could generate revenue for BKS. You can shop through AmazonSmile, and Amazon will give 0.5% of the cost to BKS. Your online shopping can now help our students learn and thrive. Make Brooklyn Kindergarten Society your preferred charity. For more information, click [here](#).

