



BOCA GRANDE PRESCHOOL

EARLY EDUCATION FOR ISLAND KIDS

News from our Board of Directors

All Fired Up Nov. 7

The BG Firehouse is party-central on Nov. 7 at 6 pm when our Firemen host a cook-out buffet, cocktails and dancing under the stars. It's one of the items from our March 2019 Auction and it's not too late to join in! For info, contact Angela Steffan aksteffan@gmail.com

Homecoming

On Sunday, Nov. 10 from 3 to 5 pm, join us for a Fall Open House at the Boca Grande Preschool. The whole community is invited to come enjoy apple cider and donuts, and tours of the school. "Alumnae" from The Island School and Lemon Bay HS are encouraged to enjoy a nostalgic return to their alma mater. Hope to see you there!

View the Video!

The 3 1/2 minute BG Preschool short film which premiered at our March fundraiser is a MUST SEE! To watch it again, or for the first time, visit youtube.com and search "Boca Grande Preschool." It's a guaranteed jolt of joy.



2019: A New Beginning

The best early education programs are a catalyst for brain development, social engagement, and finding joy in discovery... traits that lay the foundation for lifelong learning. That important work has been quietly underway for over 30 years at the Boca Grande Child Care Center. This is the year we decided to call it live into our true identity as a place of LEARNING. And so, our Board launched a multi-faceted initiative in March unveiling our new colorful logo and name: **Boca Grande Preschool**.

Since then, we have been hard at work with a re-energized commitment to our Island's littlest learners. Over the summer, we conducted a needs inventory for the school building (such as a new, more secure entry), classrooms (updated flooring and paint), teaching tools and staff development. Results will be ready this fall to drive our planning.

read more on reverse...





Did you know...

Boca Grande Preschool (formerly BG Child Care Center) was founded at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, which generously provides the school building on Park Avenue. It is an agency of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. but has always been non-denominational. Here's more:

- BGP is open 52 weeks a year!
- Our children are as young as 18 months and stay until they start Kindergarten.
- BGPS is open to children from families who live or work on the Island.
- You will find BGP parents everywhere you go! The Barnichol, James Griffith Salon, the Gasparilla Inn, The Temptation, South Beach, Salty Jaw Charters, Seaboard Construction, BG Club, Safety Harbor, BG Fire Dept., BG Health Clinic, BG Cart Rental, BG Real Estate, Paradise Cove, Parsons Enterprises, Boca Blooms and more.
- Our teachers have combined experience of 94 years!

A New Beginning continued from page 1...

We are very encouraged by the overwhelming community response to our new name and direction. Our spring fundraising event brought in more than ever. For weeks thereafter, word spread and others reached out to take part. We are grateful to our longtime friends and many new ones for their generous support.

We have two fundraising initiatives each year: a fall mail campaign, and a spring celebration. **The Fall Annual Appeal** is underway now. It gets us off to a financially healthy start on bridging the gap between tuition and true cost.

Come spring, we host a celebration and auction to raise funds for tuition grants and special projects. Please do plan to join us for **Preschool-Palooza!** 3/2/2020 at The Gasparilla Inn Beach Club.

We and the BGP Board are excited about the work ahead, especially because we are part of a community that cares about early education for island children. We look forward to seeing you over the 2019-2020 season!

Angela Steffan
BGP Board President

Fr. Jerome Carosella
BGP Board Chairman

New Tuition Plan Starts Fall 2019

After decades without tuition increases, the \$75 weekly fee increasingly covered less of the true cost of education at BGPreschool. Board Member Jeff Swift and a select committee thoughtfully developed a new tuition plan which was approved unanimously by our Board in April. Current students will remain at the current rate. This fall, the fee for new is \$125 per week. While this increase will reduce the tuition/true cost gap, we still must rely on fundraising to further close it. We are committed to remaining affordable to all and grants will be available when needed.

