February School Vacation Week  
(2/18/14 to 2/21/14)

Program Descriptions

Movement & Dance
The overall program goals for these sessions are informed by Early Childhood Dance Education Benchmarks that aim toward competency in the following areas:

- **Physical:** Self-control, refinement of gross motor skills; development of fine motor skills; and understanding of the relationship between one’s body and the space around oneself.
- **Social/Affective:** Listening; responding; taking turns and working cooperatively.
- **Cognitive:** Recognizing, recalling, identifying, differentiating and sequencing movements.
- **Aesthetic:** Choosing and expressing preference for dance movements.

Theater
We are partnering with the North Shore Children’s Theatre (NSCT) which is an arts education based program for the school vacation week programs. NSCT performers attend classes and rehearsals learning acting skills through theater games and exercises, dance technique through professional instruction, vocal exercises for vocal training, performing arts vocabulary, theatre etiquette, theatre history specific to the season’s show and genre, and professional expectations of actors in class, rehearsal and performance.

School Vacation Lessons: “Story Theatre”
1. Focus on imaginative play, theatre etiquette and vocabulary, cooperative games
2. Lessons use folk tales and children’s books as inspiration to create their own stories through movement, acting and mime.

Integrating Engineering & Literacy and Robotics
We are partnering with the Tufts University Center for Engineering Education and Outreach (CEEO), which is a leader in supporting efforts to integrate engineering into K-12 education. The four divisions or pillars of Outreach, Products, Research, and Workshops all contribute toward the goals of:

- Increasing student and teacher excitement for learning Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM);
- Increasing technological literacy and the awareness of the importance of STEM.

Lessons for the school vacation weeks will include integrating engineering and literacy for first and second graders and robotics for kindergarteners.

Spanish Language
Raising bilingual children is becoming important to most families and in public discussions at present. More monolingual and/or families who speak languages other than English and monolingual are recognizing the value of raising their kids to be bilingual or multilingual. We recognize that many families have shown interest in language programs. Even though this is a brief period, the school vacation week will be our first attempt to integrate teaching beginning Spanish through songs, books, music and other activities.

**Note:** Outdoor play; snack/lunch & nap times; and free play are incorporated throughout the day.