MEET OUR INSTRUCTORS

The Afro-Brazilian Cultural Center of New Jersey (ABCCNJ), located in the heart of Montclair’s cultural district, serves the surrounding community as a center that focuses on Afro-Brazilian culture and history. It provides classes on a daily basis to many adults and children, who travel from all over New Jersey to participate. The mission of ABCCNJ is to promote and teach Afro-Brazilian Arts, folklore and culture. Professor Galvota, David Morgan, the Center’s director, has been living and teaching martial arts in Essex County for over thirty years. As a Black Belt in Enshin, a full contact karate, he competed in several bare-knuckle, knock down tournaments and placed in all of them. He was first introduced to Capoeira in 1999 and began teaching classes at the NJ Capoeira Arts Center in 2003. In 2006, Professor Galvota opened the Afro-Brazilian Cultural Center of New Jersey.

Artsy-Smartsy is the creative learning experience that offers artful adventures for kids of all ages. We believe that everybody is creative and our classes and workshops are geared toward kids’ natural curiosity and eagerness to learn new things through creative self-expression. Our talented and experienced instructors provide an outlet that supports and stimulates a kid’s creativity while teaching them how art has been used since the dawn of time to tell the story of humanity and our experience of the world around us. We believe there’s an artist in everybody, and we aim to bring that artist to life! Instructors: Eyleen Faust & Leigh Mell

Bound for Broadway is a performing arts enrichment provider. John Pretlor, a consummate keyboardist and producer with an extensive career in the music industry, will teach Singing Sensation. Having recorded with artists such as Luther Vandross and Vanessa Williams, Pretlor has also served as digital music director for several recording studios. He studied music at University of Rochester and NYU and his teaching credits include Interboro College in New York.

The Little Ambassadors method was developed by Edgemont parent Sharron Di Donato, who was born in Cardiff, Wales, and immigrated as a child to the US. Growing up in a multi-ethnic and multilingual home led to her studies as a cultural anthropologist and ultimately to her philosophy on language and cultural immersion for children. The Little Ambassadors program believes that if children are taught to learn and understand their neighbors’ cultures and languages, they will become our Little Ambassadors of Peace.

Mad Science is a science enrichment provider. They “deliver unique, hands-on science experiences for children that are as entertaining as they are educational. Mad Science is proud to introduce millions of children to a world of discovery while sparking their imagination. Mad Science encourages scientific literacy in children in an age when science is as vital as reading, writing and arithmetic.”

Montclair Learning Center provides tutoring, instruction, and enrichment programs, specializing in learning games, math, media, and science. Throughout the whole summer, Montclair Learning Center runs a summer camp in their own location which offers various options tailored to your needs.

Wonderfun Productions is an entertainment company owned by Scott and Britni Morley providing magic shows and classes as well as larger theatrical performances. They also own The Wonderfun Shop, Passaic County’s only magic & costume shop. When Scott and Britni are not out performing or teaching, you can find them at their shop. Stop by anytime and visit! Visit www.WonderfunProductions.com or www.TheWonderfunShop.com for more information.
MEET OUR INSTRUCTORS

Teachers, Parents and Friends of Edgemont:

Keith Grabowsky graduated from Rutgers University and received his BFA in Visual Art. He has since continued to pursue his career in art by teaching after school enrichment programs in multiple schools inside Essex County. When he is not teaching children, Keith can be found creating one of a kind pieces of pottery and paintings in his home studio located in Montclair. His work has been displayed in numerous galleries across the tri-state area. To learn more about Keith, his work, and everything else he has to offer, visit him on the web at www.madebykeith.com.

Susan Harriet Hozer is a Michigan native who learned to crochet from her Grandmother when she was 6 years old, and learned to knit when she was 25. She is a certified teacher, and holds an M.A.T. from Montclair State University in "Teaching Philosophy to Children." She completed her student teaching at Edgemont in 2004. She has an ever-growing collection of handmade scarves.

Suzanne Ball McDonald is a graphic artist with 30 years of experience in the print and advertising field. She designed last year’s Edgemont Yearbook in her kitchen, so she is looking forward to working with the Class of 2011 on this year’s book!

Barbara Messenger began practicing yoga in 1981 and started teaching nine years ago. She is currently a full time Realtor with Coldwell Banker and is delighted to teach yoga at her beloved Edgemont. As a parent of four children, she has been a part of the Edgemont community since 1996 when Amanda had Mr. Santaloci for 1st grade. Her youngest son, Peter, graduated in the spring. Yoga has been an integral and essential practice in her life since her first taste of it and she’s very happy to share it with the kids at Edgemont!

Mike Mrkulic is a Certified Black Belt Instructor from the World Famous Gracie Family in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He is also a 10x National Grappling Champion and World Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Bronze Medalist. For additional information go to www.MBJJ.com.

Kathy Hart has been a first grade teacher at Edgemont for 13 years and coordinator of the STARS after-school tutoring program for 10 years. She is a certified elementary school teacher and special education teacher and has Montessori certification in both the primary and junior division levels.

Gerald Silvera has been the Physical Education teacher at Edgemont for 18 years. He is a graduate of Montclair High School and Virginia State University. And he’s got game!

Regina O’Connor-Horton (formerly Ms. Waller) has been teaching at Edgemont for nine years and has taught 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades. She has produced and directed 7 plays while at Edgemont including Home (based on The Wiz), Climb Every Mountain (based on The Sound of Music), They Live In You (based on The Lion King), Peter Pan, The Music Man, Twelfth Night and The King and I. Prior to teaching at Edgemont, she taught at Montclair High School for two years. She holds a Master’s degree in Reading Education and a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education and Special Education from Syracuse University. She is also a certified reading specialist. Her hobbies are exercising and healthy cooking. She loves the theater, reading and solving Math riddles.