February 2006 Big Partner Little Partner Issue Number 3

## Holiday Party 2005

Thanks to everyone who helped make the Holiday Party a success this past December. Little Partners and Big Partners alike brought smiles to the dorms with their caroling and candy canes! The evening just kept getting better - the highlight was definitely Santa's visit. To view the great pictures from the party go to webshots.com and log in as member: gacbplp and password: bigpartner.

## Kid Recipe: Finger Paint

1/2 c. cornstarch
1 c. cold water
1 envelope unflavored gelatin
2 c. hot water
1/2 c. soap flakes or detergent

Dissolve cornstarch in 3/4 cup cold water, soak gelatin in remaining 1/4 c. cold water. Add hot water to cornstarch mix. Cook on medium heat, until it starts to boil and is clear, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Blend in softened gelatin. Add soap and stir until dissolved. Cool, and divide into 5 jars. Color each one with desired color with food coloring.

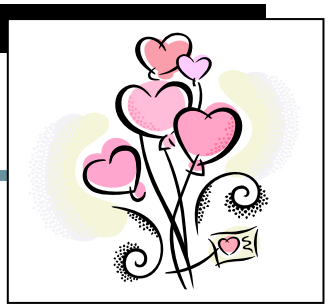
HAVE FUN PAINTING!

## Mark Your Calendars: Storytelling Event

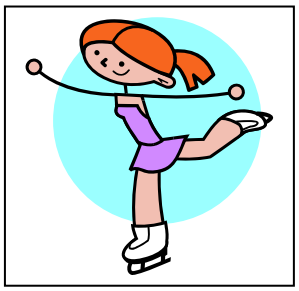
February 16th, 2006
Interpretive Center
(in the Arb)
6-7:30 pm

Come join us for live storytelling, snacks and fun for the February group event! There will be age appropriate stories to accommodate all little partners.

# Top 10 Fun Things to do in February:



1. Make a Valentine for someone special
2. Take a nature walk in the Arb and find some winter animals
3. Rent a board game from CSC
4. Make ice cream sundaes in the caf
5. Rent a book from the St. Peter library
6. Create something amazing out of popsicle sticks
7. Play "I Spy" around campus
8. Make a snowball and keep it in your freezer until spring
9. Go ice skating in Lund (check the Red Desk for open skate times)
10. Cheer on the Gusties at a sports game



# Meet the Pair of the Month: Kelli and Yesenia

It is easy to feel secluded from the outside world while living on a hill at GAC. Our college world lacks diversity in age. After seeing professors and college students daily we miss a generation of fun and laughter. That is why the BPLP program is so amazing. Every week I love when the monotony of my classes are broken up by visits with my little partner Yesenia age 7. We have a blast every time we are together! We have done everything from painting trick or treat bags for Halloween to shopping for a child from the angel tree. Almost everything we do or make is taken to "show and tell" by Yesenia. Some of our favorite things to do together are bowling, dancing, watching movies and coloring. I love the fact that we are always learning from each other. Yesenia helps me practice my Spanish and I help her gain independence and skills in new activities such as pumpkin carving and swimming. When asked what she wants to do when she grows up, Yesenia replies "I want to be a big partner…or a teacher."

**If you know a BPLP pair that would make a great pair of the month, contact ckunze@gac.edu**

# Heads Up: Mid-Year Check In

As part of our new method of continued training, all Big Partners will be required to meet with a Coordinator for a mid-year evaluation. These meetings will be very informal but will give us a chance to see how the program is going thus far. Because this is not a training session with set times, ALL Big Partners will be required to participate. The goals of this meeting will be to fill out the monthly evaluation sheet, reflect on past semester, get feedback and update contact info.