

Peace Montessori News

From the Directors...



Joan Hayden



Carrie Kile

News from the Directors

Thanks to everyone who helped make the Bowl-A-Thon a success! You helped raise \$4843.00 for Peace. The kids always enjoy being involved in this annual fundraiser. Congratulations to the lower elementary class for raising the most money. They enjoyed a pizza party and cat-naming privileges for their efforts. Finally the barn cats have identities, Misha and Ulysses!

Hopefully those families who attended the Montessori Information Night last week came away with a clear understanding of what happens in classrooms at each level. It was an enjoyable and informative evening.

Many of you have already turned in fall registrations, thank you. For those who have not yet, you have till the end of February before we begin to accept new students. Recently applications for summer camp have been sent home. In the summer we have only 1 classroom at each level, and space is typically limited, so we urge you to turn in those as well.

And so we discovered that education is not something which the teacher does, but that it is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the human being. It is not acquired by listening to words, but in virtue of experiences in which the child acts on his environment. The teacher's task is not to talk, but to prepare and arrange a series of motives for cultural activity in a special environment made for the child. Maria Montessori, The Absorbent Mind, translated by Claude A. Claremont





Ms. Lisa and Ms. Toni

Hello Toddler families. We cannot believe it's already mid-February! The time has flown by in our classroom the past couple months.

We would first like to say a big thank you for attending Parent/Teacher conferences. It was great getting to sit down and talk with each of you about your child's development and hear some of the funny stories you had to share. We appreciate you taking the time to meet with us!

One of the children's favorite works the past couple weeks has been 'birthday cake decorating'. We have a wooden birthday cake with Velcro strips on the sides and Velcro circles on the top for the toppings and candles. Included is a little wooden cake cutter so the children can successfully cut the cake into slices. They have the option of putting on the toppings which include jelly beans and fruit, and candles. We hear them singing "Happy Birthday" to themselves and their classmates. Many of our students have offered their cake pieces to other friends in the classroom. It has been a real tasty treat.

The children enjoyed our Valentine's celebration last week. They had fun giving a valentine to each of their classmates. It was a great way to work with our toddlers on the kindness of giving to others.

Thank you for all you support and pledges with the Bowl-A-Thon. Our classroom and school wouldn't be what it is without your support!



We are hoping that we will soon see an end to the cold temperatures so are toddler friends can get outside more often. On the days that we are not able to go outside we often go down to visit the multi-purpose room. This gives the children a change of scenery and allows them an opportunity for a lot of open ended play with the dollhouse, trains, Legos and Little People.

It was nice to talk to the parents during conferences and discuss our goals going forth through the end of the year. Also thank you for those who were able to attend our Montessori information night. For the friends who will be moving up next year we will let those children visit a primary class after spring break. This will give them a chance to see all the wonderful works they can explore in primary. If you haven't done so yet please fill out registration forms for the 2015-2016 school year. Also we have summer camp registration forms available as well.

Welcome to our three new students, Venice, Yasher and Francisco!

Thank you for sharing your children with us.



Ms. Carrie and Ms. Kayla

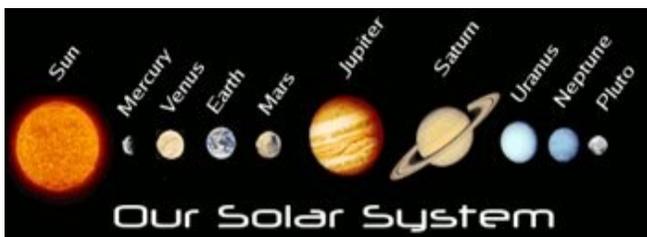


February is flying by and spring is just around the corner. In the next few weeks we will be adding the study of China to our culture area. We will be learning about some of their traditions and learning about the foods they enjoy in this part of the country. Our new unit of study for the next few months is the Solar System. This is a fun and interesting study for all the children. They are making books and painting pictures of the planets



and the stars. We are also learning about space travel and what the astronauts go through as they get ready to travel to space. We encourage you to send in any books or other items your child might have at home that would coincide with the study of space. We love seeing the children share the things they have at home with us. In March our author for the month will be Dr. Seuss. This is always such a fun author to study. If your child has a favorite Dr. Seuss book they can bring it in next month and we will be sharing them at story time. It's going to be a fun filled couple of months for us and we can't wait .

Miss Linda and Miss Xuan



and the stars. We are also learning about space travel and what the astronauts go through as they get ready to travel to space. We encourage you to send in any books or other items your child might have at home that would coincide with the study of space. We love seeing the children share the things they have at home with us. In March our author for the month will be Dr. Seuss. This is always such a fun author to study. If your child has a favorite Dr. Seuss book they can bring it in next month and we will be sharing them at story time. It's going to be a fun filled couple of months for us and we can't wait .

Miss Linda and Miss Xuan

We want to send a special thank you to the parents for your continuing support of your children and Peace. The time that you noticeably contribute to your children is evident to us daily. In addition, we appreciate the time recently spent during conference times and the parent information night.

March All About Me--- Aiden on March 27th

Sound of the Week:

Feb 23 "o" as in octopus

Mar 2 "w"

Mar 9 "v"

Mar 16 "e" as in elephant

Mar 23 "x" as in fox

We will celebrate Chinese New Year on Monday Feb 23rd. Our celebration will include sampling rice, fortune

cookies, and herbal tea. Also ; What are Red Envelopes? Why do they wear red for the new year? Why do they set off fire works and fire crackers? What animal is represented for this new year?



Save the date! May 6th for a Zoo trip. For the safety of the children this trip requires many chaperones and drivers.



Gay Lyn and Jeanene

As we reach the second half of the school year, the class begins to move to its own rhythm. The boys and girls know what to do each day and have grown as a community. They have formed great friendships with each other and are helpful and compassionate. They have learned to solve their own problems and move toward independence. There is usually such a great change in each child from the beginning of the year, to halfway, and finally to the end.

The third years show much academic growth. This year, we have a great bunch of readers! In addition to reading on their own, they have been listening to many great books read by the teacher. Usually at the end of these chapter books, the kids watch the corresponding movie and then have a discussion and writing session about the similarities and differences between the two. The third years have also been exploring science topics by doing experiments, making predictions, and recording the results in their science journals.

The classroom, as a whole, has just finished studying China and learning about the Chinese New Year celebrations that take place. Next up, we will be focusing on Africa. We are also studying Oceans, which the children have been very enthusiastic about learning. The science and cultural areas in a Montessori classroom are of great interest to primary aged children.



Miss Amy and Miss Samantha

dates to Remember

March 2 Open Enrollment for New Families
March 30- April 3 Spring Vacation- No School
April 22 Earth Day
May 25 Memorial Day- No School
June 2 Last Day of School

What a busy beginning to the second semester we are having! The students have been engaged in studying the biomes in cultural and science. This exciting study will culminate with oral reports and presentations. It is at this time that we allow the students to come up with their own agenda for what their presentation will look like. They can do a power point, a diorama, video, slide show or any other creative idea. Presentations will be taking place the third week of February. We are looking forward to it!

In Math, Language and Geometry studies the children have been working so very hard. Many students have advanced to more challenging lessons and work. Hats off to you guys! In addition to Grammar lessons and Writer's Workshop, we have begun literature groups. Right now we are reading, *Mercy Watson To the Rescue*, *The Trumpet of the Swan*, and *School Story*.

Lastly, as many of you know, the Lower Elementary class won the Bowl-A-Thon Pizza Party! We see ourselves as one program and one community, therefore, the students decided to ask the Upper El. class to join us. They also were able to be part of the naming of the new barn cats! It was a fun day and we all loved being together. Many thanks to Ivet and Trey for submitting the names Ulysses and Misha for the cats. It might take time but we are sure they will come to know their names!

As always we in the Elementary Program wish to thank you for allowing us to be a part of your children's lives!

Carrie K., Sandra, Jake, Marissa



From Upper Elementary

February - Burrrrrrrrrrr!! I don't know about you guys - but I am ready for Spring!

Since we've been all cooped up, what better time to buckle down and get lots of work done? The students have been hard at work with their Math, Language and Geometry lessons, Literature Circles, Writer's Workshop and a very in-depth study of the Biomes of the World. This study will culminate in the next few days with their individual oral presentations. We are all looking forward to the variety of information that will be presented - and the kids are super excited to share what they've learned.

The Upper/Lower Elementary team earned the most Bowl-a-Thon pledges!! We got to celebrate with a pizza party and fun day. We participated in a variety of art projects throughout the day and also got to watch a movie - FUN!

As mentioned, the students have been participating in Literature Circles. Some of the kids read "Old Yeller", while others read "The Giver". As coincidence would have, both books have also been made into movies! After their hard work, we will be taking some afternoons to watch these movies (and maybe make a pan of brownies and pop some popcorn).

A big shout out goes to our amazingly talented bookkeeper, Lorri, who also happens to be a master knit/crochet artist! She has kindly donated a few hours of her time to help guide our classroom knitters a bit farther than I am able to take them. As a result of their ever-growing skills, we are quickly running out of yarn. If you happen to have any yarn that you would be willing to donate to our craft, it would be greatly appreciated.

With spring fast approaching, we hope, we will be doing quite a bit of planting in the classroom. We have existing plants that will need to be divided/transplanted and we would also like to start some new seedlings. If you are able to help us with some donated potting soil, it will help our classrooms a lot. Thank you in advance for anything you are able to donate.

Keep thinking warm thoughts!

Ms. Rachel





Hello Everyone!

Thank all who ordered items/gifts from the Small Hands Gift Catalog in the fall. It was very well received and successful. The rewards our school earns from your participation is so appreciated!

Did you know that we welcome parents to visit our library and borrow books to read at home to their children? We have a diverse book selection, ranging from board books for toddlers, picture books, fiction, nonfiction, and early readers, to books in the young adult category, all with a two week return time. Feel free to come by during any school day.

Our library continues to offer all who enter:

A wealth of information; through our many books and internet resources.

Opportunity for practicing good choices in library etiquette; quiet, regard for others within the environment, patience when waiting is necessary, and handling our books and materials with good care and respect.

Windows for observation; of the nature encompassing our grounds each day; trees, plants, water, sky, and all our animal inhabitants, domestic, as well as wild.

A haven for peaceful minutes; to read, sit, see, ponder, breathe, detach, regroup

Wishing a happy and safe winter season to everyone who travels to, from, and through our school.

Cold, yet beautiful winter; what an awesome time to read!

Ms. Charlotte

