



# Montessori

DECEMBER  
2012-2013 News

## NEWS FROM THE DIRECTORS

### What can Montessori Do For Your Child?



Joan Hayden



Carrie Kile

Although Montessori may not cure cancer, it does produce students who are curious, independent, creative, persistent and caring lifelong learners.

it becomes an integral component of our curriculum that changes Montessori students and their families forever.

While our students may all have taken different paths since leaving Montessori, there is a definite theme that is found among them. Students from Montessori schools tend to be caring, compassionate, entrepreneurial and creative problem solvers. They embrace open minds, welcome diversity and believe that we can all accomplish more by working together than by trying to go it alone.

With these and many other benefits that our children gain from participating in a Montessori education, please note that there is one thing that Montessori does not do; it does not crush the human spirit!

The way former Montessori students tend to think and live their lives is the reason that we keep working to spread the word that, if we want to change the world, the future is in the hands of our children. What we do to support these children is our collective legacy.

In Montessori classrooms, children learn that it is okay to try something new, even if it doesn't work the first, second or one hundredth time. All qualities that are beneficial in the treatment of illness.

Perhaps Montessori won't eradicate world hunger, but Montessori students have been funding the *Amman Imman--Montessori Wells of Love* program for years to help bring clean drinking water to the people of Northwest Africa.

Quite possibly Montessori won't bring peace to areas of the world that are in turmoil, but it might prepare future leaders who have learned to come to the "peace table" in their classrooms to work out differences with words instead of fists.

In the US and wherever Montessori schools are found worldwide, community service is not just something that occurs around the holidays. It is so deeply engrained in everyday classroom life that

We want to wish all of our students, both past and present, and their families the happiest of holidays! Peace and blessings to you all!

## SCHOOL-WIDE NEWS

December 2012



**Winter Break!**  
**Dec 24-**  
**Jan 4**

### International Night!

Mark your calendar now for International Night, **December 21 @ 6:30 pm!** Come tour the world with your family, friends and neighbors, and still make it home to sleep in your own bed! Our students are hard at work researching Greece, Japan, Egypt, Jamaica and Italy. They are making art, testing recipes and finding artifacts. Be here on the 21st to make your way around the world in an hour and a half! Don't worry, we'll supply the passports!

### Bowl-A-Thon

It's just about time for the annual Bowl-A-Thon fundraiser. This is another opportunity to meet those fundraising commitments. Children collect pledges from friends, family and neighbors, then on January 18, the Elementary and Primary students will spend the morning bowling at Georgetown Bowl, while our toddlers will set up and bowl right here at school! Look for additional information and pledge sheets to come home before winter break!



# CLASSROOM NEWS

December 2012



Alicia Purdy



Lisa Magsamen

## TODDLER 1

This month we have holiday themed works on the shelves. One of these works is a Holiday Sensory box. It is filled with flaky snow, a snowman, nutcracker, Santa, presents, snowflakes, a tree, a toy shop, and a scoop. Our toddlers have enjoyed scooping the snow and letting it fall into the box, as well as using the objects provided for creative play. They are very excited to see a Christmas tree in the classroom. Instead of using hooks, we used pipe cleaners. One child at a time hangs the ornaments on the tree how they like and when they are finished they take each one off and place it back in the basket. They have also been busy matching and sorting ornaments, sorting and counting holiday objects, pouring jingle bells, scooping ornaments, and transferring trees with tongs. These exercises are great for developing their visual discrimination which prepares the eyes for reading.

Another popular work is baby washing. This work includes a small washing basin, a plastic baby, a pitcher, a bowl, washcloth, towel, and a squeeze bottle of soap. The first thing to do is take the pitcher to the sink and fill it with water to pour into the tub. Soap is added to the water and the child soaks the washcloth into the soapy water to “clean” the baby. Once the baby has been cleaned, the soapy water is poured out into the sink and new water is added to rinse off the soap. Once all the water is poured out, the towel is used to dry the baby, pitcher, and tub. The towel and washcloth are then placed in the laundry basket. This work is popular because of the fun the children have working with water and squeezing a soap filled washcloth. This work helps the children with developing concentration, hand-eye coordination, and fine motor skills.

The holiday season is a great time to involve your toddler in the kitchen. Cooking with your child provides an opportunity to bond, enrich their vocabulary, language skills, and sense of smell, and teach them good eating habits. Making cookies for example is an excellent multi-step activity to do with your child. Think how much fun your toddler will have measuring and mixing the ingredients, rolling out the dough and making shapes, watching them rise in the oven and decorating them together. After baking, you can have your toddler (who loves water) help wash the dishes. If there is a spill, have a sponge and a towel available for a wet spill and a dustpan and broom for sweeping up spilled dry ingredients. We hope you have fun and enjoy teaching your child new skills. Happy Holidays from Ms. Alicia and Ms. Lisa



Jodie Zehner

## TODDLER 2

I cannot believe it is already December. It seems like just yesterday that the children started school! With winter break just around the corner we have been very busy with winter and International Night projects.



Carrie Johnson

We welcome our new friend Crosby to our classroom.

With the weather being cold and rainy we have been staying inside and playing the “Sound Game” rather than venturing out. The children love this game and all of them join in. We give them each several cards with pictures and then play a CD that has sounds that match those pictures. Once we play a sound the children look through their cards to see if they have that picture. It is wonderful for their language development and critical thinking skills.

Besides working on projects and playing games, we have also been singing winter songs such as “Jingle Bells” and “Frosty the Snowman” and when Ms. Veronique visits we sing “Feliz Navidad” during Spanish.

Have a wonderful holiday break. We will look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!



## PRIMARY 1

*Gay Lyn Scarfo Jeanene Lehman*

Every month when I sit down to write the newsletter I want to begin it with “Wow how the time is flying”. Here we are in

December!

The feast was a great success. Thank you for all your help volunteering and donating items. I still hear the children singing “Over the river and through the woods...” while they are working in the classroom.

The last several weeks we have been working on Japan, our International Night country. All the children were very brave and tried a little taste of roasted seaweed. As you can probably guess it was not a huge success. The food prep this month has been “eating cheerios with chopsticks” and pouring tea to enjoy while sitting quietly. If you have traveled to Japan, have pictures, artifacts, money, clothing, books, trinkets, or music to share we would be very grateful. For International Night we will need lots of help preparing food, I will be posting the recipes we need outside the classroom this week. If you have a favorite Japanese recipe please let me know, also we will need 3 or 4 rice cookers for the night.

Please remember to send your child to school with the proper clothing to go outside. Unless it is raining or less than 20 degrees, we will be going out. We do not have extra mittens, hats, etc. We Montessorians enjoy the weather year round.

Include your child when baking goodies this month. They will gain confidence, a feeling of accomplishment, early math skills, small motor skills, hand-eye coordination, strength from stirring heavy dough, and so many more wonderful skills.

If your family will be doing any holiday traveling—Paddington bear has his bags packed for an adventure. Let me know if you would like to bring him along on your travels this winter.

This has been a wonderful year. We are looking forward to 2013. Thank you for sharing your child with us.



*Laura Hayden Julia Shlater Linda Vandemark*

## PRIMARY 2

December is off to a great start. Our study of Egypt is in full swing as we continue to share all areas of Egyptian culture with the children. We have



*Kelly Whitehead Amy Becker*

taken a “pretend” trip to Egypt which sparked some fascinating conversations as

ent modes of transportation and how long it might actually take to arrive in Egypt traveling by jet, train, police boat, jet ski, car and of course hot air balloon.

We are learning about pyramids, tombs and mummification. Did you know that the pyramids in Egypt were all built on the West side of the Nile? Ask your child why this is. We are learning that the Ancient Egyptians used a style of writing called Hieroglyphics and the children are using Hieroglyphs to write journal stories.

Sami’s dad came in and shared with the children Arabic which is the language spoken in Egypt. He brought with him a children’s story book written in Arabic and read it to the children. It was a story about a squirrel and a butterfly and the bond of friendship. The children (and teachers) were fascinated to see him begin at the back of the book, the actual beginning, and read from right to left. He also taught the children to count from 1-10 and printed all of the children’s names in Arabic. These will be on display during International Night. Recipes are also posted outside of the classroom for International Night. If you can, please take one and make an Egyptian dish for us to share.

Lily’s mom came in last Friday and introduced the children to Egyptian music and dance. She taught the children a dance and shared some instruments with them.

As you can see there is a lot going on in our class! We hope that all of you will be able to come to International Night on December 21 and share in all of the wonderful things that the children are creating. Come celebrate Egypt with us.

Thank you for all that you do for us, our classroom and your children. Have a Merry Christmas and many blessings for the New Year.

# ELEMENTARY



Carrie Kile



Neysa Hess



Rachel Thompson



Keri Wysong

Please come along with us and journey back in time to Ancient Greece! Experience the food, culture, geography, spirituality, history, philosophy & science of these long-ago people. Friday night, December 21<sup>st</sup> starting at 6:30pm. Family, friends, and neighbors – you are all welcome!

and sent off to the Christmas Bureau. It's a wonderful thing to help people and you all made it happen in a BIG way! Thank you!

Please remember that, as the weather turns cold and snowy, students will need warm clothes for outside exploration and fun. It's better to have the hats/scarves/mittens here at school than to not have them and be cold or feel like not participating. In addition, please make sure your child has a weather-appropriate change of clothes as well. Playing in wet weather or snow can lead to wet socks, wet pants, etc. Thank you!

Our class would like to take a moment to welcome our new student, Elliot, to our family. Elliot is a second year student and it is as if she has been with us all along! Welcome!

We need a home for our bird, Gucci, for the holidays. If you are interested please contact Rachel.

We are sad to have to say Good-Bye to a dear friend as we go to winder break. C.J. and his family are moving to Michigan. C.J. has been with us since he was in kindergarten and will be dearly missed by his Peace family. We will stay in touch with him, but it just isn't the same... if you see tears on December 21<sup>st</sup>, you'll know why.

Coming up on January 18<sup>th</sup> we will have our annual Bowl-a-Thon. This is a great opportunity for families to meet their fundraising commitments – and it's a whole lot of fun, too. The Elementary Class typically has great "wagers" as well. One year, the children bet that they could raise a certain amount of money and, if the goal was reached, the teachers had to dress up as princesses --and they did it! I wonder what the kids will come up with this year?

Thank you, again, to everyone who helped so generously with our Christmas Family. Last Saturday the gifts were all wrapped

## UP-COMING EVENT CALENDAR

*December*



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 <i>International Night</i> 6:30 pm	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<i>Winter Break</i>						
30	31	Jan 1	2	3	4	
<i>Winter Break</i>						

# January

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1  
*Happy New Year!*

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5

**Winter Break**

6

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*Welcome back to school!*

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18

*Bowl-A-Thon Day!*

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20

21

*No school  
MLK Day*

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