



Montessori

FEBRUARY

2012-2013 News

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTORS



Joan Hayden



Carrie Kile

2013-14 enrollment forms and tuition schedules will be sent home next week. Please turn them in ASAP since we will open enrollment to the public in mid-March, and are currently at capacity in some rooms.

Again this summer we will have 7 weeks of summer camp. Information and enrollment forms will be sent home in March. For those new to Peace, camp registration is on a weekly basis, so you can choose any or all weeks. The 1st day is June 10, no camp on the week of July 1, and the last week is the week of July 29th.

Thanks to all of our families for the generous response to the bowl-a-thon. When all pledges have been turned in, we will have made about \$7,000.00.

Peace's Annual Benefit Dinner will be held on April 27th this year. Our focus this year will be on art, both for the silent auction and designs by the students. If any of you know artists who would be willing to donate a piece, please ask! Mark your calendars and secure babysitters for what always proves to be a fun evening!

Chicken news – They are slowly beginning to be egg layers! We'll undoubtedly be in the egg business soon!

We recently ran across this valuable information on the relationship between school and home and think it is worth a look!

Our Job

- See you and your child as individuals
- Respect your privacy and your time
- Provide comfortable facilities
- Explain procedures
- Monitor and report your child's progress
- Show you ways to aid your child's development
- Offer state of the art education
- Refer to specialists if needed
- Charge a fair fee for our services

Your Job

- Want a better school community for all
- Get involved
- Be on time
- Seek answers
- Expect results
- Follow advice
- Stay optimistic
- Pay your tuition
- Tell others

SCHOOL-WIDE NEWS

February 2013

Congratulations Alicia and Jason!

Ms. Alicia gave birth to 2 healthy and strong baby boys last week! We cannot wait to meet Oliver and Sawyer! Congratulations to Alicia and Jason-- who are now officially out-numbered!

Bowl-A-Thon

Don't forget to turn in your final Bowl-a-Thon pledges. We will print fundraising statements for each family as soon as we are able to wrap up this fundraiser. Thank you all for your continued support!

Parent Teacher Conferences & Usborne Book Fair

Don't forget to stop by your child's classroom to sign up for your parent teacher conference. Conference week is Feb 18-21. We will also host our annual Usborne Book Fair that week, so be prepared for your child to discover a few new favorite books!





Lisa Magsamen

TODDLER 1

The Toddler 1 class has been busy this past month. First of all, we would like to welcome five new students to our classroom: Aria Sud, Fox Martin, Jaxson Scheibel, Elijah Mamayek, and Julian Ross. We are so excited to have our new friends joining our classroom, and are looking forward to getting to know them even better in the upcoming months.

One of our newest and most popular works in the last couple of weeks has been 'making hot chocolate'. On a small tray there is a tiny soufflé cup with a small amount of hot chocolate mix, a drinking cup, a small pitcher of soy milk (already warmed), and a small wire whisk. The children pour the hot chocolate mix into the drinking cup, and then add the milk. They use the small wire whisk to stir the milk and mix together. This is a great opportunity for the children to work on hand-eye coordination, as well as fine and gross motor skills. The children may then drink and enjoy their cup of hot chocolate. This is just one way you can take a simple, enjoyable food item and break it down into steps that a toddler can achieve.

Another work that has been used greatly is the letter basket. The letter basket currently contains the letter "P", and small objects that start with 'p' are placed in the basket. The child takes out and names each object as they place it on the table. We focus on the phonetic sound of the letter, not so much the letter itself. If joined by a teacher, the teacher may ask the child to point out a certain object. This activity helps promote language development, and starts to prepare the older students for reading and writing.

There has been much excitement in our room with Valentine's Day upon us. This year we are having the children give valentines to all their classmates. This will be a great learning experience for the toddlers, as we will be working on the concept of how nice it is to give to others. The children are very excited to be giving valentines to their friends. They have also enjoyed decorating their "valentine bag" that they will take home at the end of their school day on Thursday. Have a safe, healthy, and happy Valentine's Day!



Jodie Zehner



Alicia Purdy

TODDLER 2

It has been hard to keep up with the weather! We have been trying to take the children outside to play whenever possible, which means any day that it is not too cold, rainy, or muddy. Currently, the favorite outdoor activity is sledding down the hill.



Carrie Johnson



Kelly Whitehead

Thank you for continuing to send hats, gloves and snow pants as we make our way toward spring. 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.

Inside the classroom we have been working on counting. When it comes to numbers, toddlers generally start with rote counting, which is the ability to say each number in order without understanding what it really means. Once they can say the numbers we begin introducing sandpaper numerals so that they become familiar with how the numbers look. Finally, we begin to associate the printed numerals with the matching quantity. It is a long journey but the children really seem to enjoy each step of the process!

Many of the children are becoming really good at stringing pony beads, which is a great fine motor work. They love to make bracelets and necklaces to take home to their family. They have also been very busy in the art area. They enjoy cutting with scissors, removing the paper backing from stickers and placing them on paper, and coloring. Some of the children are even learning to use paper punches. The scissors and punches require strength while the stickers and crayons encourage fine motor development.



PRIMARY 1

Gay Lyn Scarfo Jeanene Lehman

According to Punxsutawney Phil it is to be an early spring! Until that happens please remember your child goes out to play most days. They need warm boots that keep their feet dry, mittens or gloves, hat, snow pants and a warm winter coat. The children enjoy playing in the snow and their gloves become very wet unless they are water proof.

We had a small learning circle and celebration for Chinese New Year. The children brought home a red envelope with coins in them, a tangerine and a place mat with the 12 animal signs. This is the year of the snake. We enjoyed fortune cookies at afternoon line time.

We have been busy making our Valentine's for our parents and our bags to collect our cards from our friends. Please have your child put their name on the card only. If you would like to provide a treat for the class let me know, we will be celebrating on Thursday Feb. 14.

The week of Feb. 18th we will have parent / teacher conferences and the Usborne Book fair. The conference sign up is posted in our hallway. If the days / times available are not convenient let me know and we will find another time.

We have 2 new children who have moved up from the toddler room, welcome Henry and Sydney! We also said good bye to Noah who has transitioned to lower elementary. Our 2nd year students have been staying up from rest time some days to "practice" being 3rd year students! They have been so excited doing this.



Laura Hayden Julia Shlater Linda Vandemark

PRIMARY 2

We can't believe the school year is more than half way done! Time has flown.



Kelly Whitehead Amy Becker

The children have really shown grown both academically and socially. Our third and fourth year students have shown much maturity and leadership. They are giving more lessons to younger peers while displaying wonderful patience and respect. Our second years have been most eager to follow in their older peers foot steps and are often wanting to sit in on lessons and mimic what the third and fourth years are doing. Finally, our first years have really made progress with ground rules and independence. We couldn't be more proud of our wonderful class! We continue to encourage independence at lunch time, which is still a bit of a struggle. We are really working with the children on trying to open and close things, dispose of trash, put dishes in the sink, pack things up and clean off their own space, independently. This alone is a wonderful work cycle that can be encouraged and practiced at home.

Last month we introduced transportation and it continues to be a big hit with the children. In the everyday living area we've closed shop with the water works and have moved on to a beautiful variety of Valentine themed work. We have several sorting, tweezing, tonging, and hammering works. Many of which are quite small and take much concentration and good fine motor skills. Miss Amy has created a very popular work that demonstrates all of the steps in how to put a band aid on--the children practice with a baby doll.

Geography has been a common interest lately. Children of all ages have been pin punching, painting, coloring and tracing maps. Next month we will be introducing the calendar and seasons, as well as new science works to come. Speaking of seasons, winter has been a bit harsh lately. Please make sure your child has a warm coat, hat, gloves, boots and snow pants. We go outside as much as possible and 10:30 in the morning is quite cold. Our apologies for children coming home muddy, but we do our best to steer clear of the mud outside.

We are thrilled to welcome two new four year old girls to our classroom. Vicky joins us all the way from China and Rowan from the great city of Fort Wayne! Both have been a pleasant addition to our class and have transitioned well into our Montessori environment. Last, We would like to recognize Dave Bowman (Bella's Dad) for generously getting Circus tickets for all primary and elementary students. The children had a fantastic time and we are so grateful!

ELEMENTARY



Carrie Kile



Rachel Thompson



Keri Wysong

We would like to begin by extending a warm Peace Montessori Welcome to FOUR new students in our class.

they will often have missed this opportunity. Additionally it is difficult for children to walk into a class that is already working, it can often set the tone for their day.

Please remember that the children often go to their lunch box for a morning snack. Lately we have had children eating a portion of their lunch because they are hungry in the morning and then lunch isn't enough to satisfy them. It seems to work well if they help pack it and know what is for snack or if it is marked. Also, please remember to avoid snacks that are too sugary, this will help them stay on a more even keel throughout the day.

Emily, Clementine, Noah & Annah all started this month. Emily is a 5th year and Clementine, Noah & Annah are all 1st years. Welcome to you all – we are so happy to have you as part of our class!

Thank you!

We have had a very full beginning to the second half of the school year. The children are busy learning about U.S. geography, state capitals, government and U.S. history. In health sciences they have been learning about the circulatory system and heart healthy choices. Additionally their year-long studies in botany and zoology continue.

Carrie, Rachel & Keri

Just a couple of reminders:

Please remember that school begins at 8:30. We start our morning meeting right on time and often share information and/or lessons that are pertinent to the children's day. If they arrive late

UP-COMING EVENT CALENDAR

February						
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 2013-2014 Enrollment Opens!	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

Parent Teacher Conferences & Usborne Book Fair



March



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 <i>Moving Up Infor- mation Night 6:30 pm</i>	14	15 <i>No School Teacher In- Service Day</i>	16
17 <i>St Patrick's Day</i> 	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						