



# Montessori

SEPTEMBER

# 2012-2013 News

## NEWS FROM THE DIRECTORS



Joan Hayden



Carrie Kile

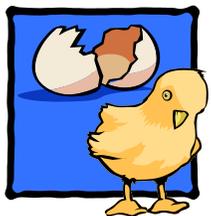
Welcome back Peace Montessori Families! Fall will officially start in a few weeks, but it very much felt like it made an early appearance this past weekend! With the beginning of school and the cooler weather it does remind us that

summer is indeed over! One of the children commented the other day, "Wow there is a pumpkin in front of the school already!"

Most, if not all, of the children have settled in their classrooms and are in the process of mastering the school day and classroom routines. The children have made new friends and rekindled the old ones, and have "warmed up" to their teachers. As we continue to move forward through the year the children are ready to learn, grow and experience new things. They are amazing!

We have quite a number of events coming up this fall that we would like to mention:

- October 12&13 - Silent Journey
- October 17 - Picture Day
- October 27 - Fall Family Festival & Annual Fund Kickoff



As if that isn't enough; the end of September will also mark the beginning of our careers as chicken farmers! Having chickens for the children to care for and raise, collecting eggs and working together as a community to care for a brood of hens is an experience that we look forward to sharing with the children. With the help of one of our families it will all be happening in September. Many thanks to Chad Getts for building our coop and thanks to Adam Kile for being willing to give lessons on caring for the chickens. We all know it takes a village to raise a child, we will now find out what it takes to raise a chicken!

### Silent Journey

Do you wonder what really happens in your child's classroom? Or what exactly is all the fuss about those materials? On the weekend of October 20 and 21 you will have the opportunity to experience the educational journey. The "journey" part of the weekend will take place on Friday evening, when you will silently walk through the classrooms and appreciate the beautiful materials. Afterward we'll have the opportunity to discuss your observations. On Saturday morning you will return for the "discovery" part of the journey, when you will be able to work with the materials and be offered lessons from the teachers. During the two days, you will discover how and why Montessori works by enabling you to see the classroom end experience the materials through the eyes of the child.

More information will follow and reservations will be accepted soon. The event will be limited to 20 people and the same parent must attend both days.

Here are a couple of testimonials from two parents who attended last year's Silent Journey.

*"My Silent Journey experience was eye opening. I was able to get firsthand experience as to what kind of activities my son actually uses, how the material is presented and what an actual day is really like from a student's perspective, for every level that is taught at Peace Montessori. I came away with a deeper understanding of Montessori teaching philosophy. The Silent Journey is an invaluable experience for parents and really displays the advantages of a Montessori education." Jason Franks*

*"The Silent Journey was an amazing experience. I was able to see not just what my child was learning, but also how she was learning it. I was completely amazed at the different works available and how they built on one another from one age group to the next. I always felt like she was in the right place, but the Silent Journey completely validated my decision in going the Montessori route." Janelle Pollard*



## Library News

This year our library has added several new features- “Friend’s Favorites” highlights Peace students and their favorite books. This month Elle Castleman and Joey Bassett share their top picks.

We are also introducing our very own Student Authors and Artists section. You will be amazed by our student’s creativity and imagination! Nigella Shearer-Wilds project, “My Metal Inset Book” is our first special feature. Nigella is in Miss Gay Lyn’s class. Come see Nigella’s book and learn about her beautiful name, too.

Farmer Brown has a problem! His cows like to type and leave him messages. All day long he hears click clack, MOOOOOOO. If you find this hard to believe, just ask Ellie Castleman. Ellie is in Primary 2 and can tell you all about the very silly animals in Doreen Cronin’s book “Click, Clack, MOO, Cows that Type”. Come see Ellie’s favorite book and others by Doreen Cronin.

Joey Bassett’s pick is the New York Times Bestseller, ERAGON by Christopher Paolini. When Eragon finds a polished blue stone in the forest, he thinks it is a lucky discovery- but soon realizes he has entered a new world of destiny, magic and power. Check out this story about a boy, a dragon and a world of adventure. (You can learn a little about Joey, too!)

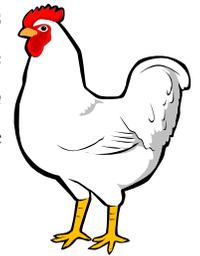
The library is located in the elementary wing and open during school hours. Parents are welcome to stop in anytime to check out resources.

## Here Come the Chicks!



You heard right! We will get about 25 one-day-old chicks at the end of this month. We are really excited for this opportunity to learn with the children. The chicks will have to live indoors for at least the first couple of months while they are getting bigger and stronger. It is very important that they be socialized and handled during those first few weeks--therefore the children will play a vital role in their introduction to their new home. We are already developing units of study on raising and taking care of chickens to help prepare the children for this new job.

When the chicks are old enough, they will be moved into their brand new chicken coop in the Red Barn--thanks to Chad Getts! They will have a door that leads out to their yard, where they will roam freely during the day. In the evenings we will put them back safely into their coop... *Anyone with advice on herding chickens is welcome to give lessons!* Our chickens will be egg layers--so we look forward to having farm-fresh eggs!



Keep your eyes peeled for the arrival of our new friends!



## International Day of Peace

Friday, September 21, marks the 30th annual world-wide celebration of the International Day of Peace. As a school, we will be participating in our very own way. The Elementary age children will participate in an art exchange project with children in Ghana! Check out this link to learn more about the Create Peace Project. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHGPF08aWBM&feature=em-share\\_video\\_user](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHGPF08aWBM&feature=em-share_video_user) If you are able to be at the school around 10 a.m. on the 21st, you will have the chance to see a short drumming performance, a flag raising and a moment of gratitude for those who have served in our country’s military-and see the new Peace artwork the children helped to imagine and create!

## Picture Day October 17!

Look for ordering information to come home about 2 weeks before picture day.

## Reminder:



The school day begins at 8:30. Classrooms open to students at 8:25. See you then!



**Saturday, October 27. 2-4 pm**

You won't want to miss this fun school event. Invite friends and family to join as well! We'll have Trunk-or-Treat, a Costume parade, S'mores at the camp fire, Cider and Doughnuts in the barn, Games, crafts and MUCH more!



Alicia Purdy



Lisa Magsamen

## TODDLER 1

Hello to all our families! It's been a great first few weeks back at school. Our returning students are reacquainting themselves with

old friends, and our new students have started getting into the daily routines. It's so great to be back at school!

During the first few weeks we have been working on establishing the classroom guidelines and ground rules. The children are practicing getting rugs for their work and putting their work away. They have all gotten used to the routine of the day and are acclimating very well to the classroom environment. It's been great to see some of our returning students assist our newer friends with daily activities.

Our theme for the month of September is transportation. We have works out on our shelves that fall into this category for the children to choose from. One of our most popular works right now is our car/vehicle picture matching work. We have a tray with a basket of small matchbox cars. Next to the basket are pictures of all the cars. The child takes the tray to a table or rug and then proceeds to match the vehicle with its corresponding picture. We will often see the children making the noise of the vehicle or "zoom-ing" the vehicle around on the rug or table. It's a great work that allows the children to work on language development and pretend play.

Hand-washing continues to be very popular in our classroom as well. The children that have the ability to turn the sink faucets off and on do so very frequently throughout the day. We see many children content to wash their hands for 3 to 5 minutes at a time. Many times water will be splashed or sprayed on the floor. At this time we prompt the child to get a towel to wipe up the water spill. They then take the wet towel to the laundry basket. This is a great practical life work and teaches the children to become more independent. Please do not hesitate to bring in extra clothes for your child. Due to the fact they have access to running water, many times shirts will get very wet and need to be changed.

We are off to an amazing start this school year. We look forward to watching the children progress in all areas of development in the upcoming months. Thank you so much for choosing Peace Montessori and sharing your children with us. Have a great month!



Jodie Zehner



Carrie Johnson

## TODDLER 2

We are so excited to be back in school! The summer flew by and we are so happy to see our friends, old and new. Our re-

turning students have re-adjusted to the routine and our new students are picking up on the routine very quickly! Being consistent in the way you drop your child off for class will help your child have a smooth transition into the morning. It is so important for all children, especially toddlers, to have a consistent routine. Doing the same things at around the same time and the same way every day gives children a sense of security in you and their surroundings.

Many of the children seem to enjoy the food prep area in the morning. They have been pouring their cereal and milk all by themselves! It takes a lot of practice to master carrying a bowl of cereal to the table. Some of them even choose to have more than one bowl!

Many times parents ask what they can do at home to encourage independence. One of the things you can do at home is to allow your child to help in food preparation, This can be setting the table or pouring the ingredients of a recipe into a bowl. Using child-sized utensils and only giving them a limited amount of ingredients allows them to be successful. It will give your child a sense of accomplishment and they will be learning a life skill. An added benefit is that children are always more apt to try a new food that they have helped prepare.

We try to encourage every child to take at least one bite of a new food whenever we serve snack. Some of them are a bit hesitant and want to wait until they have seen their friends try it first! Some of them just lick whatever it is to get a small taste. We think that is great! We don't ask them to eat anything they don't enjoy but we always say "You can't say you don't like it, if you've never tried it."

We look forward to a fantastic school year!



Gay Lyn Scarfo



Kaylee Lettau

## PRIMARY 1

Our year has been off to a great start! The children are settling nicely into a daily routine and continue to exhibit amazing growth each day.

The community in P1 is bustling with activity as the children make new discoveries and develop meaningful friendships. We enjoy being witness to the excitement and awe in the eyes of your children as they explore and discover the classroom. What an honor it is to spend a portion of their day with them.

A huge THANK YOU for being so generous with our wish list items! Your support of our classroom helps create an enriched environment.

Here is a look at what will be going on for the next month;

\*We will continue reinforcing the ground rules in the classroom and grace and courtesy.

\*We will begin "Sound of the Week". The first sound will be "c" as in cat. Your child will bring home a brown paper lunch sack for an object beginning with the corresponding sound. Their item will be shared at circle time.

\*The whole community will be working on "Living / Non-living" and "The World".

\*We will have a food prep area where the children will be counting out 5 crackers. While this is not a challenge for all the children, it will give those children an opportunity to help a less experienced child with counting.

\*Please save and send in to the classroom your junk mail envelopes. The children will use them for their cutting and punching works.

### REMINDERS

Please provide a pair of slippers or shoes to be worn only in the classroom.

A pair of mud boots will be needed for the wet, muddy playground.

### ALL ABOUT ME WEEK

September 24 – 28 Leighton

October 1 – 5 Nigella

October 8 – 12 Owen



Laura Hayden



Julia Shlater

## PRIMARY 2

The school year is off to a wonderful start. It is hard to believe that the first month of school is behind us. We are seeing many changes in the children as they continue to warm up and become more comfortable with us. Their individual personalities are coming out as we build relationships with each other.



Linda Vandemark



Amy Becker

We are happy to report that we are settling into a comfortable daily routine. The children enter the classroom (using the door closest to their cubby) and put belongings in their cubby. On most days they will then sit at the line on the same side of the classroom. Line time is used for morning greetings, group lessons and class meetings, discussing Grace and Courtesy and talking about our day. Line time is also used for acknowledgements, singing and dancing and as a space to gather before transitions (recess, lunch, nap, afternoon work time and dismissal). Because line time is such an important part of our day we focus on line time ground rules from day one encourage the children to:

Sit "criss cross applesauce" or on knees.

Keep hands on own bodies.

Give a silent signal (raise hand) when they want to share or ask a question.

The children are dismissed from line one at a time and are directed to a specific lesson or may choose their own work. During morning work time teachers observe the classroom, give small group lessons and work with children one on one. The children are also free to eat a morning snack whenever there is a space available at the snack table (there are two snack tables-one on each side of the classroom). Between 10:30-10:45 the lights are turned off which is a silent signal for the children to put work away and gather at line to get ready to go outside on the playground.

We come in and sit on the line (yes again!) to get ready for lunch. The children are called from line to wash hands, get their lunch and choose a seat on either side of the classroom. Once ALL children are seated and before anyone begins eating, we sing the Community Song. Let the fun begin! The children open their lunches and begin eating. They may get a plate or silverware from the counter if needed. They raise a hand or ask an older child at the table if they need something opened. We encourage the children to talk to the children at their table and to use a quiet voice. After lunch and clean up, the children gather at the line and read books until everyone is finished.

Between 12:15-12:30 the younger children head next door to the nap room and the older children gather together and get ready for afternoon work time which works in much the same fashion as the morning. The nappers return as the wake up and choose work. At 2:45 the lights are turned off and the children put their work away and gather at line. We use this line to give acknowledgements, reflect on our day, eat a snack and get ready for dismissal. The children who are not picked up during dismissal head to after school care at 3:40. What a busy day!

# ELEMENTARY



Carrie Kile



Neysa Hess

Our Elementary school year has been off to a busy, wonderful start. It has been so nice to forge new friendships and rekindle old ones. We are pleased to have added several new students this year. Welcome to Dylan, Lisa, Alina, Gabriel, Titino, and Landyn. We look forward to a busy, fun and educational year with you!

The biggest change in the class-



Rachel Thompson



Keri Wysong

room this year is having Carrie Kile back in the room with us. Carrie is heading up the Elementary team and is in the classroom every morning from 8:30 until 10:30.

After spending time getting to know each other and having our yearly lessons on ground rules and grace and courtesies, we dove head-first into the Montessori Great Lessons, math, language, geometry and a whole host of science and cultural studies. Be sure to ask your child what they have been studying, this gives them the opportunity to share what they have learned, which in turn solidifies their knowledge!

As always, we thank you for the opportunity to spend our days with your children.

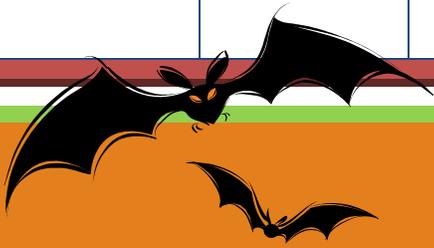




# UP-COMING EVENT CALENDARS

## September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 <i>No School Labor Day</i>	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 <i>International Day of Peace</i>	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



## OCTOBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 <i>No School Teacher In-Service</i>	13
14	15	16	17 <i>Picture Day!</i>	18	19	20 <i>Silent Journey Part 1</i>
21 <i>Silent Journey Part 2</i>	22	23	24	25	26 <i>No School Teacher In-Service</i>	27 <i>Fall Family Festival!</i>
28	29	30	31			

**Parent-Teacher Conference Week & Scholastic Book Fair**