



Montessori

MARCH 2012-2013 News

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTORS



Joan Hayden



Carrie Kile

We want to thank those of you who have generously offered to submit a piece of art for our Annual Benefit. Thanks, also, for many of you who have offered to contact acquaintances for art donations. We still need more!

We are very excited to let you know that proceeds from the auction this year will be used to fund improvements to the art studio in the Pole Barn, and for art materials that will be used for all of Peace's students.

Tickets will be available soon for the Benefit Dinner/Silent Auction to be held on April 27th, at the Holiday Inn on Coliseum. Mark your calendars, get a sitter, gather friends and family, make room for fabulous art pieces and plan on attending!

By now you have all received 2013/14 school, and summer camp, enrollment information. Please return them in a timely manner, to assure you have a spot. We will open enrollment this week, and all registrations will be accepted on a first come/first served, basis.

Following is a great idea for some "family time" with your children!

Mommy, Let Me Help with SPRING CLEANING

"The teacher shows the children how to clean out the little corners where dust has accumulated and shows them how to use the various objects necessary in cleaning a room - dust cloths, dust brushes, little brooms, etc."

—Maria Montessori, *The Montessori Method*

Let's do some spring cleaning with our children!

In "those good old days," spring cleaning meant organizing and cleaning the house from top to bottom. These days, we can apply the concept to organizing and preparing the home for our children's next stage of growth.

If you're like most busy parents, it's often easier to do it all by

yourself. But, with a bit of preparation, your children can do more than you ever imagined.

The Closets

Children outgrow their clothes with amazing speed. Spring is a good time to empty closets of not only the winter wear but also the outgrown items. Again, let's organize so that children can become more independent and take care of their belongings themselves. Involve your child in this process. For the youngest toddler, that might mean showing him how to hang his bag on a hook, put his dirty clothes in the laundry basket, or fold the outgrown clothes. The older child can tell you which clothes no longer fit and help decide where to put what.

A low-hanging rod allows children to hang their own clothes. Hardware and variety stores carry adaptations that make the rods easy to install. Stacking baskets or temporary shelves set on the floor can accommodate caps and mittens, or socks and underwear. Low hooks are good for backpacks, pajamas, jackets, and sweaters. Shoes also need a place of their own, whether lined up in the mud room or in the closet.

House Cleaning

Now the really fun part begins. Children love to help clean, sweep, wash, and polish. With a little preparation, children can do it themselves, freeing you to work alongside them on your own spring cleaning project.

Identify the task, whether dusting, window washing, or scrubbing. Gather the needed items, perhaps in a small bucket or basket with handles. For example, for window washing: a small spray bottle with water, small squeegee, and cloth for shining.

Limit the task to an area suited to the child's size and ability. For example, use painter's tape to outline an area of window glass or floor that your child can work on. If dusting, designate one shelf or corner. Demonstrate the task step by step. Go through the whole process with as few words as possible. Ask your child to wait and watch until you are finished. Then hand it over so your child can do it. Try not to interrupt or comment, so your child can experience a sense of accomplishment. It may not be perfect

Continued on next page...

in your eyes, but that's not as important as children being satisfied with their efforts. If another lesson is needed, do it at a later time. at a time, they will eventually have the skills to clean the whole room.

Whatever the activity, it's good to work alongside your children. You are supporting their independence and modeling with your behavior. By showing children how to accomplish one small task *"It is important to notice, in passing, that these are real, not make-believe activities and that they are carried out in a real and not make-believe environment."* —E.M. Standing, *Maria Montessori: Her Life and Work*

SCHOOL-WIDE NEWS

March 2013

ART AUCTION!

Have you heard? This year's Fundraising Auction is all artwork! We have contacted local and regional artists to donate original pieces, which we will auction off at our Annual Benefit dinner on **APRIL 27 @ 6 PM.** Classroom projects and children's artwork will follow suit in the theme of art for the evening.

If you personally have a artwork you would like to donate--or if you have contact with artists who would be willing to donate a piece to our auction--please let us know. We would love to offer a wide variety of work for the auction. Donations are tax deductible, and we can offer a letter to verify that for anyone who does donate.

All purchases made at the auction will count toward your fundraising commitment for the year.

Find a sitter--and plan to join us for a fun night out! Tickets on sale soon.

DISNEY ON ICE

We have a package of 6 tickets to Disney on Ice, April 6 at the Memorial Coliseum! Seats are in the SECOND ROW! These tickets were donated to the school to be auctioned off as a mini fundraiser. Stop by the front desk to join in the bidding! We will wrap up the ticket auction on March 22 at 3:30 p.m. (Total value of \$183)

UPCOMING DAYS OFF:

No School this Friday, March 15

No School Friday, April 29--Good Friday

Spring Break April 1-5

CLASSROOM NEWS

March 2013

TODDLER 1



Lisa Magsamen

We cannot believe March is already here at Peace! In my excitement last month about telling you about our new toddler students, I failed to mention one new friend. Lincoln Sheridan also joined our classroom last month. It has been great having him in our room with all our newer friends. I apologize to the Sheridan family for the late welcome.

This month in our classroom we will be busy getting ready to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Easter. We have started the month with green colored materials, and will move into more pastel colored works as the Easter holiday approaches. Many of our materials will continue to aid in the children's development of language, fine and gross motor skills, and hand-eye coordination.

Fran has joined our classroom once again! For those of you who don't know her, Fran is a very life-like mannequin head with life-like hair that is anchored to a small vanity table in our classroom. There is a brush, hair clips, and hair bands in a basket beside Fran.

The children are able to brush Fran's hair, put in clips or barrettes, and even a ponytail. They enjoy brushing and styling her hair. Many times we hear some singing during Fran's hair styling appointments.

Food preparation continues to be a huge hit in our class. We offer cereal or other breakfast items in the morning on a daily basis for the children to enjoy. The students have also enjoyed peeling clementines, pickle slicing, making hot chocolate, and spreading jelly on crackers. They love having the opportunity to prepare a yummy snack for themselves, with very little assistance from the teachers. Having your child help in preparing food makes them feel very proud and helps them along in their journey toward independence.

As we continue to experience the craziness of the changing weather patterns, please continue sending appropriate clothing for your child daily. We hope you all enjoy St. Patrick's Day and have a very happy Easter holiday!

TODDLER 2



Jodie Zehner



Alicia Purdy



Carrie Johnson



Kelly Whitehead

Our classroom is getting ready for spring! Please be sure your child has a pair of rubber boots that fit well and are clearly labeled with their name or initials. Some of our friends have outgrown their boots and it is muddy on the playground! We will also need a supply of pants, socks, and shirts, so that we can change any clothes that may get muddy. In the weeks ahead the children will help us clean the leaves off our porch and wipe down the outside

shelves and tables. We are looking forward to having work out on our patio!

We are in the beginning stages of planning a garden for the children to plant and take care of. This garden will be used for the children to work on practical life activities outside the classroom as well as showing the children where produce comes from. We are looking forward to what our garden will bring and enjoying the crop for food prep and snack! In order for this garden to be possible we will be needing a few supplies. After spring break there will be a garden "wish list" outside our classroom with seeds and plants that we would love to plant in our garden. We are hoping we can do a few "cool weather" crops this spring before the hot weather comes along.

We could also use some bird seed for our bird feeders. The children love to watch the birds at our window. Sometimes we get a visiting squirrel or chipmunk which entertain the children as well!



Gay Lyn Scarfo



Jeanene Lehman

PRIMARY 1

Spring is Here! Even though the temperatures are warming up I am sure we will have a few cold / snowy days yet. We plan on keeping the winter clothing gear here through March just to be sure.

We have a new 3rd year student who has joined us, Jack. The children have welcomed him into our community. Several of the 2nd year children have been staying up from rest time and working in preparation for being 3rd year students next year. It is an exciting time in the classroom.

March is a busy month... we have spring, St. Patrick's day, spring break and the ever changing weather to talk about. We will also start a new study in zoology.

The teachers have started planning activities and themes for summer camp. One theme is "reduce, re-purpose, re-use, and re-cycle" and we would like you to save frozen juice can lids, paper towel rolls and anything else you may have. (Buttons, ribbon, straws...)

I would also like for everyone to take a good look at the packaged foods that you pack in your child's lunch. We've begun learning about healthy food choices--and in doing so, we learned that children should have 25 grams or less of sugar each day. However, we've noticed that some children are consuming 50+ grams just at lunch time when you add everything together.



Laura Hayden



Julia Shlater



Linda Vandemark



Kelly Whitehead



Amy Becker

PRIMARY 2

Spring is finally around the corner! We can not wait to get outside more and enjoy the warmer weather. Soon we will back to nature walks and taking in the beauty of our wonderful campus

With Spring, comes a variety of new work to study. We will present parts of a flower and parts of a butterfly in Science and in Cultural we'll study oceans and ocean life. Oceans alone open up an enormous world of amazing facts and creatures... The children are always amazed by the unique creatures they've never seen or heard about. We will discuss how the climate changes have greatly effected marine life, how oceans contain 99%of the living space on the planet, and so on.

We are soon closing our study of Dr. Seuss and will next study Eric Carle. While reading Eric Carle's work, we will focus on his illustrations and incorporate his work into our art area as well. We continue to revolve show and tell around letter sounds and the children have really showed promise from this. We are so proud to see language blossoming throughout the classroom. Children are recognizing sounds/letters, putting those sounds together, and reading with such pride. We are so pleased with their efforts and accomplishments!

Speaking of accomplishments, the children have made huge strides in the classroom. This being the first year we've had such a large classroom brought some wonder as to how the children would take it all in. By necessity, the children have learned to get along with others, to respect their rights, and to share an environment where there is only one set of any particular material. They have learned patience and respect for others which has lead to sympathy and understanding. All in all, they have created their own harmony in the classroom and we couldn't be happier for them.

ELEMENTARY



Carrie Kile



Rachel Thompson



Keri Wysong

What a busy place our classroom has become. The children are working so hard in all areas of the classroom. Not only


are they focusing on new math skills but they have all begun language/grammar groups and literature circles. They continue their studies in Botany, Zoology and Health Sciences and are working on research projects for Geography and History.

We are so lucky to have Donny Manco, a local artist, working with the children on art projects. Donny will be coming to work with the children on Mondays. Some of the projects will require that the children work in small groups and some will allow whole class collaboration. It was so exciting to hear the children talk about art class today! I heard one student saying, "I wish we could have art all day!" Welcome to Donny, we are so excited to have you with us!

Lastly, we want to wish Miss Rachel well during her stay in Chicago. Rachel is completing her last and final internship/student teaching assignment! We are all thinking of her and missing her greatly!

UP-COMING EVENT CALENDAR

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 <i>Moving Up Information 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 <i>No School Good Friday</i>	30
31	<i>April 1</i>	<i>April 2</i>	<i>April 3</i>	<i>April 4</i>	<i>April 5</i>	
<i>Spring Break!</i>						

April 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Spring Break!</i>						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 <i>Art Auction! 6 pm Holiday Inn, Coliseum</i>
28	29	30				