



Montessori News

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Calendar Highlights:

December

Monday 3 – start of Hanukkah celebrations at school

Thursday, December 6 – Saint Nikolaas' Day celebration.

Thursday, December 13 – St. Lucia celebration

Friday, December 14th at 10:45 – Oak parents invited for a snack and singalong.

Thursday 20th PM and Friday, December 21st AM –

Ride the Polar Express (in your imaginations!) Wear your pajamas and slippers to school)

Friday, December 21st – Singalong Parents welcome.

Enjoy a festive singalong, hot cider and gingerbread

cookies. Time and space to be announced soon – will

be either 8:45 in the gym, or 11:00 in the View Room

Monday December 24 – Friday, January 4 Winter

vacation - Montessori classes closed.

Extra Care offered – December 27 & 28, and January 2-

4. Contact the office to reserve space for your child.

Monday, January 7 – Teacher Inservice Day

Tuesday, January 8 – School resumes for new

semester.

The Montessori School of Pullman

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Letter from the Editor

Celebrating the Festivals of Light

Many cultures of the world have festivals of light occurring during the darkest and coldest months of the year. These festivals remind us that as the year turns, there will be a return of lighter and warmer days.

In our school, students will be learning about several festivals occurring around the world during the month of December.

Beginning on Monday, December 2, and continuing through December 10th, we will be lighting the candles of the menorah and learning about **Hanukkah**.

On **Thursday, December 6**, we will celebrate **Saint Nikolaas' day**. We'll leave one of our shoes outside of the classroom for Saint Nikolaas' to fill with a sweet treat. (We've all been very good, so there is no fear that he will leave coal in our 'clogs') This celebration honors the anonymous generosity of a bishop who lived long ago and is a good reminder of the power of generosity! Saint Nikolaas' Day is celebrated in several European countries.

On **Thursday, December 13th**, we will celebrate **St. Lucia Day**. The oldest girl in each class will wear a crown of candles and a white dress and serve us all with special treats. This holiday is a major celebration in Sweden.

Other fun events for December include making home-made decorations for our tree, and an **old-fashioned sing-along** on Friday, December 21. Parents are invited to join us for the singalong. The children will sing some festive songs, and there will be hot cider and gingerbread cookies.

On Thursday, December 20th in the PM and Friday, December 21st in the AM, we will all use our imaginations to **ride on the Polar Express**. To help us set the scene, please have your child come to school in pajamas and slippers. Your child will still need to bring outdoor clothes and shoes/boots for recess time.

I hope this holiday season will be filled with love, light and sweet joy for your family!

Bev



Photo above - Santa Lucia brings light and warmth and good things to eat!



Photo above – It's almost time to ride the Polar Express!



***Saint Nikolaas' day
A celebration from
the Netherlands***

***Festivals of
Light***



***St. Lucia Day
A celebration from
Sweden***

**Let it Snow, Let it Snow,
Let it Snow!**

Please help us by helping your child practice putting on and taking off their snow gear, and make sure all items are labeled with your child's name. We end up with a lot of size 4, black bib overalls! You can add a colored ribbon or charm to the zipper, too, to make your child's snow pants more recognizable.

Getting dressed easily for the snow is all about the order in which you do things.

First, go to the bathroom. (It's so annoying to get all dressed up to play in the snow, and then have to undress to go to the bathroom!) Next put on snow pants, followed by the jacket. (Your child has been shown how to lay a jacket down on the floor, stand by the hood, dive into the sleeves, and flip the jacket over his or her head. Voila! The jacket is on.) Put on a hat and scarf, and boots, and lastly, mittens. (Mittens are so much easier than gloves.)

Please make sure your child has extra socks for winter. No matter how waterproof the boots claim to be, children end up with wet socks. Waterproof mittens keep hands warmer than woolen mittens. If you are shopping for boots, consider buying boots with removable liners – so much easier to dry out boots.

Consider shopping at Goodwill for extra snow gear. Children's mittens, boots, hats, etc., do get wet and need time to dry.

Thanks for helping us have fun in the snow.

Photo below – boots waiting for St. Nick!



Resources for Parents

Did you know that we have a **Parent Resource Library** in the office? We have many Montessori books geared towards parents. We also have more general books such as: 'The Bully, the Bullied and the Bystander', 'How to Raise Your Spirited Child,' and books aimed at helping families cope with divorce, loss, etc. We also have a whole series of books you can borrow to help you talk to your children about being honest, being a good friend, sharing, being responsible, etc.

A is for apple



Here are some ideas to try at home to help develop your child's literacy:

Play 'I Spy' with beginning sounds.

Teach your child lots of nursery rhymes and songs.

Let your child see you reading.

Read aloud to your child every day. Retell favorite books and stories.

Listen to recorded stories in the car.

Provide books and a place to read. Include magazines. Keep books in the car.

Go to the library.

Read your grocery list out loud.

Add notes to a lunchbox.



News from the Classrooms!

Oak

We are excited to continue our exploration of traditional Montessori materials, such as the pink tower and knobbed cylinder blocks. This is a great accomplishment for the Montessori beginnings class! We would like to thank the families of Lucas (now in Aspen), Nanthan and Anton for laundry help, and to Finlay's family for making playdough!

Aspen

In November we had a lot of fun preparing for the international feast by learning songs and cooking banana bread. We made thankful feathers and learned a lot about turkeys and pumpkins. In December we will celebrate many festivals of lights, many holidays, and have fun on the Polar Express. We will continue talks about food, food groups and start food preparation work with washing grapes.

Aspen class teachers and children thank Jeah's family for cutting our material for Toilet paper pumpkins, and Bodhi's family for doing our laundry, as well as all of the parents who took home parent work projects

Willow

We will be focusing on all of our amazing upcoming celebrations. These events build community and also offer great opportunities to learn about the diversity of cultures and ways to celebrate. We would like to thank the families of Zoe G and Claire for laundry help, and for Advait's family for the donation of apples for food preparation.

Maple and Spruce

We so appreciate all of the gifts of time, expertise and ingredients from our families for our November cooking projects! Families helped small groups of children cook or food prep each day for a community snack. We have sampled home-made tortillas, pasta dishes, sushi, pancakes, smoothies, home-made pretzels with honey mustard dipping sauce, roasted and mashed squash, pumpkin desserts . . . We have overheard many children say, "This is the best XXXX I have ever had!" Our children have been so happy this month, and I attribute a part of the happiness to our happy cooking and eating together times! Families, please do send your recipes, as we would love to put together a book of recipes for families to prepare together!

Other thanks go out to Rafaela's family for helping us celebrate the Day of the Dead. That was such a meaningful celebration for us all.

We would like to thank Alivia's Mom for an excellent presentation on the brain! We especially loved that she gifted all of the children with a brain eraser as a reminder that mistakes are so important to the brain. If we never make mistakes we are just doing what we already know how to do. When we take a chance on new learning, we often make a mistake, but that is when new learning occurs!

Thanks to Lyla's Grandma with helping us out at the International Feast, and for cutting out fabric for our special project. This year our kg and elementary kids are sewing 100 stockings that will be stuffed with treats and then donated to Alternatives of Violence of the Palouse to be distributed to kids in need of some holiday cheer!



Giving Tuesday Thanks

We would like to give special thanks to all of our donors during Giving Tuesday! We raised \$1043. Thanks to the families of Connor and Carson, Santika, Lyla, Ellie, Hank, Claire and Anton, Ava, Emily and Ben, and Keegan for your donations on Giving Tuesday.

Thanks for everybody who shared. We had donations from family and friends from throughout the United States and England!

Photo below – a STEAM activity, focused on engineering and teamwork!



*The stockings were hung in the office with care!
Thanks, Ms. Colette!*

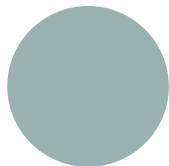
If you wanted to send a card, a note of appreciation, a donation to your child's teacher's winter fun(d), the stockings are ready to receive! You can also just drop off in the black box by the office. Many thanks, parents, and thanks, Coleen, Sawyer's Mom, for sending out the request in support of the teachers' winter fun(d)!



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of Pullman**
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*Montessori schools
begin with a deep
respect for children
as unique
individuals.*

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.pullmanmontessori.org

Looking for a few good people . . . for this year's Benefit Dinner!

Thanks Dianna (Hank's Mom), Jenny (Novie's Mom) and Renee (Ben and Emily's Mom) for volunteering to join the Benefit Dinner planning committee! It's a lot of fun planning a party!

We would love volunteers to fill the following roles:

- Designer – designing poster, choosing colors and theme . .
- Decorator – working with event chairs and designer to decorate for our event
- Raffle – solicit prizes for our raffle
- Soliciting donations from local businesses for the auction.

Please let Bev and Colette know if you would like to help. This is a major way to support our school. And please, everyone, save the date for a great dinner with friends!

**BENEFIT DINNER
GLADISH VIEW ROOM
SATURDAY MARCH 23
5:30 – 8:30**

**CHILDCARE AVAILABLE
GOOD FOOD, GOOD COMPANY, GOOD
TIMES AND A GOOD CAUSE
LIVE MUSIC, RAFFLE, AUCTION,
TRIVIA**

We had a fantastic turnout for our International Feast! Can you imagine how successful our final fundraiser of the year will be if we have similar participation!



Just a few of the materials we use to learn about St. Nikolaas Day – globes and maps, clogs, a sock, a shepherd's crook, photographs of paintings . . .

LUNCH BUNCH

You are invited to eat lunch with your child on any day. If you let us know ahead of time, we'll set a space for you next to your child. This is a great opportunity to meet your child's friends in an informal setting.

LUNCH SUGGESTIONS Soup in a thermos

There's nothing like warm soup on a cold day. Try a different flavor several times a week. You can add cheese (for protein) to be sprinkled on soup, or crackers or bread (for carbs) to dip into the soup or add some rice or noodles to home made soup. Add an easily peeled Satsuma orange to the lunchbox for vitamin C.

Stone Soup Recipes

Cooking with children is so much fun, and a great opportunity to do some informal teaching about good nutrition. Make a huge pot of soup with whatever vegetables you have at hand – fresh, frozen and/or canned – and you have lunch for the whole family for several days. If you involve your child in the process, from making a grocery list, or choosing a few favorite vegetables at the store, to chopping, or for younger students, adding already chopped veggies to the pot. One of my favorite memories is of making soup with my daughter, Anna. Even before she could walk, she loved to sit up on the counter and help me make soup. I would chop the veggies and she would transfer the pieces to the pot!

SAFETY UPDATES

You might have noticed that all of our staff are wearing lanyards with our staff photo (main staff) or a generic Montessori staff badge. This is one way to increase security. Parents can now easily identify Montessori staff members.

Another change we are making beginning this December is that classroom doors will be locked between 8:30 and 3:30, except for prime pick up and drop off times. If you do need to pick up your child during class times, please report to the office. If no-one is in the office, please knock at the classroom door and announce yourself.

Thanks.