



Newsletter editor Bev Wolff

November 2018

Montessori News

In this month's newsletter:

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Calendar Highlights:

November

8 – Charter Group Meeting
5:00 PM in the office

9 – Parent Work Day in the office

12 – Veterans Day NO SCHOOL

14 – International Feast for all Montessori families in the Gladish View Room from 5:00 pm until 7:00
Bring a dish to share

15 – Wednesday Board Meeting, 5:30 in the office.

19 – 23 NO MONTESSORI CLASSES – Thanksgiving Vacation

(19 – 21 Monday -Wed. Extra care offered – contact the office to arrange)

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Letter from the Editor

INTERNATIONAL FEAST

Dear Parents,

We hope to see you on Wednesday, November 14th between 5:00 and 7:00, in the Gladish View Room as we celebrate with an **international feast**. This is an opportunity to meet other families, share a wonderful meal, and listen to our children sing. The children will be preparing food for all of us to share, too. We ask that all families attending provide a dish to share in the potluck. We encourage you to bring a dish representing your family's roots. What shall I bring? Shepherd's pie, Cornish pasties, Bubble and Squeak, Panackalty, peas pudding, scones with jam, Victoria sponge cake . . . ?

Please do label your dish with its name, ingredients, and bring a serving utensil.

Please let the office know if you can help with set up or clean up for this event. We will need a crew of volunteers. Set up help will be needed from 10:00 – 11:30 (MOVING TABLES AND CHAIRS), 4:00 – 5:00 (TABLE DECORATING AND BUFFET SET-UP) and clean up will be from 7:00 until 8:00.

We invite you also to share a cultural demonstration. We've had dancing, singing and bagpipes in previous years. Just let the office know!

Thanks in advance,

Bev



Parent-Teacher Conferences and Parent observations – Thanks, parents!

Maria Montessori used a triangle to describe the parent-teacher relationship. The parents and teachers, together with the environment, provide the base of the triangle, supporting the child at the pinnacle of the triangle. Parent-teacher conferences are an important part of establishing a strong partnership. We thank you for taking the time to observe in your child's class and attend parent-teacher conferences, and we thank our teachers for taking the time to write detailed reports based on their observations of the child.

If for any reason you missed your child's parent-teacher conference, please contact the office to reschedule. Thanks.



We love music with Ms. Gillian!

Stop press news

Oak Room – We are now working with the knobbed cylinder blocks! These are traditional Montessori sensorial materials. This is a big step for the toddler class. We have also added lots of new math materials to do with shapes and counting.

Aspen Room- We have finished up our study about Apples. We learnt so very many things and tasted apples in many ways, too.

In November we will be learning about the life cycle of a pumpkin and its parts. Also in November we will be taking a closer look at food and nutrition.

Willow Room –We have been studying North America, the life cycle of a pumpkin, the parts of a pumpkin and we are weighing pumpkins.

Thanks, parents, for the donation of pumpkins .

Many thanks to the families of Aspen and Jace for donations of bananas for food prep in class.

Thanks to the families of Zoey (PM class) and Talia for playdough making.

Thanks to families of Suzannah and Sebastian for laundry help.

Maple/Spruce Rooms – We enjoyed an all-day field trip, and walked five miles while on a nature walk along the river. We have also been busy writing, rehearsing and making costumes for a spooky Halloween play we performed for parents and the preschool classes. Other highlights of October include a visit from Ms. Jessica, Alivia's Mom, who gave us a great presentation on the brain! We even got to see a human, rat and sheep brain close up! Thanks, Jessica.

Next month we are looking forward to lots of cooking projects, and learning about various cultural holidays. We love to cook and celebrate.

Field Trip Helpers – Thanks to Colleen (Sawyer's Mom), Bethany (Lexie's Mom), Kent (Dylan's Dad) for joining us on our all-day Maple/Spruce Room river walk field trip. Thanks to Max's Dad for his presentation on edible plants of the Palouse.

Thanks to Lyla's Grandma for transporting lunch and other supplies for us.

Thanks to Ellie's family for Osmo (math game), Dylan's Family for loaning us Osmo, Mustafa for iPad, Sree for fixing it

Thanks to all of the parents who joined us for the performances of our Maple/Spruce Room spooky plays.

Questions Parents ask!

Parents sometimes ask, “Does the emphasis on lessons and following the steps that the teacher demonstrates interfere with a child's innate desire to explore?”

Consider this. One of our teachers said, “I want my children to really experience pumpkins. I want my students to feel them, get their hands all over the pumpkins, weigh them, smell them, taste them . . .” So, the teacher set up many opportunities for her students to explore pumpkins of all shapes and sizes – mini pumpkin polishing, hammering tacks into a huge pumpkin, pumpkin printing, looking at the inside of a pumpkin with a magnifying glass, making a model of a pumpkin . . .

This is just one example of how Montessori teachers provide their students **opportunities to explore**, using all of their senses, for maximum learning opportunities.

Parents – Do you have a question that you would like us to feature in the newsletter? Please send it to the office!

MANY THANKS TO

Parent Work Day volunteers Brenda Powers (Elana's Mom – Maple) Yang Sheng (William's Mom - Aspen), Junghoon Lee (Jeah's Mom, Aspen) Eight hours of trimming, laminating, copying, tracing and book fixing were completed!

Pumpkin donations – Many thanks to a lot of families for donating mini and full-sized pumpkins

All classes would like to thank our families who are **laundry helpers, playdough makers and recyclers!**



Above top – big kids, out and about.
Below – the 100 board, a favorite activity!