



Newsletter editor Bev Wolff

November 2017

Montessori News

In this month's newsletter:

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Calendar Highlights:

November

11 – International Feast for all Montessori families in the Gladish Gym from 5:00 pm until 7:00 PM Bring a dish to share

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

16 – Thursday Conference Day with School taught by Assistant Teachers

17 – Friday NO SCHOOL – Conference Day Extra Care available

20 – 24 Week NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Vacation (20 – 22 Monday -Wed. Extra care offered)

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Parents,

We hope to see you on Saturday, November 11 between 5:00 and 7:00, in the Gladish gym 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. Grandparents and other family members are also welcome to attend – the more, the merrier. 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.

I was sorry to have to cancel the Curry cook –off in October, but do hope we will have lots of curries to sample at the feast!

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 4:00 – 5:00, 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

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. To make the best use of the conference time, teachers prepare a written report for parents, covering all aspects of the child's development, and including recent lessons/materials in various curriculum areas. You will receive a copy of this report a few days ahead of the scheduled conferences, so that you have time to prepare any questions you might have. This also gives a parent who can not attend a chance to send questions with the other parent. Sign-up sheets for conference times will soon be available at the classroom cubby areas.

Where and where will conferences take place?

Oak Room parents – meet in oak Room on Friday, November 17th

Aspen Room parents – on Thursday, Nov 16th and Friday, November 17th, meet in Room 112A, across the hall from Aspen Room

Willow Room parents – on Thursday, Nov 16th, meet in Office, and on Friday, Nov 17th meet in Willow Room

Maple Room parents meet in Maple Room on Friday, Nov 17th.

If you did not get a chance to attend the Back to School Nights, I highly encourage you to come observe in your child's class before conferences.

Stop press news

Our school was filmed by a crew from Child Care Aware of Washington for the Department of Early Learning. We were chosen by Early Achievers Coaches and data collectors to represent Eastern Washington as a shining example of what high quality childcare looks like! The video footage is being professionally edited, and will probably be ready to share in December. I can't wait!

Oak Room – We are now working with the Pink Tower! This is a big step for the toddler class.

Aspen Room- The children have really enjoyed all of the spooky Halloween pinpoking work, and the pumpkin hammering work. Nonie, Grandma to some of our former (and future!) students, visited for a day to help with a special Art project.

Willow Room – We have especially enjoyed the pumpkin hammering work, and our special Halloween projects, like making toilet paper and fabric pumpkins, and ghosts and mummies. Thanks, parents, for the donation of pumpkins and cans for projects.

Maple Room – We enjoyed an all-day field trip, and walked five miles while on a nature hunt, a tour of the fire station, a tour of the police station, and a great lunch with friends at Porchlight Pizza. We are so comfortable knowing our way around downtown Pullman. We have also been busy writing, rehearsing and making costumes for a spooky Halloween play we will perform for parents and the preschool classes. Next month we are looking forward to lots of cooking projects. We love to cook.

Below – Maple Kids at the Fire Station



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.

MANY THANKS TO

Parent Work Day volunteers Joanna Kelley (Allan’s Mom – Oak) Jenny (Novie’s Mom), Junghoon (Jeah’s Mom), Cynthia (Askah’s Mom) from Aspen, Chuck (Ridge’s Dad) and Nina (Matilda’s Mom) from Willow. Eight hours of trimming, laminating, tracing and book fixing were completed!

Pumpkin donations – Many thanks to 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!**

Field Trip Helpers – Thanks to Jamie (River’s Mom), Colleen (Shay’s Mom), Colleen (Sawyer’s Mom), Kent (Dylan’s Dad) for joining us on our all-day Maple Room field trip to fire station, police station, nature walk and lunch at Porchlight.

Thanks to Shay’s family for the donation of an air diffuser.

Thanks to all of the parents who joined us for the performances of our Maple Room play ~ A very Spooky Halloween Night

Below – Willow Room kids collaborate on a map work

