

# February 2010

| Mon   | Tue | Wed   | Thu   | Fri   |
|---|-----|---|---|---|
| 1<br><i>Registration Begins for 2010-2011</i> | 2   | 3   | 4<br><i>New Parent Intro Meeting 9-10:30 am<br/>Intro to Children's House 6-7:15 pm</i> | 5<br><i>Last day for 2010-2011 Registration</i> |
| 8   | 9   | 10  | 11<br><i>Intro to Toddler 6-7:15 pm</i>   | 12  |
| 15<br><i>Tuition Due</i>                      | 16  | 17  | 18<br><i>New Parent Intro Meeting 9-10:30 am</i>  | 19<br><i>Last day to pay Tuition</i>            |
| 22  | 23  | 24<br><i>Material Making Day &amp; Coffee with Margarita 9-11am</i> | 25  | 26  |
|   |     |   |   |   |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**1st-5th:** Registration for 2010-2011 school year

**4TH & 18TH:** New Parent Introductory Meeting: 9-10:30 am.

This meeting is designed for all parent who are interested in attending our school. If anyone you know is interested please have them call to sign up for this meeting. Introduction to Montessori, school tour & school history as part of this presentation.

**4th:** Intro to Children's House, 6-7:15pm

**11th:** Intro to Toddler 6-7:15pm  
New parents to toddler please make plans to attend.

**15TH:** Tuition Due

**19th:** Last day to pay Tuition . After this date a \$30.00 late fee will be charged to your account. NO EXCEPTIONS!

**24th:** Material Making Day and Coffee with Margarita Cabrera, 9-11 am

Parents if you missed an introductory Meeting, make an appointment to observe and meet with the Guide from the next level.

**REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE  
FEB. 5TH**

Dear Parents:

We hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday vacation. We have welcomed back all the children in our classroom; we observed happy faces after the break. We would like to invite you to work with your children in the language area. Here are some suggestions you can use to increase your child vocabulary and develop his/her language. We hope these tips will help you to work and explore with your children the fascinating world of language.

**Books:** Read as much as she/he will accept. Try to engage the child not only by reading the words, but by talking about the pictures, laughing about funny actions, pointing out to different characters and naming the colors of the animals or figures.

**T.V.** Limiting T.V is our first recommendation. However, when you and your child watch a child's age appropriate T.V program or a movie, try not to just sit with your child in front of the set; your child will benefit more from your interaction.

**Play:** Play, play!!! All of the cognitive building that goes on during play can be supported through language.

**Important reminders:**

· Most of the children begin working immediately after arriving. So we ask that parents do not interrupt the class when dropping children off. Please say goodbye outside of the classroom.

· Make sure that you send the smock every Monday and that your child has his/her folder.

· We ask for you to encourage your child to eat healthy. Limit sweets, we do not allow children to eat chips (any type) and don't forget the thermos.

Thank you for your support and confidence.

Norma & Lupita

Dear Parents,

We hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season and hope this new year will bring many blessings.

During this month of January two of our students, Monet and Attia finished their last semester of Infant Community and are starting a new one in Children's House. We wish them a good beginning. We would also like to welcome the following children to our classroom:

- Maria Marquez
- Valeria Kalish
- Ana Sofia Mendez
- Walter Dittel
- Matthew Telles
- Andrea Quevedo

We invite all of you to attend our Toddler introduction Meeting, Thursday, Feb. 11th from 6-7:15pm. It is an important introduction to the classroom. We hope to see you there! Please let us know if you have any questions!

Have a great month!

Gaby and Margie

Dear Parents,

First of all I want to thank you for your generous gift. I wish you all a good year. I also want to thank you for your support and cooperation for the Christmas Program. The children did a good job learning the dances.

The children came back from the Christmas break working with great concentration and enthusiasm. The younger children are learning about Land Forms, Hemispheres and Oceans, Days of the Week and Living and Non Living Things. They are also memorizing addition combinations and working with the Noun. The older children are doing research on Hemispheres. They are working on a special project on the Fundamental Needs of Man. They are cutting pictures from magazines to make the charts for shelter, food, defense, transportation, communication, art, etc. At the same time they are learning the characteristics and classification of Invertebrates. They are working with multiplication, division and grammar boxes too.

In the classroom we are talking about the winter time and what takes place during this season. The children made snowflakes to decorate the classroom.

Fridays are special because it is a day to share rhymes and tongue twisters with the rest of the class.

Rosi and Amada  
Lower Elementary

Dear Parents,

During the past months the guides have enjoyed working along with the students experiencing the “Practical Life” content in the classroom. Watching the young children create a menu and then producing a delicious meal for the community. The experience has been a pleasure for the students and guides. The lunch preparation includes planning the menu, shopping for the items and then preparing the lunches and cleaning up after they complete their work. This project integrates reading, writing, math, communication, and teamwork. The live long skills the students have acquired through the Practical Life lessons will be used through out their life-time.

**We would like to remind you that the Elementary class will continue selling Lunches for the remainder of the year.**

**The class is working to repay the loan they borrowed to go on their class filed trip to Albuquerque the past year.** The cost for the lunch meal is \$6.00 per plate. The lunch meals will continue through out the remainder of the year.

Lunches can continue to be purchased on:

January 27

February 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

March 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>

April 28<sup>th</sup>

May 12th

On January 21<sup>st</sup> the class attended a presentation by Rick Lobello at the El Paso Public Library. He spoke about the Mountain Gorillas and Rwanda’s Volcanoes National Park. Students will be able to make a connection when studying Biology and the Cosmic Education. This further helps the students to understand the importance of conservation. Santiago Bennett shares his thoughts of the presentation, he said “We can do more than we think to help our environment and endangered animals, we learned about the possibilities of being able to go and experience these ourselves if we want to in the future.”

We have had the wonderful opportunity to experience some snow over the holiday break and during this week we have had some rain. We will soon be experiencing a new season in the next few months, so we are preparing for our Planting Day. This year the students will begin with germinating the seeds in the classroom. This will tie in with the Montessori Culture Areas of Biology and Ecology. Once the seeds are germinated than we will be inviting parents or relatives to come and help the students transplant the plants in our new garden.

Thank you,  
Hortnecia , Liliana, and Monica

Dear Parents:

We would like to welcome you back to this new 2010 year by wishing you and your family the best.

Carmen and I would like to thank you for the presents and cards that we received for Christmas, we greatly appreciated and enjoyed them.

We also started our new year with new friends. We welcome Monet Munoz, Jonah Saupe and Attia Slater and their families.

This month we have important meetings for parents of children that will be transitioning to others environments this coming school year. We invite all parents to attend as this meeting are very informative.

During this month we are going to be working with the presentations of the plant and it needs. This is going to prepare the children for our upcoming planting day and also new vocabulary for some of the children.

Plant - planta

roots - raiz

branches- ramas

stem- tronco

leaves- hojas

flower- flor

corolla- corola

calyx- caliz

stamen- estambres

pistil- pistilo

**Reminders:**

- Please make sure that your child has a chance of clothes in the environment.

- Send back the folder the next day.

- Please remember that when you bring your child to the classroom in the morning to say good-bye before you open the door as we are having many distractions.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please call the office and make an appointment.

Sincerely

Alicia and Carmen

Dear Parents:

A month has passed since our return from the holiday break and the children have enjoyed returning to their daily routines.

In this newsletter we would like to say a quick welcome and good-bye to our friend Alfredo Vega who will be moving back to Miami at the end of January. We all wish you the best.

We would also like to welcome Regina Kalish and Diego Sandoval to our Children’s House environment. We hope you have enjoyed becoming part of our classroom.

This month we will start to prepare for our planting day which is in the month of March. We will go over the parts of a seed, parts of the plant and the needs of a plant as well. This will allow the children to prepare and care for our garden.

I would like to remind you that some children are missing their folders which are very important to have in order to put their completed works away. It is part of their work cycle, order in the classroom and helps them organize and value the importance of their accomplished works. **PLEASE** make sure your child is not one of those missing their folder. We also remind you to send your child with a thermos with a cup. We have many children bringing drink boxes or pouches or thermoses with straws. I remind you that as part of our Montessori environment it is important that the children develop their motor skills by practicing to open and pour their own drinks.

Once again I thank you for all your trust and support.

Monica & Iliana

Dear Parents:

Hoping your holiday season was a delightful one and once again we welcome you to this New Year 2010.

As you all probably know by now, I have had to leave the infant community environment due to circumstances beyond my control.

I would like to take this opportunity to say farewell and thank you all for the trust and support you had given me during this school year. It has been a pleasure to have met you and a great privilege to have worked with your children, whom I will truly miss. I feel immensely proud to see how much they have developed up to this moment as I am certain that such growth will continue without any problem, since Claudia will remain in the classroom along with the new guide, who I am sure, will do all that it is in her hands to assure a smooth transition and foster the adaptation process of all our students.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Diego Sandoval and Jonah Saupe, who have transitioned to the Children’s House Program. On the other hand I extend a warm welcome to Paula Carrillo, Beth Leachman and Kalena Mojica, who have just joined the group. We are very happy to have you as part of our community!

Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss any comments or concerns that you may have, we are always willing to listen and more than happy to assist in whatever you may need.

Sincerely,

Mariana & Claudia

Dear Parents:

We continue to enjoy the cold weather, which helps the pecans to fall. Most of the trees still have pecans on their branches; we will soon harvest them and soon be making some bread with the children in the new school oven.

The month of February is eventful in a quiet way. Big changes start to happen both inside the classroom as well as outside. Our school surroundings are beginning to warm up and the earth begins to do its magic with nature. The children are beginning to plant seeds and observe the wonder of growing plants. They are taking care of the classroom pets and soon will be enjoying the sun more and more.

We had an unexpected change of staff in one of the toddler classrooms. We thank Mariana Aguirre for the time she worked at our school and are sad to see her go. We will truly miss her. The classroom will continue its normal course under Michelle Perez's direction accompanied by Margarita Cabrera & Natalia Bennett's support as she completes her transition into the classroom.

There are a few Parent Meetings scheduled for this month. Some of the children are moving up to Children's House and some young children are also getting ready to participate in the Toddler Program for 2010-2011 school year. All parents whose children are moving up need to schedule a classroom observation, as well as attend the specified meeting and schedule a meeting with the new child's guide. Please note the following meetings:

- February 4th is the Children's House Introductory Meeting. All parents whose children are moving up from Toddler program should attend. If your child is 2 years old and up as of January 2010, your child may be ready by June (summer school) or August to transition into this new level.
- For young Children planning on joining the Toddler program in June, fall or next January 2011 and children who entered this January, we also hold an Introduction to the Toddler Program on Thursday, February 11th. All new parents for this level please don't miss it!!
- We want to introduce two new classes being offered at our school this semester: New Mom and Dad Class (Pregnant and new parents) and Parent/Infant Classes. Classes are being offered at our school in the evenings and on weekends. We are particularly excited as we feel our support for children and parents in this age group are very important. We are glad to be able to introduce families into the Montessori philosophy early on through these classes. As Maria Montessori quotes "Education begins at birth!"
- We also had a meeting for all parents that will have children entering our Elementary program on January 28th from 6-7:15pm. If your child is moving to Elementary and you did not have the opportunity to attend to this meeting, we ask that you please contact the office to set-up an observation appointment and a New Parent/Teacher Meeting with the Elementary guide to answer or introduce to you the Elementary program for your child.

Thanks to all of you who purchased school made cupcakes this past Friday January 29th. The Lower Elementary students are interested in helping children from a Montessori school in Haiti who lost part of their building. Kyle High and some of her friends brought the ingredients and baked in the school kitchen to make yummy cupcakes. We will send these funds to help this particular school. The children wanted to "SAVE HAITI!!" and they sure are trying!

Soccer Classes are a success! We are excited and glad that the children are enjoying the classes. We see that parents are staying to watch and that's such great support for the kids! You are welcome to bring your lawn chairs so you can sit more comfortably. Coach Cesar will pass out the team uniforms this coming Wednesday and Thursday and we hope that the children who have signed up to the soccer league really enjoy the Saturday games.

We are undergoing in-house registrations; please make sure to turn in your forms by **Friday February 5th**. We hope to continue to see all the children next school year. Have a wonderful month and as always please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

**Natalia Bennett & Margarita Cabrera**