

# March 2010

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3 <i>Graduates Meeting 1-2:30 pm</i>	4 <i>New Parent Introduction Meeting 9-10:30 am</i>	5
8	9	10	11	12 <i>Toddler Classroom's Planting Day</i>
15 <b>Tuition Due</b> <i>NO SCHOOL! SPRING BREAK</i>	16 <i>NO SCHOOL! SPRING BREAK</i>	17 <i>NO SCHOOL! SPRING BREAK</i>	18 <i>NO SCHOOL! SPRING BREAK</i>	19 <b>Last day to pay tuition</b> <i>NO SCHOOL! SPRING BREAK</i>
22	23 <i>Lower Elementary Planting Day</i>	24 <i>Upper Elementary Planting Day</i>	25 <i>New Parent Introduction Meeting 9-10:30 am Alicia's Children's House Planting Day!</i>	26 <i>Monica's Children's House Planting Day</i>
29 <i>Norma's Children's House Planting Day!</i>	30	31		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**3rd:** Graduates Meeting, 1-2:30 pm.

This meeting is designed to give parents of children who are graduating from the Children's House or Elementary Program information on what this event entails and how you can be a part of it so you can decide as a group how you would like this celebration to take form.

**4th & 25th:** 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.

**12th:** Toddler Planting Day

**15th-19th:** NO SCHOOL! Spring Break!

**15th:** Tuition is due

**19th:** Last day to pay Tuition. After this date a \$30.00 late fee will be charged to your account.

**NO EXCEPTONS!**

**23rd:** Lower Elementary Planting Day

**24th:** Upper Elementary Planting Day

**25th:** Alicia's Children's House Planting Day

**26th:** Monica's Children's House Planting Day

**29th:** Norma's Children's House Planting Day

Dear Parents:

I would like to take the time to thank all parents who were kind enough and dedicate time in helping make material on February 24th. Your help is greatly appreciated.

In our Montessori Environment we practice daily with the children "Grace and Courtesy". It is common to think that to teach children Grace and Courtesy is helping them to learn how to say thank you, please, excuse me etc. These magic words are very important, but Grace and Courtesy goes further than that. Inculcate in the child the importance of putting their chair away, how to behave in the classroom environment, to carry one material at a time, how to sit properly are some of the extension of the Grace and Courtesy.

This month the children will have the opportunity to plant seeds so they can watch them grow in the classroom and get them ready to be planted in the garden in our yearly "Planting Day". It is going to take place this Month. We are going to be working with the parts of the plant and the flower.

Have a great month and enjoy your Spring Break!!

Norma & Lupita

Dear Parents,

February is the month of presidents and at school the children are learning about them. I got some books from the Library so the children can do their investigation. They are enjoying the project.

The Big Bang was a surprise lesson prepared for the children. They all made a picture and wrote about it in their own words.

We have been working with experiments in the classroom and preparing for one of the greatest lessons in the Montessori curriculum, "The God with no hands." It is the story of how the world was created. At the same time the story is narrated we present some experiments to illustrate in a better way how things took place. Imagination is a sensitive period of this age level. With the help of their imagination the children can better understand things as we tell them the story.

I took the group out to observe what nature has to offer during this time of year. The earth is preparing for spring time. The trees at school are full of buds. There are buds all around us. We are using this time to study buds in the classroom. We are also preparing for planting day. We are taking care of the seeds we planted before and some children are planting new seeds too.

There is an owl living in one of the trees at school. We had a chance to see it when we went out to observe.

Picnics have been great. The children have enjoyed eating outside and having a little extra time to play. Thanks for your cooperation.

Rosy and Amada

Dear Parents:

During last month we worked with the planting of the bean seeds, that is why some of the children have already taken their plants home. We recommend all of you to reinforce the care and love of the plants inside and outside your home and please be careful not to let your child's plant die. They all have been taking care of their plant with lots of enthusiasm while in school. They have been very surprised and happy to see how their seed beans have been transforming into a plant.

For those of you that haven't received your child's plant yet, please remember that every child has different needs and priorities and in the right moment they will be able to plant.

We would like to invite everyone to join us on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be planting at the school with the children. We will inform you of what your child will need to bring on this special day.

Thank you,  
Gaby and Margie

Dear Parents:

The children are preparing for spring in many ways. We are seeing their progress more and more every day. Young children have become more coordinated and careful with their movements through the classroom. We are seeing longer periods of concentration. Some children are taking interest in language and the sandpaper letters while others are very focused on learning their maps. Older children are interested in using all of the long chains which are part of our math area. It is very exciting to see all of these interests in the children.

We will be having our annual planting day on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. On this day the children bring a flower plant for our outdoor planters and a vegetable for our vegetable garden. We will send a flier with more info. On that day we invite the parents to come and plant with their children and enjoy a picnic style lunch afterwards. In previous years parents have gotten together to organize chick-fil-a to deliver lunch. If someone would be interested in getting something together please ask Liz for the class directory. This is a very fun day so mark it on your calendar and make plans to spend the day with us. Don't forget your cameras!!!!!!

Monica and Iliana

Dear Parents,

The Upper Elementary class is currently researching and studying the Ancient Cultures of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China. The students went to the Public library to check-out books to help them further investigate their group's cultures. The students will be creating a time line for the era of study. Each group will present their research to the whole class once they are complete.

We would like to thank the Ponicki Family for their donation of science and biology books and a microscope and a cabinet to store the science experiments. The books will allow the students to do more hands on experiments and begin researching the Periodic Table of Elements and an introduction to Science Fair Projects. We like to thank Norma Reyes for also donating a microscope and slides to view and study microorganism.

We would also like to introduce and welcome a new student to our classroom, Ricardo Solis. We look forward to getting to know Ricardo better and having him as part of our community, we will make every effort to make his transition as smooth as possible. **Bienvenido!** Three years ago we only had three Upper Elementary students and now we have seventeen students. A larger group of students will allow more of an opportunity to work with a diverse group, learning and sharing experience that they will carry throughout life. The growth in our school allows us to experience the true meaning of community, friendship and building bonds with others in the group.

On February 19<sup>th</sup> the class planted their seeds for our new garden. Each student planted a flower and two vegetables. The students will rotate to take care of the seedling until it is time to transplant them. We look forward to having our families participate in the transplanting day on **March 24<sup>th</sup>**. **Make sure to mark this date on your calendar.**

On Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> both elementary classes will be participating in the "Cosmic Presentation, God with No Hands." The BIG BANG presentation was given and then students worked with experiments that are tied to this lesson. The "Cosmic Presentations" wakes up their senses to the world around them and their mission in life.

On Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> the class will be given a new presentation about the **Internal Parts of the Fish**. This presentation will involve the dissection of the fish and showing each individual part of the fish. This presentation has previously been done on paper only. The hands on experiment will be an intriguing method to encourage students to work with the Culture Areas. We may have a few budding scientist or biologist after this lesson. We encourage you to discuss the outcome of this presentation with your child.

Thank you,  
Liliana, Hortencia and Monica

Dear Parents:

We would like to start by giving thanks to the moms that came for material making day, we really appreciated your help.

A few days ago each child planted tomato seeds in a start kit and now they are having the experience of seeing it grow. Everyday they go and check on it to make sure that the plant is doing well. The children have also learned the needs of the plant; water, sun, air and soil.

This month we are having our annual planting day please check the school calendar to attend this special event with your child. Remember to bring gardening tools such as shovel, gloves, watering can (the watering can is going to stay in the classroom please write your child's name on it) cap, sun block and a cold sack lunch to eat with your child picnic style.

We are asking that all children bring a flower plant on this day. We will be sending a note if we need you to bring a vegetable plant as well. We are looking forward to seeing you on that special day.

We wish you a great, fun and safe Spring Break.

Sincerely,  
Alicia & Carmen

Dear Parents:

Thank you for your trust and patience with the transition that the classroom has been going through since Mariana has left the environment.

As you have noticed I have been in and out of the classroom due to family medical leave. Natalia Bennett, School Administrator who has completed her training in Toddler Community has been guiding and helping me during this transition.

The children have been working continuing towards normalization. This means gaining work habits more and more each day. We are very happy to see that. The children are settled into a routine and enjoy the classroom. Circle time is special for them as they are hearing and learning new songs, being introduced to new books and music & movement to.

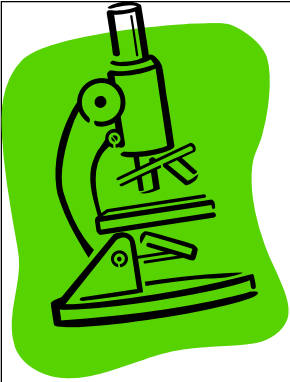
This month we have been presenting a "Germination" material to the children. The children are experiencing and seeing the process of how a plant is formed from a tiny seed. This experience will compliment our Planting Day scheduled to take place on March 12<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see all parents as this day is a special event for all children to enjoy. If you are not able to attend we ask that you send a grandparent, aunt, uncle or someone special to share this day with your child. We will be sending out additional information with details of this event.

Immediately following our Planting day will be Spring Break. During this break, take the time to visit interesting places, go to the park or out to eat, continue to allow the children to dress themselves, continue to invite them to go to the restroom, involve them around the house, etc.

Thank you to all the parents that have been bringing flowers, the children really enjoy arranging them to make our environment beautiful.

We wish everyone a great, fun and safe Spring Break!

Michelle and Claudia



Mt. West Montessori would like to give a special  
**THANK YOU**

To the Ponicki Family & Norma Reyes for donating the  
new science equipment and materials for our  
Upper-Elementary class.  
Thank you for the microscopes.

