

November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>Parent Open Observations</i>	3 <i>Parent Open Observations</i>	4 <i>Parent Open Observations</i>	5 <i>Parent Open Observations</i>	6 <i>Parent Open Observations</i>	7
8	9 <i>Sally Foster Fundraiser Begins Parent Open Observations</i>	10 <i>Parent Open Observations</i>	11 <i>Parent Open Observations</i>	12 <i>New Parent Intro Meeting @ 9am Parent Open Observations</i>	13 <i>Parent Open Observations</i>	14
15 <i>Tuition Due</i>	16	17 <i>Line of Work Parent Meeting</i>	18	19	20 <i>Sally Foster DUE Thanksgiving/Grandparents Day</i>	21
22	23 <i>NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break</i>	24 <i>NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break</i>	25 <i>NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break</i>	26 <i>NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break</i>	27 <i>NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break</i>	28
29	30					

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2ND-13TH: Open Observations and Parent/Teacher Conferences for Parents. Please call or visit the office to set up your observation and Parent/Teacher Conference.

12TH: 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.

15TH: Tuition Due

17TH: Line of Work Parent Meeting:
Children's House/Upper Elementary
5:30-6:30 pm
Toddler/Lower Elementary
6:30-7:30 pm

20TH: Last Day to Pay Tuition

20TH: Thanksgiving/Grandparents Day

23RD-27TH: NO SCHOOL!
Thanksgiving Break

Dear Parents,

Hello, bonjour, buenos dias!

October was the month of Nations! We had our classroom decorated with flags and people from all around the world. The children explored everything that represents a nation. From the flag, the national anthem, the language, the food, to the dress, the music, the dance, the culture and the people.

As they studied their chosen country they also went to the geography of the region: the mountains, the rivers, the lakes, the oceans, the flora and the fauna. It was a big challenge for them.

We started by going to the library with the older children so they could learn the process of a research and so they could get their books. At school we also provided encyclopedias for more information.

As part of the curriculum we invited friends from Germany to come and teach the children two folk German dances. The group was led by Kirsten Waschul. The children loved the dances! This is an experience that they will never forget. Thank you Kirsten.

We also invited a Spanish group to perform dances from the different regions of Spain. The group was formed by two dancers and a guitarist. The children had a chance to experience playing the castanets, using the fans and trying on the dresses.

The children had so much fun with their research. They enjoyed preparing for the United Nations Day celebration. This was a project that involved the parents as well. Thank you parents for all your support and cooperation in making this celebration possible.

Amada and Rosi
Lower Elementary

Dear Parents:

We would like to thank all the parents that came to the meeting that was held on October 21.

We would also like to let you know that our room mother for this school year is Brenda Morris.

Our classroom is getting well adjusted into the daily routine especially for the new children. It is so rewarding to see how the oldest are helping the younger ones. Here is where we can see the purpose of having the mix of ages in the environment that Maria Montessori set.

We are working with some presentations of Grace and Courtesy like:

How to stand and sit on the chair

How to line up

How to walk around a rug

How to wait for the guide at her place

How to carry the material

When to say excuse me

When to say I'm sorry

When to say thank you

We have also worked with the vocabulary of colors and fruits. You can practice the vocabulary words with your children by asking questions, for example:

What color is your shirt? What is the name of this fruit? Show me how do we sit. Or any other question that you can think of to practice.

Don't forget to sign up in the office for the observations and conferences.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!!!

Norma & Lupita

Dear Parents:

The classroom is getting well adjusted; the children are working with their daily routine, learning and practicing their material.

We would like to welcome a new child and her family in our environment her name is Mia Perez.

Our observations are in progress we hope you had or will have a good experience observing your child's environment as well as your teacher-parent conference.

This month we are working with the parts of the leaf:

leaf - hoja

blade - limbo

veins - nervadura

petiole - peciolo

We are looking forward to the grandparent's day celebration this month. As this day gets closer you will receive further information on the event.

We are also going to be talking about the meaning of the Thanksgiving Holiday and how we have to be thankful for everything. It is such a wonderful experience to listen to what the children have to say.

We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving in company of your loved ones.

Alicia & Carmen

Dear Parents:

As we all know the observations are taking place right now and we hope you are enjoying them. For those that haven't signed up to schedule for your observation, we remind you that the last day to observe is November 13th. Please note that you will also need to sign-up for your Parent/Teacher Conference that same afternoon.

As you all know the weather is changing, so we ask for you to send your child wearing appropriate clothing to prevent them from any colds or flu's. If your child shows symptoms of runny nose, coughing, sneezing or watery eyes, we ask for your support by keeping them home to prevent any spread within our environment. Please note that if your child is sent to school with any of the above symptoms we will need to contact you to pick them up from the classroom.

Our next Parent Meeting: "The Line of Work" is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, November 17th. We encourage all parents to come, as we will talk about the materials in the environment and their meaningful purposes. Please remember that all of our Parent Meetings are designed to educate you more on the Montessori philosophy.

Thanksgiving break will be taking place from November 23rd-27th. Our goal is to ask that you continue working with your child at home by including them in the home activities (preparing meals, decorating, setting the table, helping with household chores) and supporting their independence.

We wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving break in company of all your loved ones.

Sincerely,
Toddler Program

Dear Parents:

We would like to thank you for a wonderful fieldtrip to the Mesilla Valley Maze. The children really enjoyed this day. We certainly couldn't have done it with all your support and help.

We also want to thank those parents who attended the conference with Trevor Eissler. It was a very important and informative Parent Meeting on the Montessori philosophy.

As for the month of November, we will get ready for our Grandparents Day and Thanksgiving celebration. We have been talking about the change of seasons. For example the weather getting colder and leaves falling from the trees.

The children have also been learning a poem about Thanksgiving. I have enjoyed getting together with you to touch base on how your child has been working and what we can work on here and at home.

Remember we will have the 23-27 off to enjoy our Thanksgiving Break with our family and friends.

And as every year, one thing we are thankful for is your trust and the ability to work with your children. We hope you enjoy this special day along with your loved ones.

Sincerely,
Monica and Iliana

Dear Parents,

As you all know this school year we have been blessed with a new building to house both Lower and Upper elementary classes. This opportunity has allowed us to integrate the Montessori method of "Practical Life" into the Upper Elementary classroom. The students have been fortunate to work Practical Life while preparing the food for our bi-weekly Eagle lunch sale.

It is a wonderful experience to observe the students as they work math while they are measuring the necessary items in a recipe and / or working the monthly budget and cost of the items for the menu. Of course they are reading and writing as they work this activity. They also are having to calculate the loan that was given to them to attend their field trip.

The students are learning teamwork as they are rotating to participate in the preparation and cooking of the menu. It is a joy to see them eat the very food that they have prepared. The class eats as a group and we have been had parents come to enjoy lunchtime with us. We appreciate all the support we have received from the other classrooms. The participation of ordering from the menu has allowed us to learn and improve various skills each time we participate in this wonderful activity.

We look forward to serving more of our school community, as we will be continuing the Eagle Lunch sale throughout the remainder of the year.

This month's newsletter letter focused on the Practical Life aspect of our class; however we will continue filling you in on our other class activities in the following months.

Thank you,
Hortensia, Liliana and Monica

Dear Parents:

It has been a busy school year for your children as well as for you; many changes have become part of your new routine. As a parent all the activities surrounding your children's development is always so fulfilling and being a part of them is enjoyable for both. Being busy is good as it involves activity, change and therefore movement, which is always good! Its great to see you observing at school, I hope you are enjoying your time in the classrooms.

We had a great evening with Trevor Eisser this past October 21st during our Parent Meeting. Once a year we bring a speaker to address our school parents and this year Mr. Eisser pulled a great audience of over 60 parents. His presentation was practical, fun, and filled with passion. The message he shared included stories of a parent encountering the wonders of the Montessori philosophy and education! Montessori needs to be approached from many perspectives in order for anyone to fully take it in, and he did a wonderful job at inviting us to view yet another way. You can visit his website at: www.montessorimadness.com for more information on his views, presentations and books. We continue to have his books on sale at the office for anyone who would like one.

Grandparent's day is here! Every year we invite grandparents to spend time with their grandchildren at school. Children prepare presentations to share with them, grandparents get to visit the classrooms and have some coffee, juice and muffins. Please make plans to invite all grandparents on November 19th from 9 to 12 noon. We will give you more details closer to the date.

This November 17th we have a **PARENT MEETING**. This meeting will be presented by your child's guide on a line of work. In Children's House the presentation will be on Practical Life and Sensorial and the connections between these and concentration, math and language preparation, and grace and courtesy. For Toddler the presentation will be the different area of the classroom, with a presentation of some materials from practical life and language. Lower Elementary will present a wonderful example of language development with the Montessori materials and Upper Elementary presentations will be on Math and Geometry, specifically making connections of material all the way from Children's House to the Upper Elementary level, like the constructive triangles and the Trinomial cube. If you are unfamiliar with these topics, we invite you to enlighten yourself through these presentations during our meetings! There is always an open invitation to parents to attend any and all meeting at the school, below or above your child's classroom level. These meetings always answer many questions on the Montessori curriculum. The schedules will be staggered as well this time, for those parents who have multiple children in different classrooms.

Our next fundraiser is the Sally Foster Catalog Sale, which is coming up, it will be a two week sale effort, on that we ask everyone to participate! This sale will help fund so much awaited and needed **new outdoor play area**. If every family sells \$150 dills worth of product, we will be able to build and set up the play area by January. The catalog has a broad range of product, it is easy to sell and the product is very nice, specially the wrapping paper! It is a great sale for Christmas time! I thank you in advance for your help and time!!

I invite you to visit a short video on line at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faYco1b-IJI>. I have emailed the link to you as well. It is a very nice short 3-minute video. By the way, we have the hour-long video presentation on the research they quote. If anyone would like to borrow it please call the office.

As always, I send you great wishes for this upcoming Holiday season. Keep traditions alive by making, baking and sharing with your children!

Warm regards,

Natalia Bennett
School Administrator.