

# October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 <i>Tuition Due</i>	16	17
18	19 <i>Start date to sign-up for OPEN OBSERVATIONS</i>	20 <i>Last day to Pay Tuition</i>	21 <i>PARENT MEETING Guest Speaker 6-7:30 pm</i>	22	23 <i>Staff In-service NO SCHOOL!</i>	24
25	26 <i>Sally Foster Sale OPEN OBSERVATIONS</i>	27	28	29	30	31

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**15TH:** Tuition Due

**20TH:** Last day to pay tuition. \$30.00 late payment fee incurred after today.

**21ST: PARENT MEETING:** Guest Speaker , Author Trevor Eissler, writer of the Montessori Madness book with be coming to MWM from 6-7:30 pm. Please see the office for more information and to purchase tickets to attend this conference.

**23TH:** Staff In-Service. **NO SCHOOL!**

**26TH:** Sally Foster Fundraiser Sale Begins

**26TH:** Open Observations Begin. Please contact the office starting the 19th to reserve a time and date.

**LUNCH PROGRAM:** The catering service offered by the Basil Garden has been a success and we hope you and your child are enjoying it. We are asking parents to notify the office no later than 9 am if your child will be absent or if his/her lunch needs to canceled for that day. If the lunch is canceled we will accredit your account for that lunch.

If your child brings a lunch box and has ordered a lunch from the Basil Garden, we will invite the child to eat his own lunch box and will send the ordered lunch home

### MONTESSORI MADNESS BOOKS

Available in the office now!  
Come and purchase your tickets and books for the conference.

## *Dear Montessori Parents:*

It is with great joy that we write this letter to you. Starting a new school year in our new campus, marks the achievement of a great milestone for the long term goals of Mt West Montessori school. We continue to work towards preparing a nourishing environment for children to develop to their fullest potential and this campus is part of the process.

We extend a warm welcome to all parents, we know that choosing and trusting a school for the care and work with your children is the most important choice you have as a parent. During this school year we hope you enjoy the process of your children's development. We recommend several things to help in this: observe their efforts, listen to what they say, understand their challenges as their independence grows specially during their transition into the school (when they cry!) and if you need help deciphering it all come and speak with any of us, we are glad to listen and share our thoughts with you. Remember that you are the most important guide your child has; it is in your hands and attitudes that your child's fate rests. To support you in this path of parenting we prepare special parent meetings throughout the school year. Make every effort to attend all of them, they are very important in the communication and understanding of the Montessori philosophy.

This October 21<sup>st</sup> we are hosting Trevor Eissler, author of the book *Montessori Madness*. He is married, has three children (in Montessori) and is an airplane pilot. He has written this wonderful book and has an awesome way of explaining from a parent-to-parent perspective, how the Montessori approach has impacted his family, why it works and the differences that he sees in traditional education and the Montessori approach. Don't miss it! As a parent I recommend you to pick up a book (it is an easy and fun reading book) now available at the office and attend the conference!

You can read more about his success [www.montessorimadness.com](http://www.montessorimadness.com).

We thank you for your support with the fundraiser for the entertainment book, we are going to be able to purchase our laminating machine and replace and create many materials for the school. Room parents we thank you for your work in helping collect and promote the sale.

During the month we will be passing out information regarding our new **After School Program** most of the classes will be held right after school in our Multipurpose room or in our regular classrooms. Look for a brochure with content, costs and specific schedules for the classes coming soon. Here is a list of some of the classes:

- Suzuki Violin classes for children 4 yrs and above, held on Mondays 3 to 4 pm.
- Kinder-Music classes for children 2 to 4 years olds held on Thursdays 2:45 to 3:45 pm.
- Theater classes for 4 ½ and up held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:45 to 5 pm.
- Spanish Reading and Writing for Children's House students held on Tuesdays from 3 to 4 pm.
- English Language Arts for Elementary students and last year of children's house on Tuesdays and Thursdays. 3:30 to 4 pm.
- GET LIFTED: Cross fit for Parents. Schedules to be announced soon.

This month we begin with our Open Observations (October 26- Nov 13<sup>th</sup>). Open observations are intended to invite you to spend time at in your child's class, to come and see what and how the day at school is like. Both parents are invited and the observations are usually no more than 20 to 30 minutes. While observing, we invite you to observe only; there will be times to explore and communicate with your child and your child's guide. It is important and we invite you to notice other children, to observe the whole classroom environment, to observe the interaction between students, the children's body language, and to notice also how they communicate with the adults and among themselves. Observing is a wonderful way to learn. Observing is an art! This year we are holding both observations and parent teacher conferences on the same day so make a note of that in your schedules. We are recommending that your observations are done during the morning (9 to 11am) or afternoon (1-2:00 pm) working periods, however if you would like to observe their recess, their lunch period or their nap times you are welcome to do so. If your child started school recently (staggered entrance program) please sign up towards the end of the of the observation period, to allow your child enough time to transition in to the environment. Parents please can call the office and schedule both observations and parent teacher conference starting on October 19<sup>th</sup>

We are looking forward to the new Administration building, which should be ready to use early in the month of October. We hope you are enjoying the new campus as much as we are! Once again, receive a warm welcome to our school community! Have a wonderful month.

*Natalia Bennett and Margarita Cabrera.*

**Dear Parents:**

We would like to welcome all the new families to our Toddler Program environment here at MWM We are very happy to have you here and we hope this 2009-2010 school year will be an enjoyable one.

First of all I would like to welcome Margie Pearson to our Toddler classroom as the assistant and Gaby Fraire as an intern. We would also like to welcome our new students: Gabby Koagel, Enrique Esteves, Avery Baker, Sophia Kleberg, Emma McLaughlin, Oyin Opawumi, Attia Slater and Andrea Vela. We would like to thank the parents that attended our Open House. It is very important for us as well as for all the parents to be present at all the meetings and events. We would like to remind you to please revise the school calendar for important dates. We sure did miss everyone at our last meeting held on September 18<sup>th</sup>. We prepare these meetings especially for you so that you can stay informed about how your child is doing in the environment.

We are asking for volunteers to help us with the making of material, such as cutting paper in different shapes and sizes, etc. If you are interested please let us know. Faby Duenas mother of Sabria Duenas is our Room Mother. She will be in charge of contacting you with any important information, reminders, and invitations regarding school events.

In closing, as listed below, we would like to remind you of our entrance time and daily schedule. Please keep in mind that the children that are already in class have started their working cycle. We are asking you to please drop your child off at the classroom door and please do not enter the classroom with your child. This helps the process of separation. The first thing the child does after entering the classroom is to put away their lunch boxes, it is part of the child's working routine.

8:20am to 8:40am - Arrival at the Classroom

8:40am to 10:15am - Individual working time

10:15am to 11:10am- Lunch Time

11:10am to 11:45am - Outdoor playtime

11:45am to 12:00pm - Children prepare to go home

12:00pm - Pick up at the front gate (for children that attend half -day)

12:00pm to 2:00pm - Nap time

2: 00 pm to 2:20pm - Children prepare to go home

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards

Haydee M. and Margie P.

**Dear Parents:**

We would like to welcome you to our new 2009-2010 school year. It is a pleasure for us to have your children in the environment we have prepared for them with enthusiasm and love. We have seen the children enjoy their class.

All of the children are going through a process of adaptation; the ones that were already in the school because they are experiencing a new environment and guides, and the new ones because this is a new world for them. We are working very hard to help them as much as possible through this change and we ask you to please help them at home.

We thank those parents that came to our first meeting in which we talked about process of adaptation. For those parent's that couldn't come we encourage you to come to our meetings as they are very informative and helpful.

Next we are going to share some of themes we talked about during the meeting:

"During this process of adaptation it is very important for the guides, parents and children to work closely together.

The guide's responsibility is to have a well-prepared environment that is in order, attractive, and clean. It is her job to be a bridge between the material and the child and to welcome the child into the new environment with enthusiasm and demonstrate all that he can do within the environment.

The parents' role is to continue the work from school at home. Maintaining order and a routine, respecting the hours of work, permitting the repetition of things and over all a lot of love, patience, calmness and tolerance. It is important to include him in activities at home for example: making their bed, preparing food, folding clothes, etc. It makes them feel part of the family and have high self-esteem. Not only making them to participate in the physical, but emotional as well now that they are absorbing attitudes, habits, ideals and their contribution will be the same as the rest of the family (good or bad).

The work of the child is unconscious; the child at this time is developing 3 tendencies:

- Exploring: At the moment they enter the environment they want to touch, taste, feel and smell everything. Through his senses they will know everything in the environment and take control of it and make it part of themselves.

- Orientation: Now that the environment is always in order and everything has its own place. They can identify the materials.

- Adaptation: When the child feels that he is part of the environment, he makes it his own.

All of this is given in a natural way and a big part of it is because the environment is adequate to them by having everything in their reach, to their size, and with very few obstacles. Overall it depends on the support and love of the guides and parents.

Welcome again and we are looking forward to work very hard with your children.

Regards,

Mariana and Claudia

**Dear Parents:**

It is a pleasure to welcome you to a new school year. I'm ready to start with what promises to be another exciting and rewarding school year. My goal is to build a small community with a good bond between me the guide, the child and the parents.

I would like to thank all the parents that came to the meeting that was held on September 17. We invite you to attend all our Parent Meetings since they are designed to help you understand our Montessori philosophy.

Children that are in the Spanish immersion class and will be using Spanish as a second language need a lot of repetition, especially if school is the only place that they hear and speak the language. You can help them by asking them to repeat or use the vocabulary words that they learn at school.

The last three weeks we have been working with colors, fruits, grace and courtesy.

You are welcome to send books or objects that are special for your child to share at show and tell.

Please contact the office to set up an appointment since I am always available to speak with you should you have any concerns.

"Children are endowed with an inner power that can guide us to a more luminous future".

Maria Montessori

Sincerely,

Norma & Lupita

Dear Parents:  
Welcome to the new school year 2009-2010. This school year promises to be an exciting and successful one.

We are committed to ensuring that the children receive a safe and positive environment.

We would like to thank you for attending the meetings that were held recently. We hope the information was helpful and informative to you.

Also we like to welcome the new children and their families to our environment:

- Mara Escobar
- Julia Ferret
- Emma Garcia
- Vance Mark
- Rebeca Melendez
- Alekza Morris
- Vida Romo
- Jaed Saucedo
- Jude Seufert
- Aaron Terrazas
- Sebastian Velasco-Meer

This month we are going to be reinforcing classroom rules and working with grace and courtesy presentations on how to carry the tray, the rug, the chair, how to sit on the line during circle time and when to use please and thank you. During circle time I am going to present vocabulary using sensorial materials:

- Long-short
- Largo-corto
- Thick-thin
- Grueso-delgado
- Tall-short
- Alto-bajo
- Big-small
- Grande-pequeño

We are looking forward to a wonderful school year that will be filled with challenges and growth for every child. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have by calling the office and making an appointment.

Sincerely,  
Alicia & Carmen

Welcome back parents and children! I hope you all had a great summer. Thank you for coming to the Open House. It was nice to see you there. We are very happy with our new classroom. It is big and we have a lot of space for the children to work. I hope you liked it as much as we do. We started the year celebrating Labor Day. In the classroom we talked about the different professions. We held a Career Day at school and we invited the children to dress up in costumes representing the different community helpers. We had a parade around the school and visited the other classrooms too. We concluded in the classroom where each child gave a presentation explaining what career they represented and what service they render to the community.

In the classroom we are also studying the planets. I am going to take the group on a field trip to Alamogordo, NM to visit the museum. The museum is offering a hands on activity for the children, planet related. We will also be visiting the IMAX theater where the children will see a movie of the Universe. We will stop at the park to eat before returning to school and I hope the children will enjoy and have fun in this trip.

Amada and Monica

Dear Parents:

It has been an interesting start to the school year. We are in a new classroom with new routines, new friends and a new assistant. We would like to welcome all of our new families and hope you are enjoying being part of our community here at MWM.

We would first like to thank the parents that attended our open house and hope to see more of our parents attend future parent meetings. They are an essential part of your child's' development in the environment. The upcoming conference on October 21st is highly recommended. It will be given by Trevor Eissler, the author of Montessori Madness. If you have not yet read his book I strongly suggest you do. This comes not so much as a suggestion from your child's guide but as a Montessori mother as well.

We will be going on a field-trip next week to the Mesilla Valley Corn Maze. We ask that each student be accompanied by an adult. A flier with all the information will be sent out by Fri. Oct. 2nd.

**REMINDER:**

Some students still do not have a thermos with a lid cup for their drinks. Please make an effort to have them by next week. You can find them at Walmart or Kmart.

Thank you,  
Monica and Iliana

Dear Parents:  
I am glad to be here and feel welcome at Mt. West Montessori. Thank you for your trust. As some of you already know Blanca Villa will be out of the school temporary on medical leave and I am hear to continue with the plans for this wonderful Upper Elementary classroom. I would like to remind you to feel free to speak with any of the upper elementary staff at anytime regarding any question, concern or comment. Communication between parents and guides is very important.

Our trip to Albuquerque, NM was very enjoyable and the children learned tremendously by visiting the Science Museum Explora, the Museum of Natural History, the Zoo and the Aquarium. These visits covered a lot of the curriculum we are covering during these beginning months. These experiences are enriching the work environment as the children have new interest and discoveries based on their observations from the trip.

We would like to remind you all that starting the month of October the children will begin preparing and serving the lunches that will serve as the fundraiser to pay for the field-trip. Our first meal is October 14th. Anyone who is interested in purchasing these lunches (6 dolls each) please inquire in the upper elementary classroom for dates and menus. We would really appreciate your support!

Regards and have a wonderful month!

Hortencia, Liliana and Monica